



NIVEDI PULSE

NIVEDI PULSE - September 2026

ICAR-NIVEDI Organises VIBCON 2026

ICAR-NIVEDI hosted VIBCON 2026 – XXXI Annual Convention of the Indian Society for Veterinary Immunology and Biotechnology (ISVIB) and International Conference from 23–25 September 2026. The conference was held on the theme “Transforming Animal Health and Production Systems through Smart Biotechnology Innovations and Disease Intelligence” and brought together more than 350 scientists, academicians, policymakers, industry representatives, research scholars and students from across India.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Prof. (Dr.) Mandeep Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, NDVSU, Jabalpur, as the Chief Guest. Dr. Yashpal Singh Malik, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Education), ICAR, and Dr. Jatinder Paul Singh Gill, Vice-Chancellor, GADVASU, Ludhiana, were among the distinguished guests. Dr. B.R. Gulati, Director, ICAR-NIVEDI and President,

ISVIB, addressed the gathering and encouraged young researchers to benefit from the scientific deliberations. Dr. S. Manoharan, Secretary, ISVIB, presented the activities of the Society and conferred the ISVIB Oration Award and ISVIB Fellowships.

The scientific programme featured plenary lectures by international experts including Dr. Vivek Kapur (Penn State University, USA), Dr. Sagar Goyal (University of Minnesota, USA), Dr. Polly Roy (University of South Florida, USA), Dr. Jonathan Rushton (Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, UK), and Dr. S.B. Nagendra (CSIRO, Australia). The programme comprised ten technical sessions, poster sessions and two special sessions focusing on Farmer–Industry–Academia Collaboration for Biotechnology Adoption and Control and Eradication of Transboundary Animal Disease Programmes.



ICAR-NIVEDI
Transforming Animal Health



The valedictory ceremony was held on 25 September 2026, with Dr. Suresh S. Honnappagol, Former Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Government of India, as the Chief Guest. Dr. S.B. Barbuddhe, Director, ICAR-NMRI, Hyderabad, and Dr. Aniket Sanyal, Director, ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal, were the Guests of Honour. Dr. Jagadish Hiremath, Chairman, Technical Committee, presented the conference report and recommendations. The recommendations emphasized strengthening national disease

intelligence and biosurveillance, transboundary disease surveillance, field-ready diagnostics and next-generation vaccines, One Health approaches to antimicrobial resistance, and stronger farmer–industry–academia linkages. The conference also featured the ISVIB Society Awards and VIBCON 2026 Best Oral and Poster Presentation Awards. Dr. V. Balamurugan, Organising Secretary, welcomed the gathering, while Dr. Z.B. Dubal, Co-Organising Secretary, proposed the vote of thanks.

ICAR–NIVEDI Empowers SC Dairy Farmers in Kolar with Cow Mats and Milk Cans

ICAR–NIVEDI, Bengaluru, distributed cow mats and milk cans to 63 Scheduled Caste dairy farmers in Kolar district, Karnataka, on 19 September 2026 under the Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes (DAPSC).

The programme covered beneficiaries from Madavagurjenahalli, Kolagunjenahalli, Sugutur, Byappanahalli, Jangamagurjenahalli and Arahalli villages. At Sugutur, the ICAR–NIVEDI team interacted with the Veterinary Doctor and Pashu Sakhis and briefed the beneficiaries on the

objectives and activities of the DAPSC programme.

The distribution of essential dairy-farming inputs is aimed at supporting better dairy management, hygiene and livelihood security among Scheduled Caste livestock farmers. The programme was led by Dr. Narayanan G., Senior Scientist, accompanied by research scholars. The initiative reflects ICAR–NIVEDI's continued commitment to need-based livelihood support and strengthening dairy-based livelihoods among resource-poor livestock farmers.



Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 Observed at ICAR–NIVEDI

ICAR–NIVEDI, Bengaluru observed Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 -| “Swachhta Mein Sahbhag – Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat” through a 16-day (17 September–2 October 2026) campaign comprising cleanliness drives, waste-management awareness, campus beautification and community participation. Activities included a Swachhata pledge, laboratory waste-management awareness, source segregation, campus and Animal House cleanliness, and promotion of sustainable practices.

