To

All Vice Chancellor of the Universities/ Directors of ICAR Institutes

Subject: - Misuse of Oxytocin by the dairy farmers – reg.

Sir,

With respect to the above issue, it is important to address people’s concerns of indiscriminate administration of oxytocin by livestock owners and farmers not only on lactating bovines for eliciting milk let down but also for enhancing rapid growth of vegetables. While it has been adequately documented in veterinary medicine that oxytocin can be used in cases of therapeutic application for treatment of postpartum retained placenta, metritis, mastitis therapy, uterine involution etc. however in dairy practice the hormone or its crude preparations have been administered indiscriminately for eliciting milk letdown in bovines. There are also number of newspaper reports which state that farmers are also using it for enhancing the size of vegetables.

These practices are matters of serious concern and need to be strictly prevented. The application of oxytocin in animals can only be used for therapeutic purposes very judiciously by the veterinarian.

Through this communication, we request the Universities to organize awareness campaigns at village level to prevent the indiscriminate use of oxytocin. Further, the Universities claiming any beneficial effect of the use of oxytocin should ensure sufficient scientific validation of the same.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(J. K. Jena)