

It gives me great pleasure to learn that All Assam Veterinary Field Assistant Association is organizing its 27th Bi-annual conference from 4-6<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019 at Nagoan, Assam. It is also heartening to know that the topic of the day long national technical seminar scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019 is "Re-orienting para veterinary services" which is the need of hour. Veterinary Assistants or Para-veterinarians are an important part of animal health care and animal husbandry extension delivery system in India. At Agriculture Skill of India, we have worked hard to give recognition to this skilled occupation category at national level. National Occupational Standards (NOS) as per National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) are now available for long term trained Veterinary Field Assistant (VFA) and Veterinary Clinical Assistant (VCA) respectively focused on functional skill requirement in field and hospital / laboratory context respectively. The standards are also available for short term trained occupations such as Animal Health Worker and Artificial Insemination Technicians. Government funded and private institutes as well as universities can take affiliation from Agriculture Skill Council of India to provide and certify trainees under a collaborative arrangement based on the developed National Occupational Standard, Model Curricula and evaluation system.

The new skill training system for veterinary assistants are likely to positively change the face of veterinary service delivery by ensuring the production of quality and employable veterinary assistants in both public and private sector. However, much needs to be done to bring in a credible registration and supervisory system for para -veterinarians as per the provision on Indian Veterinary Council Act.

I wish the conference the very best and hope it will inform the participants about the changes that are taking place in the area of training of veterinary assistants. I also urge state level training institutes to seek affiliation of Agriculture Skill Council of India.



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