

## **Visit of Russian delegation to Anand Agricultural University, Anand**

A delegation from Russia viz., Mr. K.A. Markelov, Acting Rector and Ms. Julia Petelina, Acting Head, Dept. of Oriental Languages both from Astrakhan State University; Mr. Alekse Chesnokov, Head of Laboratory Engineering Centre, University of Technology, Korolev and Dr. V.R.G. Kurse, Executive Director, Star Overseas Ltd., Moscow, Russia visited AAU, Anand on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2019.

Dr. N.C. Patel, Hon. Vice Chancellor, AAU, Anand gave floral welcome to all the Russian delegates at Conference Hall, University Bhavan, Anand. Dr. Patel indicated that the three portfolios handled by AAU, Anand include Education, Research and Extension Education by the AAU faculty and scientists.

All the members of the house including Unit officers (Director of Research, Director of Extension, Registrar, Comptroller, and Director of Students Welfare) from AAU, Anand and all the Deans of respective Colleges at AAU, Anand introduced themselves to the Russian delegation.

Dr. Kurse informed that Star Overseas Ltd. was started in 1994 and has gained immense expertise in supplying and trading of Pharma, food packing machinery, etc. He mentioned about plenty of land available in Russia for growing flaxseeds, oat, barley, etc. They are focusing on exchange of Technology with Indian partners.

Mr. Chesnokov spoke about the unmanned vehicles and composite materials the University of Technology, Korolev is associated with. He specifically mentioned that the IT unit of AAU, Anand can join hands with them for collaborative work. Dr. N.C. Patel remarked that the common thing of interest he foresees is Artificial intelligence and Robotics.

Mr. Markelov informed the house that Astrakhan State University is focusing their research on Agriculture sector and they have done pioneering research in Agriculture especially for Pumpkins, Melons of different types, Pepper, Tomatoes, etc. Watermelon is their brand. They have come out with technology for growing good quality cotton, especially when their soil in Russia is not so conducive to growth of good quality cotton. Their University has put concerted effort on research for Apple, Peach and Grape. Astrakhan University has already done MOUs with Greek University and Israel University. He emphasized that when seeds are imported from abroad, they may be genetically modified ones and hence they are sceptical to procure such seeds. Hence, they would like to collaborate with University from Gujarat State and they would on their part try to implement digital technology in Indian Agriculture. They could provide machineries which can help in growing plants. They are facing some problem in livestock and have started professional breeding technique for Cows, Sheep, Horses, Camels, etc. They have the facility to train Veterinary (Vet for domestic animals) doctors, who are in high demand. In Russia, fishing is also important – Aquaculture. Fishes of river and sea are their main focus. They are working seriously on Green technology and help in preventing pollution in Agriculture fields. They also want to know more on solar and wind energy as alternate energy resources. The Russian Government is interested in bringing technology from India to their Institutes and they are ready to share the technologies they have developed at the University. They plan to have Student exchange programme with AAU students from India.

At the last, the Hon. Vice Chancellor, AAU, Anand highlighted on the purpose of visit by the Russian delegation and informed that let them have the feel of AAU, Anand by visiting our renowned Colleges and laboratories and 'Strategic Partnership Agreement' can be signed which

will help us go one step forward to benefit both the countries. Dr. Patel informed that AAU, Anand is marketing good quality seeds, which are not genetically modified. Through mutual agreement, the faculty of both the Universities can also be trained, especially from Dairy, Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry.

Finally, the "Strategic Partnership Agreement" was exchanged between Mr. K.A. Markelov, Acting Rector, Astrakhan State University, Russia and Dr. N.C. Patel, Vice Chancellor, AAU, Anand, India in presence of all the worthy members from both the Universities.

The Russian delegation were then taken around the Anand Agricultural University, Anand for a visit comprising of Sardar Patel Educational Museum, Biofertilizer Research Laboratory, Tissue culture laboratory, Pesticide Residue Laboratory, College of Food Processing Technology and Bio-Energy (especially Food Quality Testing Laboratory and Experiential Learning Units), followed by visit to Vidya Dairy, Anand where students of Dairy Science College undergo one year of rigorous In-plant training as part of their B.Tech.(Dairy Technology) degree program. The Russian delegation appreciated the facilities and academic activities at AAU, Anand and showed keen interest to work in collaborative educational and research activities.