The campaign also featured “Best Out of Waste – Reuse & Create”, Waste-to-Art activities and a Safai Mitra Suraksha Evam Samman Shivar with health and hygiene awareness for sanitation workers. On 1 October, under “Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath,” sanitation and other workers were sensitized on personal hygiene, protective measures and responsible waste management. The campaign concluded on 2 October with Swachh Bharat Diwas, including recognition of participation and felicitation of winners of the Best Out of Waste competition. The initiative brought together

scientists, staff, students, sanitation workers and community members, reinforcing the importance of collective responsibility, sustainable waste management and sustained cleanliness practices.



Awareness interaction with school students during Swachhata Hi Seva–2026.



Institutional awareness activity promoting responsible cleanliness and participation.



Community and staff engagement promoting cleanliness and sustainable practices.

NaaViC Activities – September 2026

During September 2026, NaaViC, ICAR-NIVEDI conducted a series of entrepreneurship, capacity-building and innovation activities. An Agripreneurship Development Programme was organized for 80 students of Don Bosco College on 2 September at ICAR-NIVEDI, focusing on startups, incubation and entrepreneurship in agriculture and allied sectors.

On 3 September, NaaViC, in collaboration with ICAR-JSS KVK, Suttur, organized a programme for 60 women farmers at Mysuru on scientific processing, value addition, branding and market linkage.

The SHITI 2.0 two-month virtual training and mentoring programme was inaugurated on 9 September, with 58 shortlisted participants selected from 113 applications.

A two-day Sheep and Goat-Based Agripreneurship Development Programme was conducted at Veteri-

nary College, Shivamogga, on 10–11 September in collaboration with KVAFSU, benefiting 40 farmers, youth and aspiring entrepreneurs.

During VIBCON 2026 (23–25 September), NaaViC showcased its activities through an exhibition stall and actively contributed to discussions on innovation, entrepreneurship and technology translation. An Industry Meet/Conclave on Farmer–Industry–Academia Collaboration for Biotechnology Adoption was also organized on 24 September.

On 25 September, the NaaViC team presented five oral/poster papers on agri-biotech entrepreneurship, startups, gender dimensions and incubation. Dr. S. Manoharan, Secretary, ISVIB and Director, Centre for Animal Health Studies, TANUVAS, also visited NaaViC and reviewed its incubation and entrepreneurship initiatives.

Disease Radar

Major Health Events – September 2026

September 2026 witnessed important disease events across human, animal, wildlife and environmental health interfaces, reinforcing the need for integrated One Health surveillance and timely response.

Lumpy Skin Disease – India: DAHD reported sporadic LSD cases mainly in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Uttarakhand. Vaccination, surveillance, vector

control, movement control and other disease-control measures continued across affected States/UTs. (DAHD, 8 Sep 2026). DAHD/PIB – LSD surveillance and control measures

Foot-and-Mouth Disease – Arunachal Pradesh: In Dibang Valley, FMD affected 1,402 mithuns across 21 villages, with 267 deaths reported by 20 September. Laboratory testing confirmed FMD serotype O, prompting intensified treatment, surveillance and preventive measures. (Arunachal Times, 20 Sep 2026). Arunachal Times – FMD situation in Dibang Valley

Bundibugyo Ebola – Democratic Republic of the Congo: The outbreak continued to expand during September. By 23 September, 7,890 confirmed cases and 3,799 deaths had been reported, with affected health zones increasing to 63 across seven provinces. (WHO, 10 Sep 2026). WHO – Ebola Disease Outbreak News

Anthrax – Zambia: Anthrax remained a significant wildlife-associated zoonotic concern in Muchinga Province, where infections were associated with contact with affected wildlife. Multisectoral investigations, carcass assessment, environmental sampling and livestock vaccination were undertaken as part of the response. (WOAH, Sep 2026). WOAHAfrica – Disease outbreak notifications

