

McMEEKAN MEMORIAL AWARD

Velmurugu Ravindran

Professor Velmurugu (Ravi) Ravindran is one of the world's leading authorities in the field of poultry nutrition. New Zealand is the world leader when it comes to efficient production of chicken meat. The progression of the poultry industry is highly attributable Ravi's work as New Zealand's only poultry nutritionist and his strong ties to the poultry industry for research dissemination and rapid technology transfer.

Ravi started on his pathway in the animal sciences with a Bachelor of Agricultural Science from the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka, followed by a Master of Science in Animal Science in 1982 and a PhD in Animal Nutrition in 1985 from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Ravi was a Senior Research fellow at the University of Sydney Camden Campus from 1994 to 1998. In 1998, Ravi came to New Zealand and joined the Massey University staff as a Senior Poultry Scientist and Associate Professor, obtaining his professorship in 2004.

He is recognised by peers as both a fundamental and applied scientist who excels at problem solving research. His research work has been characterised as being innovative and translatable to the poultry and feed industries.

He has led comprehensive research programs focussing on strategies to improve utilisation of nutrients and to reduce nutrient overload in the environment. The results have benefitted the feed industry globally by enabling the use of wide array of feed ingredients in poultry diets with greater efficiency.

He pioneered the development of ileal-based assays to determine amino acid digestibility for poultry. This method is now used internationally and has generated ileal amino acid digestibility data for over 250 samples representing



in excess of 30 ingredients. In recent years, he led a consortium of scientists from Europe, Americas and Australasia to develop a consensus assay for determining amino acid digestibility and endogenous amino acid losses. Ravi is also widely acknowledged as a researcher who laid the foundations for much of the current understanding of feed enzyme technology.

His scholarly contributions have been documented in more than 500 scientific works including 250 refereed journal articles. Ravi's research is widely cited and attracts international attention. He has

supervised over 30 postgraduate students and has active collaborations with 11 research groups world-wide.

Ravi was the Poultry Industry Association of New Zealand Senior Research fellow from 1998 to 2002 and an expert consultant to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). He received the prestigious American Feed Industry Association Nutrition Award from the Poultry Science Association for distinctive and sound research in poultry nutrition in 2011. In 2012, he was awarded the JM Bell Distinguished Lectureship, which recognises an individual who has achieved international prominence in animal nutrition.

It is clear that Ravi has made a significant contribution to advance the nutrition of poultry. His work has enabled unparalleled progress for poultry production. Just like Dr McMeekan, Professor Ravindran is a distinguished leader in animal production and it is fitting that Ravi receive the New Zealand Society of Animal Production McMeekan Memorial Award.

Proposed: Patrick Morel

Seconded: Nicola Schreurs