

III. 43. KNOWLEDGE EMPOWEREMENT THROUGH DISTANCE EDUCATION MODE

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The farming community, entrepreneurs and the society at large, needs to be empowered with the latest information and facts to keep pace with the developing world. Though several modes are in vogue, distance education plays a pivotal role in the dissemination of scientific information to the scattered rural masses. Keeping in this view a six month skill based distance education programme on Dairy Farming in Tamil was started in the year 1995-96. Due to good response another skill based programme on Goat Farming for duration of three months in Tamil was introduced in the year 1996-97. Besides these two courses a Certificate Course of one year duration on Animal Welfare in English was started in the year 1996-97 on All India basis for animal lovers and animal welfare workers. Due to overwhelming response to the Certificate course on Animal Welfare and to keep abreast with the latest advancements in Information Technology an on-line web based learning course on Animal Welfare for duration of six months and designed and offered from the year 2005. Taking into consideration the needs of animal based industries and well established livestock farms and to create employment opportunities to the educated and unemployed youth a specialized course on Livestock and Poultry Farm Manager Course of 6 months duration was started during 2005-06. So far a total of 2,304 candidates have enrolled to all these courses and benefited. More details about the distance education programmes will be presented in the poster presentation.