ICAR-IVRI organized a one day National Workshop on "Influenza: Risk Factors, Massive Impact and Uncertain Future"

A one day National Workshop on "Influenza: Risk Factors, Massive Impact and Uncertain Future" at ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute under the aegis of Indian Virological Society on 19th October, 2015. The workshop was intended to discuss the Influenza disease under one health perspective and organized to gather the eminent scientists of the country from different fields e.g. medical, veterinary, life sciences etc. to deliberate recent updates in the area, challenges and perspectives for future.

The workshop was inaugurated by the Chief guest Dr M. P. Yadav, former director ICAR-IVRI and the guest of honour, Dr (Prof.) A. K. Prasad, former HOD Respiratory Virology, V. P. Chest Institute, Delhi and President, Indian Virological Society and Influenza Foundation of India. Dr R. K. Singh, Director-cum Vice-Chancellor, ICAR-IVRI presided over the function and highlighted the public health importance and preparedness related to the Influenza in humans and animals. Dr Singh emphasized the need for awareness on hand washing and personal hygiene in minimizing the risk of Influenza spread. The Chief Guest of the function, Dr M. P. Yadav, appreciated the organization of this workshop due to importance of Influenza in economy and public health. The key note address was delivered by Dr (Prof.)
A. K. Prasad on the current status of Influenza in India and Concerns about the disease worldwide. He also made a note that it was an initiative of its own kind to gather the experts from different fields under one roof to share their knowledge and ideas about Influenza in humans and animals in order to meet the future challenges. The welcome address was given by Dr YPS Malik, ICAR-National Fellow and vote of thanks was proposed by Dr P. Dhar, Principal Scientist, IVRI, Izatnagar. The function was then preceded with a plenary lecture by Dr S.K. Saxena, Senior Scientist and Activity leader (Infectious diseases), CSIR-Center for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad. He discussed about “Pandemic Influenza A (HINI) pdm09 virus (pHINI): The Unseen and Unsaid. He elaborated about the origin of virus, its epidemiology, vectors and hosts, molecular mechanism of replication, treatment and management including control strategies.

A total of 285 participants including Scientists, Faculties, Subject Matter Specialists, Research Scholars and Students from medical, public health and veterinary field have attended the function. The technical session started with the presentation of Dr J. M. Kataria, Director ICAR-Central Avian Research Institute, who spoke on Avian Influenza: Past, Present and Future (An Indian experience). He presented a glimpse of current perspectives of the disease, risk of silent infection with violent impact, diagnostic and control strategies including vaccination program. The other presentations included the topics on “Avian Influenza: continuing evolution and expanding host range by Dr C. Tosh, “An overview of Equine Influenza and Indian Scenario” by Dr Nitin Virmani and “Zoonotic swine influenza: updated information on a seasonal disease: by Dr G. Saikumar, During the deliberations, it was concluded by the experts that the name of disease “Swine-flu” is misnomer and the disease is a result of reassortment events between avian and human flue viruses.