

## ***Inauguration of six-day BIMSTEC workshop on Recent advances in diagnosis and control of emerging and reemerging zoonoses***

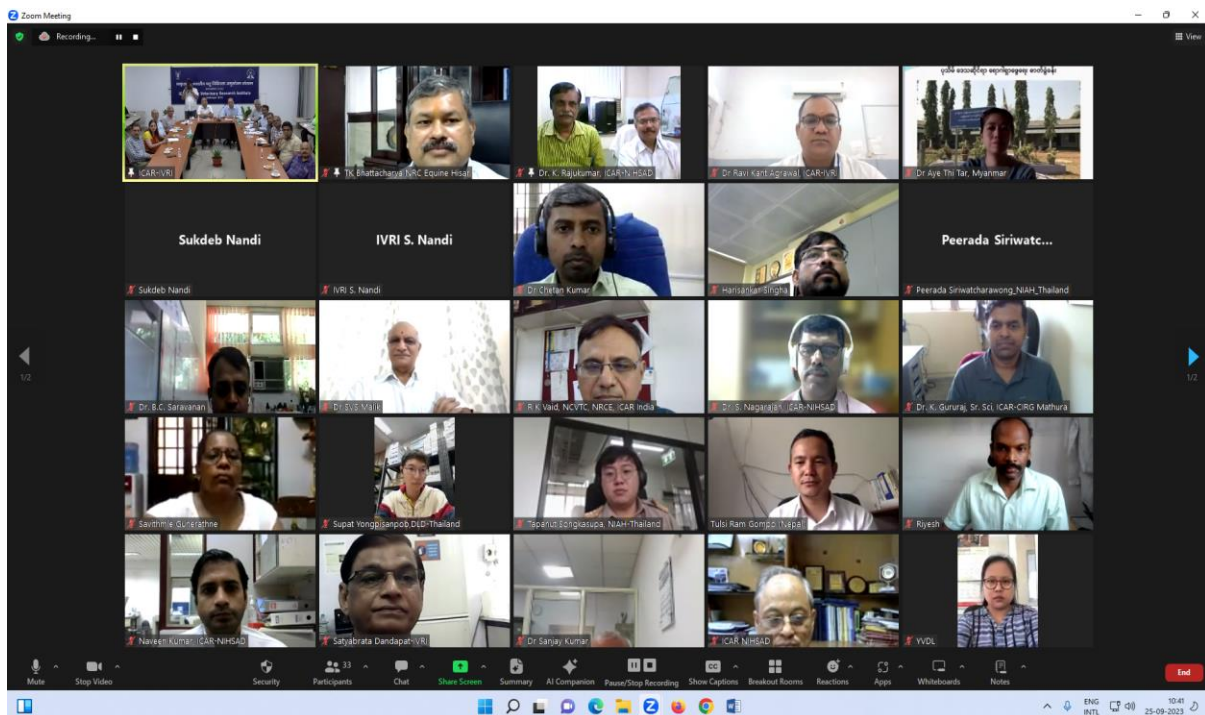
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The online workshop on Recent advances in diagnosis and control of emerging and reemerging zoonoses was inaugurated today at ICAR-IVRI, Izatnagar. The workshop is being organized under the aegis of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) comprising seven countries. Division of Veterinary Public Health of IVRI is coordinating the workshop which is being held from September 25-30, 2023. The workshop is being organized by ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute in collaboration with ICAR-National Research Centre on Equines, Hisar, and ICAR-National Institute for High Security Animal Diseases, Bhopal. A total of 16 participants from six countries under BIMSTEC are part of the workshop with nine trainees from Thailand, two from Myanmar, two from India, one each from Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Nepal. Dr KN Bhilegaonkar, Head, VPH Division and Course Director spoke on the occasion and congratulated the organizers for choosing the contemporary theme of the workshop as reliable diagnosis of control measures for diseases is very much necessary to limit spread their disease to a larger population.



Hon'ble Joint Director (Academics) Dr SK Mendiratta graced the inaugural function of the workshop and expressed his happiness over the topic of the workshop and called all participants to share their experiences and search for active collaboration amongst the BIMSTEC countries. He urged the participants to take active part in the workshop and learn from the experienced faculty at IVRI, Izatnagar, ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal and ICAR-NRC on Equines, Hisar, who are working on animal health related aspects. Dr SK Singh, Joint Director

(Research), IVRI also spoke on the occasion and congratulated the organizers. He opined that the earlier intention was to diagnose the endemic and existing diseases only, however, with time we have come to realize the importance of preparedness in detecting diseases which are emerging in nature. The shared borders of the BIMSTEC nations call for increased collaboration and capacity sharing to tackle the zoonotic and transboundary diseases, and this workshop is a good beginning in terms of knowledge sharing. He also asked the organizers to share the outcome of this workshop with the BIMSTEC secretariat for furthering the collaborative efforts. Dr Aniket Sanyal, Director, ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal addressed the trainees and elaborated on the importance of the zoonotic and transboundary infections and the devastating effects they have had on animal health and productivity. He also opined that we need to tackle the emerging diseases, especially those with zoonotic potential. Dr TK Bhattacharya, Director, NRC Equines, Hisar appreciated the initiative and called upon the participants to focus on preparedness and creating roadmaps to mitigate the effects of zoonotic and transboundary diseases. He reminisced about various aspects such as antimicrobial resistance and emerging/reemerging zoonoses due to increased human-animal interactions, which have become major public health issues worldwide.



The workshop is focused on various diagnostics and control measures to detect zoonotic diseases. This workshop will cover a wide variety of topics on this theme and include 30 lectures across six days. The workshop is being coordinated by Dr M. Suman Kumar, Scientist, IVRI along with Dr Rajukumar, Principal Scientist, NIHSAD and Dr Nitin Virmani, Head, Equine Health Division, NRC on Equines, Hisar. Dr Himani Dhanze, Dr ZB Dubal and Dr RS Rathore are the co-course directors of this training.

