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Building Partnerships to Combat AMR: ICAR-NIVEDI Hosts AMR Stewardship Drive 2025

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ICAR–National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (ICAR-NIVEDI), in collaboration with the CII Food and Agriculture Centre of Excellence (FACE) and the Indian Federation of Animal Health Companies (INFAH), organized the AMR Stewardship Drive 2025 on 11th July 2025 at its campus in Bengaluru. Held under the theme “Building Partnerships for Strengthening Our Response to AMR,” the event brought together key stakeholders from government, industry, academia, and research institutions to discuss collaborative strategies for addressing the escalating challenge of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in animal agriculture. The event was attended by more than 121 participants from various institutions. This includes the research and academic institutions such as ICAR-IVRI, NIVEDI, NDRI, NIANP, KVAFSU, NCBS, IAH&VB, Venkateshwara Veterinary University, Tirupati, Bengaluru Bio-Innovation Centre, BeST Cluster, Veterinary College, Shivamogga and Veterinary College, Bengaluru. Livestock and poultry health industries such as Venkateshwara hatcheries, Alltech, Nandini, ew nutrition, cargil, natural remedies, Nanda group, Godrej foods, Zenex, poultry associations took active part in the event.

The inaugural session witnessed the presence of prominent dignitaries, including Mr. Suresh Chitturi, Chairman of the CII Animal Agriculture Committee and Managing Director of Srinivasa Farms; Dr. Shirish Nigam, President of INFAH and Managing Director of EW Nutrition India; Prof. (Dr.) P. K. Shukla, President of the Indian Poultry Science Association and Head of the Department of Poultry Science at DUVASU, Mathura; and Dr. Sindura Ganapathi, Visiting PSA Fellow at the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India. The gathering marked the release of the CII report titled “Industry-led AMR Stewardship in Animal Agriculture,” underscoring the private sector’s role in tackling AMR challenges.

In his keynote address, Dr. Baldev R. Gulati, Director of ICAR-NIVEDI; emphasized the urgency of a multi-stakeholder approach in mitigating AMR in food animals. He highlighted India’s National Action Plan on AMR and ongoing efforts to develop state-level action plans that prioritize rational antimicrobial use, robust surveillance systems, and capacity building. Dr. Gulati stressed that institutions such as ICAR-NIVEDI, NCDC, and ICMR are spearheading efforts through diagnostic innovations, training programs, and stakeholder engagement, all aligned with the One Health approach to find holistic solutions to AMR.

Addressing the audience, Mr. Suresh Chitturi outlined the gravity of AMR as one of the most significant public health threats globally, with implications not only for human and animal health but also for food safety, trade, and economic security. He pointed to alarming projections for India, where veterinary antibiotic use in animal production could rise by 312% by 2030, driven by the intensification of animal production and improper use of antimicrobials. Such trends, he warned, could jeopardize food systems, leading to reduced animal productivity, and escalating treatment costs.

Dr. Shirish Nigam elaborated on the objectives of the AMR Stewardship Drive 2025, describing it as a nationwide, multi-city outreach initiative aimed at raising awareness, building capacity, and promoting responsible antimicrobial use across animal agriculture. He emphasized the importance of creating a grassroots movement that actively engages veterinarians, para-veterinarians, fisheries professionals, students, and farmers to strengthen AMR stewardship from the ground up.

Dr. Sindura Ganapathi called for sector-specific solutions to combat AMR, stressing that it is not a “one-pathogen, one-solution” problem. He highlighted the need for innovative, targeted strategies tailored to the unique challenges faced by sectors such as poultry, dairy, and aquaculture.

A technical session, moderated by Dr. Mahesh P, Joint Commissioner and Director of the Centre of Excellence for Animal Husbandry (CEAH), Bengaluru, featured insightful presentations. Prof. N. Punniyamurthy discussed the potential of ethnoveterinary medicine in AMR containment, while Dr. Muralidhar Yegireddy spoke about the critical importance of responsible antibiotic use and systematic record-keeping in livestock management. Dr. Shivasharanappa N., Senior Scientist at ICAR-NIVEDI, provided an overview of ongoing AMR surveillance initiatives, such as the Indian Network on Fisheries and Animals AMR (INFAAR) program funded by ICAR. He highlighted the institute’s work on tracking significant AMR pathogens, including MRSA, ESBL-producing *E. coli*, and carbapenem-resistant bacteria from livestock, and stressed the importance of laboratory strengthening and capacity building to detect and monitor AMR trends effectively.

The AMR Stewardship Drive 2025 served as an important platform to foster dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders committed to safeguarding animal and public health. It reinforced the pressing need for collective action and innovation to tackle AMR and ensure the sustainability of India’s animal agriculture sector.



