



# NIVEDI PULSE

NIVEDI PULSE July 2025

## ICAR-NIVEDI Celebrates 25 Years of Excellence in Veterinary Epidemiology, Disease Informatics and One-Health

The ICAR-NIVEDI commemorated its 25th Foundation Day on 1<sup>st</sup> July, with a grand celebration at its campus, showcasing its contributions to veterinary epidemiology, disease informatics, and the One Health approach. The event brought together current and retired scientists, staff, and dignitaries.

The day began with a flag hoisting ceremony, followed by a series of commemorative events. Dr. P.P. Sengupta delivered the welcome address, highlighting the institute's journey from its inception as PD-ADMAS in 2000 to its current status. Director Dr. Baldev R. Gulati commended the team's dedication and acknowledged the leadership of former directors. A tribute was paid to late Dr. M. Rajasekhar, the Founder Director, honoring his visionary leadership. A highlight of the event was a guest lecture by Dr. D. Sridharan, Chairperson, Institutional Ethics Committee, ChanRe Rheumatology

and Immunology Centre, Bengaluru, on the role of ethics committees in intervention studies involving humans and animals. Ten progressive livestock farmers from Karnataka were felicitated for their innovations in animal husbandry. Awards were presented to outstanding staff for achievements in 2024–25: Dr. G.B.M. Reddy – Best Publication Award; Dr. V. Balamurugan – Highest Research Grant Award; Dr. K.P. Suresh – National e-Governance Certificate of Appreciation; Dr. S.B. Shivachandra – Young Scientist Award (KSTA) Certificate of Appreciation; Staff contributions in sports were also recognized. Chief Guest Dr. Artabandhu Sahoo emphasized the need for collaborative research in livestock health and nutrition. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. K.P. Suresh, coordinator of the event, appreciating everyone's contributions to the successful celebration.



**ICAR NIVEDI**  
*Transforming Animal Health*



## IBSC Meeting Reviews GMO Research and Strengthen Biosafety Compliance

The 12th meeting of the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC) at ICAR-NIVEDI was held on 4th July 2025 under the chairmanship of Dr. B.R. Gulati, Director, ICAR-NIVEDI. The meeting focused on reviewing ongoing and proposed research activities involving Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), Hazardous Microorganisms (HMOs), and associated Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs) to ensure compliance with national biosafety regulations. A total of nine research proposals were presented by the respective Principal Investigators. Each proposal was evaluated based on scientific merit, biosafety considerations, and regulatory compliance. The committee engaged in detailed discussions, raising queries that were effectively addressed by the PIs prior to granting approvals. The

key proposals reviewed included: Development of a recombinant protein-based vaccine for leptospirosis, Zoonotic disease surveillance initiatives involving high-risk pathogens, Formalization and review of Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs) and One Health-based risk assessment studies integrating animal, human, and environmental health perspectives. The committee emphasized adherence to DBT guidelines and institutional biosafety protocols, ensuring that all research involving biological materials is conducted responsibly and safely. The meeting highlighted the importance of biosafety governance in advancing cutting-edge research without compromising ethical or environmental standards.



## World Zoonoses Day Marked by Visit of Dr. Bujarbaruah and Dr. Prakash Rao to NIVEDI.

Bengaluru, 6 July 2025: On the occasion of World Zoonoses Day, ICAR-NIVEDI, Bengaluru, hosted eminent leaders from the veterinary and animal health sectors. Dr. Kamal Malla Bujarbaruah, Former Deputy Director General (Animal Science) and Former Vice-Chancellor of Assam Agricultural University; Dr. D.V.R Prakash Rao, President, National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India); and Dr. Triveni Dutt, Director, ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), visited the NIVEDI campus to engage with scientists and review ongoing initiatives. Dr. Baldev R. Gulati, Director, ICAR-NIVEDI, welcomed the dignitaries and highlighted the institute's contributions in livestock disease epidemiology and zoonotic disease research. He elaborated on collaborations with ICMR, NCDC, and various national and international health and veterinary

institutions to tackle emerging disease threats. Dr. Gulati also shared updates on significant initiatives, including the recognition of WOA Reference Laboratories and the institute's pioneering work in livestock disease modelling. The visiting team also included Dr. Pallab Choudhary, Joint Director, IVRI, Bengaluru, Dr. Arnab Sen, and Dr. K.N. Bhilegaonkar. Dr. Bujarbaruah commended the institute's pivotal role and emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts among animal health institutes to synergize resources and avoid duplication of work. Dr. D.V.R Prakash Rao stressed the urgent need for robust monitoring systems to ensure the success of India's Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) eradication programme, aiming for disease elimination by 2030.





