

# International Collaborative Workshop on ‘FMD Vaccine Quality Testing and Enhancing India’s Animal Vaccine Testing capabilities’

February 6-7, 2023 at ICAR-IVRI Bengaluru Campus

ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) Bengaluru campus hosted the International Collaborative Workshop under a collaborative research project on FMD entitled “FMD Vaccine Quality Testing and Enhancing India’s Animal Vaccine Testing capabilities” funded by Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), Govt. of India. The workshop was organized for demonstrations and technical discussion on FMD vaccine QC testing protocols being developed through collaboration of ICAR-IVRI Bengaluru, ICAR- Directorate on Foot & Mouth Disease (DFMD) Bhubaneswar, and Chaudhary Charan Singh National Institute of Animal Health (CCS-NIAH) Baghpat, with World Reference Laboratory for Foot-and-Mouth Disease (WRL-FMD) UK and The Pirbright Institute, UK.



In his online inaugural address, Dr. Bhupendra Nath Tripathi, Deputy Director General (Animal Sciences), ICAR appreciated the collaborative efforts of ICAR-IVRI Bengaluru, ICAR-DFMD and CCS-NIAH, working together trying to meet the expectations of the country in controlling

foot-and-mouth disease. He emphasized on the importance of detection of antigenic mass and development of alternate fool-proof methods for FMD vaccine quality assessment, replacing cattle challenge. He expressed hope that collaboration with WRL-UK and the Pirbright Institute, UK would be fruitful, in timely achieving the set objectives.

Dr. Abhijit Mitra, Animal Husbandry Commissioner, DAHD, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (GoI), also participated online and made the opening remarks expressing that the collaboration is expected to work on improving vaccine quality and diagnostics for effective FMD control programme in our country.

Dr. Ashok Kumar, ADG (Animal Health) in his inaugural address, emphasized the importance of the collaborative project to develop tools for vaccine quality control for effective control of foot - and-mouth disease in the country by vaccination.

Dr. Donald King, Head of FAO World FMD Reference Laboratory at the Pirbright Institute, UK presented the Project overview and necessary tools to support FMD vaccination in India.

During the two days, all the project investigators and research fellows from IVRI Bengaluru, ICAR-DFMD and CCS NIAH participated the workshop. ELISAs for quantification of virus antigenic mass and integrity were demonstrated to the project investigators of IVRI Bengaluru, ICAR-DFMD and CCS NIAH in the IVRI laboratory by Dr. Eva Perez, Dr. Anna Ludi and Dr. Toby Tuthill. Also, there was technical discussion on FMD vaccine quality assessment and expected deliverables from the project in which Dr Donald King, Dr. Nicola Shepherd (Director, Bellows Consulting, UK), Dr. Nicholas Juleff (Sr. Program Officer, Bill & Melinda Gate Foundation), Dr. Danny Goovaerts (DGVAC Consultancy, Belgium), Dr. Aniket Sanyal, Director, ICAR-NIHSAD, Dr. Sindura Ganapathi, Fellow, Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor, Govt. of India, Dr. Anirban Guha, Assistant Commissioner (NADCP), Dr. AS Yadav, Director, CCS-NIAH, Dr. RP Singh, Director, ICAR-DFMD and Project coordinator, Dr.V.Bhanuprakash, Project Investigator and Dr. Pallab Chaudhuri, Joint Director IVRI Bengaluru campus participated.

Dr. Abhijit Mitra, Animal Husbandry Commissioner, DAHD, physically graced the concluding session of the workshop. He emphasized on joint efforts to produce good potency vaccine. He also stressed on bringing back the trust between Government and FMD vaccine manufacturing companies, to make FMD control programme successful in the country.

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