

## **Visit of Dr. Didier Raboisson, Attaché for Scientific Cooperation,**

### **Embassy of France in India to ICAR-IVRI on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2024**

Dr. Didier Raboisson, Attaché for Scientific Cooperation at the Embassy of France in India, visited Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar on August 23, 2024. The purpose of his visit was to discuss the potential for Indo-French scientific collaboration, particularly in relation to the PREZODE (Preventing Zoonotic Disease Emergence) initiative of France. Dr. Raboisson also oversees the Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (CEFIPRA), a bilateral agency that supports collaborative fundamental and applied scientific projects. Before his current role, he was a Professor of Veterinary Medicine at the Toulouse Veterinary School, where he led a research lab focused on epidemics, zoonotic diseases, and health management decision-making.

During his visit, Dr. Raboisson met with key officials from IVRI, including Dr. Triveni Dutt, Director-cum-Vice Chancellor; Dr. S.K. Singh, Joint Director (Research); Dr. Sohini Dey, Joint Director (CADRAD); Dr G. Saikumar, Incharge PME Cell; Dr. K.N. Bhilegaonkar, Head, VPH; Dr. R.V.S. Pawaiya, Head Pathology; Dr. P. Dandapat, Head B&M; and Dr. Suman Kumar, Scientist, VPH. Dr. Dutt provided an overview of IVRI's activities and highlighted the Institute's leadership in animal health and productivity in India. He emphasized the importance of strengthening Indo-French collaborations in animal health research through faculty and student exchange, capacity building, and joint research projects between the Veterinary Schools of France and ICAR-IVRI. As an initial step, Dr. Dutt suggested organizing a joint workshop to identify common areas of interest among researchers, which could serve as the basis for future collaborations.

Dr. S.K. Singh gave a brief presentation on the Institute's infrastructure and ongoing activities under the One Health theme. This was followed by Dr. Raboisson's presentation on various ongoing schemes and research proposal calls under the Indo-French agreement. He encouraged IVRI faculty to apply for

competitive project funding under these calls. The presentations were followed by discussions among the participants, during which potential research areas such as vaccine R&D, food safety, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), disease risk analysis, host-pathogen interactions, and genomic surveillance of pathogens were identified. It was agreed to propose a joint workshop in the near future as a first step towards these collaborative activities.

Dr. Raboisson presented the *Science Beyond Borders: The Saga of Indo-French Scientific Cooperation*, a compilation, to the Director of IVRI during his visit. He toured the Joint Directorate of Research to observe the Institute's various research activities. He expressed his satisfaction with the fruitful visit and expressed his desire to return to IVRI soon for a wider interaction with faculty and students.