### **ICAR-NIVEDI Observes World Zoonoses Day 2025 with School Awareness Program on Zoonotic Diseases**

To commemorate World Zoonoses Day 2025, ICAR-NIVEDI, in collaboration with Veterinary Officers from the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Doddaballapura Taluk (Bengaluru Rural), organized an awareness program on zoonotic diseases on 8th July 2025. The event was conducted under the NCDC-NOHPPZ (National One Health Programme for Prevention and Control of Zoonoses) project and aimed to educate young minds about the risks and prevention of zoonotic diseases. The program specifically targeted students of Government High School, Melekote, and Government Higher Primary School, Gundumgere. Dr. Chethan Kumar H.B., Dr. Ravikiran, and Dr. Vijay led the awareness sessions, engaging students with informative talks on the causes, transmission routes, clinical

symptoms, economic impact, and most importantly, the preventive measures for major zoonotic diseases such as rabies, brucellosis, leptospirosis, and avian influenza. Around 150 students and teachers actively participated in the program. Through interactive discussions and visual aids, the experts helped raise awareness about the critical role of hygiene, vaccination, and responsible animal handling in preventing disease transmission from animals to humans. The event highlighted ICAR-NIVEDI's continued commitment to the One Health approach, bridging human, animal, and environmental health through education and outreach. The success of the program demonstrated the importance of early awareness among school children to build a healthier and more informed future generation.

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

ICAR-NIVEDI, in collaboration with CII-FACE and INFAH, hosted the AMR Stewardship Drive 2025 on 11 July 2025 at its Bengaluru campus. Held under the theme “Building Partnerships for Strengthening Our Response to AMR,” the event brought together stakeholders from government, industry, academia, and research to address the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in animal agriculture. Key dignitaries included Mr. Suresh Chitturi (CII Animal Agriculture Committee), Dr. Shirish Nigam (INFAH), Prof. (Dr.) P.K. Shukla (DUVASU), and Dr. Sindura Ganapathi (Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser). The session featured the release of a CII report: “Industry-led AMR Stewardship in Animal Agriculture.”

Dr. Baldev R. Gulati, Director of ICAR-NIVEDI, highlighted India’s National Action Plan on AMR and emphasized the need for multi-sector collaboration, rational antibiotic use, and capacity building through a One Health approach. Mr. Chitturi warned of a projected 312% rise in veterinary antibiotic use by 2030, stressing its impact on productivity, trade, and food security. Dr. Nigam described the initiative as a nationwide campaign to build awareness and promote responsible antimicrobial use across sectors. Dr. Sindura Ganapathi called for sector-specific strategies, moving beyond a one-size-fits-all model, while a technical session led

by experts explored solutions like ethnoveterinary medicine, responsible antibiotic use, and improved AMR surveillance. Dr. Shivasharanappa N. of ICAR-NIVEDI presented updates from the INFAAR program, detailing efforts to monitor key AMR pathogens and strengthen lab capacity.

A total of 121 participants attended the AMR Stewardship Drive 2025. A technical session, moderated by Dr. Mahesh P., Joint Commissioner and Director, CEAH-Bengaluru, featured expert presentations. Prof. N. Punnamurthy highlighted the role of ethnoveterinary medicine in AMR containment. Dr. Muralidhar Yegireddy emphasized responsible antibiotic use and the importance of systematic record-keeping in livestock management. Dr. Shivasharanappa N., Senior Scientist at ICAR-NIVEDI, shared insights from the INFAAR program, outlining ongoing AMR surveillance efforts and tracking of key resistant pathogens such as MRSA, ESBL-producing *E. coli*, and carbapenem-resistant bacteria. He also stressed the need for laboratory strengthening and capacity building to monitor AMR trends effectively. The AMR Stewardship Drive 2025 highlighted the urgent need for collective action, innovation, and sustained partnerships to combat AMR and safeguard both animal and public health, ensuring the sustainability of India’s animal agriculture sector.





