

Knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) study and orientation program on Brucellosis organized at ERS, ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata

Brucellosis is a zoonotic disease or infection having significant socio-economic, animal and public health importance. As a result, the livestock owners', who have occupational contact with livestock, are at high risk. Further, the lack of sufficient knowledge regarding the disease result in continuous disease circulation in the population. Livestock owners' knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) regarding brucellosis is, therefore important to prevent animal-to-human transmission and reduce the disease incidence through implementation of sustainable control



programs. KAP survey is regarded as a powerful tool in evaluating the vulnerability of animal owners to livestock diseases, including brucellosis in resource-poor settings. In view of the importance of the disease, the program was organized in collaboration with Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkata at Eastern Regional Station (ERS) of ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata on 21.02.2025 to assess the KAP of livestock owners, exclusively of farm women, regarding brucellosis. In total, 30 farm women beneficiaries of Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes (DAPSC) program, belonging to three (3) blocks viz. Bongaon, Canning-1 and Sonarpur of West Bengal, who had earlier received inputs and at present engaged in rearing animals actively participated in the program.

At the outset, Dr. Arnab Sen, Head of the Regional Centre (HoRC), ERS, ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata, extended a warm welcome to all the participants. During his address, the HoRC provided insights into the various outreach programs conducted by the Regional Centre and showcased the ongoing activities



conducted under DAPSC that have meaningful impact on livelihood security of rural beneficiaries. The participants were addressed by Prof (Dr) Munmun Das (Sarkar), Professor, Microbiology at Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkata who gave an overview on brucellosis with emphasis on transmission sources and preventive measures, including basic hygiene practices that are of



paramount importance in minimizing the risk of disease transmission from livestock to humans.

Dr Samiran Bandyopadhyay, Principal Scientist, ERS, ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata gave an insight on the etiology of important zoonotic diseases, particularly those associated with livestock and poultry, such as anthrax, rabies, tuberculosis, dermatophytosis, brucellosis, and avian influenza. Dr Bandyopadhyay also elaborated on the factors influencing the emergence, re-emergence of zoonoses, their impact on animal and human health, and control measures for better management. Other



attending scientists and staff of both School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkata, and ERS, ICAR, IVRI, Kolkata actively participated in the program. During the interactive session, Dr Srikanta Ghosh, Dr Sadhan Bag and Dr. Syamal Naskar of ERS, Kolkata shared their perspectives on zoonotic diseases and welcomed this type of collaborative program.



The participating farm women were interviewed using a questionnaire to obtain information in order to assess their extent of knowledge and understanding, and also to identify the methods they practice/ adopt at the farm and household level that might pose a risk for contracting brucellosis. It is expected that this program will enhance the awareness level of farm women on brucellosis, besides helpful in devising strategies for future disease control programs and one health interventions.



The program was coordinated by Dr Goutam Das, Principal Scientist and Coordinator, DAPSC program, ERS, Kolkata, whereas Dr Sadhan Bag, Principal Scientist of ERS, Kolkata, compered the entire program and proposed vote of thanks.