

## **Valedictory Programme of 21 days ICAR sponsored Winter School on Innovations in Digital Extension and Smart Farming on 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2026**

The 21-day ICAR-Sponsored Winter School on “**Innovations in Digital Extension and Smart Farming**” concluded successfully today at the ICAR–Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar, marking the culmination of an intensive capacity-building programme conducted with great academic rigour and enthusiasm.

The Winter School was organized with the objective of strengthening the professional competencies of scientists, academicians, and extension professionals by providing advanced exposure to digital extension tools, smart farming technologies, ICT applications, data-driven decision-making, and innovative extension methodologies relevant to contemporary agriculture and animal husbandry.

The valedictory session was graced by **Dr. Triveni Dutt, Vice-Chancellor, SVPUAT, Meerut, UP as chief guest**. He congratulated Dr. Rupasi Tiwari, JD(EE) and the entire organizing team for their initiative and emphasized the programme’s significance for the national NAREE. He appreciated the module design, structure, and its relevance to national goals. Dr. Dutt highlighted the role of the ICAR- Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) as a premier platform with a long legacy in agricultural and veterinary research, its centers of excellence, world-class infrastructure, vocational and diploma courses, and its contribution to global veterinary research. He also stressed the need to develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) for scientists to ensure effective feedback mechanisms wherever they attend any such training programs. He also enlightens the house about the vision aligned to **Viksit Bharat @2047**, marking the Amritkaal period, and reaffirmed the Winter School’s commitment to excellence, innovation, and nation-building.

**Dr. S.K. Singh**, JD Research appreciated the well-structured nature of the course, particularly the integration of AI and machine learning, and congratulated all participants for successfully completing the programme.

**Dr. Rupasi Tiwari, JD(EE)** & course director played a key role in the programme, which covered diverse themes such as social media usage, blockchain technology, artificial intelligence, machine learning, image-based applications, blogging, e-content development, and practical hands-on sessions. The programme was structured week-wise emphasizing digital agriculture policies, climate resilience, impact assessment, and the role of blockchain, AI in the veterinary sector. Total 21 participants successfully completed the program from 11 states across India. Participants profile includes Assistant Professors (14), Scientists (3) and Subject Matter Specialists (4) from leading agricultural universities, veterinary colleges, ICAR institutes, and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) across 11 disciplines. A major strength of the Winter School was the involvement of resource persons from institutions such as DUVASU, Mathura, GBPUA&T, Pantnagar, ICAR-NIVEDI, agri-tech startups etc., which enriched the learning experience. The programme was designed to build capacities, provide insights, and develop “change agents” capable of translating acquired knowledge into practical outcomes.

Participants shared their experiences during the session. Dr. Raushan Kumar highlighted the use of radio stations, community radio, blockchain technology, podcasts, and platforms like Community Radio Station, along with applications of Virtual and Augmented Reality. Dr. Vipin Thakur emphasized the usefulness of the programme in the field of veterinary medicine, while Dr. Harshita underlined the importance of cross-learning.

The valedictory session was concluded with awarding the certificates to all the 21 participants and a vote of thanks by Dr. Bablu Kumar, Principal Scientist, Incharge ITMU, ICAR-IVRI.