## ICAR-NIVEDI Launches Workshop on Advanced Animal Husbandry for Tribal Farmers

On 18th July 2025, ICAR-NIVEDI, Bengaluru, organized a launching workshop under the Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST) initiative titled “Advanced Animal Husbandry Practices for Sustainable Income.” The program aimed to promote scientific and sustainable livestock practices to improve the livelihoods of Scheduled Tribe (ST) farmers through capacity building and technology transfer. Dr. G. Narayanan, Senior Scientist, welcomed participants and outlined ongoing DAPST activities. In his inaugural address, Dr. Baldev R. Gulati, Director of ICAR-NIVEDI, emphasized empowering tribal farmers by providing training and access to proven animal husbandry technologies to ensure sustainable income growth. The Chief

Guest, Dr. Suresh Honnappagol, Former Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Government of India, highlighted the importance of livestock in boosting rural and tribal incomes, advocating efficient farm management and institutional support. Essential livestock inputs such as rubber mats, milk cans, and mineral mixtures were distributed to promote hygienic dairy practices. The workshop featured expert talks on ethnoveterinary medicine (Dr. Vijay Bhaskar), profitable pig farming models (Dr. Jagadish Hiremath), and backyard poultry systems (Dr. Krishnan). An interactive session gathered valuable feedback from farmers to tailor future interventions. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. C. S. Satish Gowda, recognizing the contributions of all participants.



## Third Annual NADEN Review Meeting Reaffirms Commitment to Strengthening Livestock Disease Surveillance

The third Annual Review Meeting of the National Animal Disease Epidemiology Network (NADEN) was held from 21–22 July 2025 at ICAR-NIVEDI, Bengaluru, bringing together NADEN investigators from 27 states and 2 Union Territories, along with national experts and policymakers. The meeting reaffirmed India’s commitment to enhancing livestock disease surveillance and control under the One Health framework. The event was inaugurated by Dr. Raghavendra Bhatta, DDG (Animal Science), ICAR, with Dr. Divakar Hemadri (ADG, Animal Health, ICAR) and Dr. P. Srinivasu (Director, AHVS, Karnataka) as Guests of Honour. In his welcome address, Dr. B.R. Gulati, Director, ICAR-NIVEDI, emphasized NADEN’s critical role in generating timely surveillance data, supporting monthly SMS alerts, and contributing to the Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme. Dr. S.S. Patil,

NADEN Nodal Officer, presented the network’s 2023–24 progress, including improvements in data reporting and inter-agency coordination. Discussions focused on outbreak trends, surveillance implementation, and future strategies. Dr. Bhatta announced a proposal for a new All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Animal Disease Surveillance and called for rigorous data validation to help eliminate FMD, PPR, Brucellosis, and Rabies by 2030. Three new diagnostic kits—Capripox Detect ELISA, FLUKEVEY, and CYSTISURE—and key documents including the NADEN Annual Report 2024–25 FMD and PPR sampling plan were released during the event. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Rajeswari Shome, recognizing the collective efforts toward strengthening India’s livestock health surveillance system.



### IAEC Meeting Reviews Cutting-Edge Animal Research Proposals

ICAR-NIVEDI convened the 28th meeting of the Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC) on 28th July 2025 under the chairmanship of Dr. B.R. Gulati, Director and Chairman of the IAEC. The meeting was attended by distinguished nominees from CPCSEA, including Dr. Mahesh Sahare (InStem), Dr. R. Rashmi (Veterinary College), Dr. Mohankumar Shettar (External Scientist), and Dr. Susan Mini Jason (CUPA, Bengaluru). During the session, scientists presented eleven project proposals focusing on advanced veterinary research. The proposals encompassed a range of critical studies including: Development of vaccines against *Leptospira*; Point-of-care diagnostic tools for brucellosis, scrub typhus, and coxiellosis; Epidemiological diagnostics for anthrax; A

multiplexed diagnostic platform targeting African swine fever. Each proposal was thoroughly reviewed for ethical compliance and scientific merit before receiving clearance from the committee. The meeting underscored ICAR-NIVEDI's dedication to promoting innovative research while upholding stringent animal welfare standards.



#### Editorial Team

: Dr. U. Balamurugan, Principal Scientist  
Dr. G. Narayanan, Senior Scientist  
Dr. H. B. Chethan Kumar, Senior Scientist  
Dr. P. Krishnamoorthy, Senior Scientist

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: Ms. Neha Balamurugan, II Year B.Tech CSE, VIT, Vellore

#### Contact Details

### ICAR-National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics

Ramagondanahalli, Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560 119, Karnataka.

Phone: 080-23093110, 23093111, 23093100

Email:director.nivedi@icar.org.in Website:www.nivedi.res.in

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