

## **Awareness program on vector borne zoonotic diseases**

The Division of Veterinary Public Health (VPH), Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar, organized a awareness program on August 21, 2025, under the “Scheduled caste sub plan scheme”, with the participation of 50 beneficiaries. The program was specifically designed for Scheduled Caste (SC) sanitation workers, focusing on prevention of vector borne zoonotic disease and recognizing the crucial role of sanitation workers in safeguarding public health. Sanitation workers, due to their occupational exposure, remain at a higher risk of contracting vector-borne diseases. This initiative was a collaborative effort involving the contributions of Dr. Bablu Kumar, Head of the Division of VPH, and Dr. Himani Dhanze, Scientist, Division of VPH.

Dr. Himani Dhanze delivered an interactive session, providing insights into zoonotic diseases, vector borne diseases, antimicrobial resistance and foodborne pathogens. She emphasized the importance of preventive measures and discussed diseases transmitted by mosquitoes, ticks and fleas. Special attention was given to monsoon-related vector-borne diseases such as dengue and Japanese encephalitis, as the rainy season favours the breeding of mosquitoes and other vectors. She highlighted the increased risk of Japanese Encephalitis, Dengue, and other mosquito-borne infections, which are of significant public health concern in the region. Adding to this, Dr. Bablu Kumar stressed the dangers posed by mosquito-borne diseases and the urgent need to adopt preventive strategies to protect vulnerable communities such as sanitation workers. As part of the program, each participant received a foldable king size mosquito net, along with informative leaflets on antimicrobial resistance, dengue fever, vector borne diseases and hand hygiene. These resources were distributed to promote disease prevention both at the workplace and within households. The program was well appreciated by the participants, as it effectively addressed the workplace safety of sanitation workers while raising awareness about the risks of zoonotic and monsoon-related vector-borne diseases, ultimately encouraging the adoption of healthier practices for individual and community well-being.



**Team VPH and Sanitation workers with mosquito net and leaflets**



**Distribution of mosquito net and leaflets to beneficiaries during the program**