

## **Foundation Day Lecture of ICAR-IVRI on 10-12-24**

The Foundation Day lecture was organized on the second day of the 135th Foundation Day Celebrations of ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute being held from 09-11 December, 2024, The address was delivered by Dr. Tarun Shridhar, Former Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, New Delhi and Director General, Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICF), New Delhi.

In his address, Dr. Tarun Shridhar highlighted that veterinarians are highly skilled professionals, adept at understanding the pain and language of voiceless animals. Quoting Dr. Calvin Schwabe, he underscored the critical role veterinarians play in safeguarding the health of non-human animals, emphasizing their irreplaceable contribution to society. He further elaborated on the concept of 'One Health', which recognizes the interconnectedness of animal and human health. He urged the practical implementation of One Health approach to address urgent challenges such as emerging zoonotic diseases and antibiotic resistance.



Highlighting India's rich scientific heritage in animal health, he reiterated the universally acknowledged principle that animal health is intrinsically linked to human health. He further emphasized the fact that the G20 declaration in India focused on these principles.

He also drew an analogy, stating that just as muscles need proper nutrition and exercise to grow strong, the brain similarly requires the right nutrients and stimulation for optimal development. Underlining the importance of diverse dietary options, particularly those derived from livestock, he emphasized that achieving comprehensive development requires a balanced approach that is both rational and guided by ethical considerations. Dr. Shridhar referenced Mahatma Gandhi's monograph Key to Health (1942), where he stated "Eggs are considered by the common man as meat food. In reality they are a sterile egg which never develops into a chick. Therefore, anyone who can take milk shall



not consider egg consumption as religious taboo”. Dr Shridhar thus presented a perspective that blends practicality with philosophical thought.

A veterinarian not only protects the health of animal, but also plays a crucial role in rural livelihoods and economy, environmental protection, food security and hence public health. He expressed concern that increasing the number of veterinarians for proper coverage of animal health is the need of the hour as India still lags behind in terms of the recommended ratio of veterinarians and livestock heads. Further, talking about zoonotic diseases he stated that the most effective and economical approach to protect human health is to control zoonotic pathogens at their animal source, as 60% of human diseases and 75% of emerging diseases are of zoonotic origin.

During the foundation day celebrations, Dr. Triveni Dutt, Director of the ICAR-IVRI, extended his congratulations to the scientists, technical staff, and students. He acknowledged the significant contributions of former directors, in shaping IVRI into a historically prestigious institute in Asia.

Highlighting the institute's achievements, he emphasized the institute's extensive role in serving the stakeholders of the livestock sector through development of over 100 technologies, with 49—including vaccines, diagnostics, and medical devices—successfully transferred to 60 commercial entities. He also underscored IVRI's vital role in human resource development, noting that IVRI attained the status of a deemed university in 1983 and so far 589 alumni of this institute are serving in 29 state agricultural and veterinary colleges across the country.

The program proceedings were coordinated by Dr. Suman Kumar, Scientist, and the vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. G. Sai Kumar, In charge of the PME Cell.