Foot-and-Mouth Disease – Namibia: Namibia suspended the FMD-free status of its recognised FMD-free zone from 22 September following an outbreak in Karasburg East Constituency, Karas, highlighting the continuing transboundary threat posed by FMD. (WOAH, Sep 2026). WOAHAfrica – Foot-and-Mouth Disease

H5 Avian Influenza – Australia: H5 avian influenza continued to be detected in Australian wildlife, including a greater crested tern in Jervis Bay Territory in September. Australia continued to report no H5 detections in poultry or agricultural production, with surveillance and response activities ongoing. (DAFF Australia, Sep 2026). Australian Government – H5 bird flu updates

West Nile Virus – Europe: West Nile virus activity remained intense across Europe. As of 3 September, 1,086 locally acquired human cases had been reported, including cases in Spain and the Netherlands, alongside infections and outbreaks in animals. ECDC, Sep 2026). ECDC – West Nile virus surveillance

Zoonotic Influenza – Global: WHO SEARO highlighted the continuing evolution and geographic spread of zoonotic influenza viruses, sporadic human infections and expansion into new animal hosts and geographic areas. FAO's latest update recorded 574 HPAI outbreaks/events across 22 countries and territories, underscoring the continuing importance of integrated surveillance at the human–animal–environment interface. (FAO, 27 Aug 2026). WHO SEARO – Zoonotic influenza and One Health preparedness

One Health Perspective: The events reported during September demonstrate the continuing interconnectedness of livestock, wildlife, vectors, environmental reservoirs and human health. Strengthened surveillance, rapid laboratory confirmation, information sharing and coordinated multisectoral response remain central to early detection and prevention of disease spread.

Epi Insights

Confounding in epidemiological studies

Confounding occurs when an apparent association between an Exposure and an Outcome is actually the result of a third factor—the Confounder. Confounding can cause either over or underestimation of the observed association between exposure and outcome. Confounding can be thought of as a distortion of the effect of one risk factor (exposure or predictor) by the presence of another.

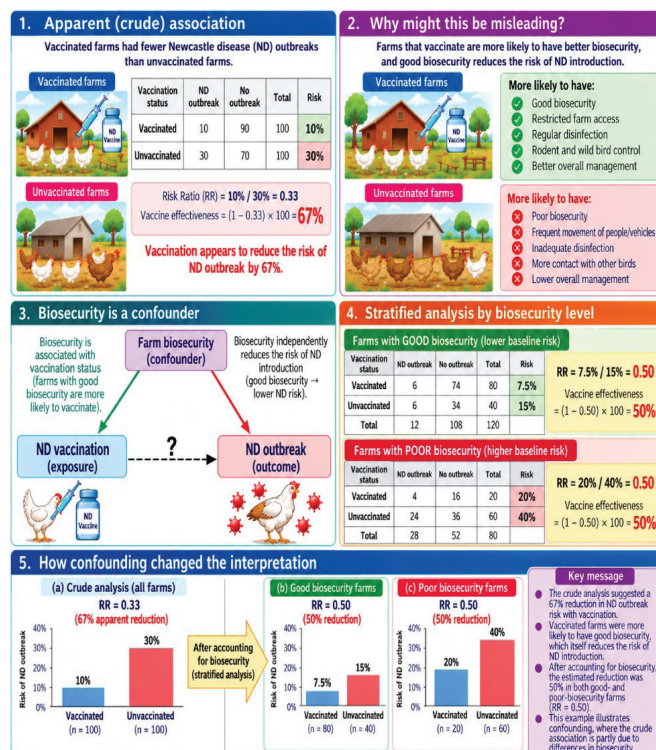
To qualify as a potential confounder, a factor should meet three criteria

Criterion 1: The variable must be statistically associated with the exposure. It must be associated with the exposure, that is, it must be unequally distributed between the exposed and nonexposed groups;

Criterion 2: The variable must be independently associated with the outcome (i.e. be a risk factor). the variable must have an association with the disease, that is, it should be a risk factor for the disease. The confounder must cause the outcome.

Criterion 3: The variable should not lie on the causal pathway between exposure and disease.

Example: Suppose we are interested to find out whether Newcastle disease (ND) vaccination reduce the risk of ND outbreaks? Assume that we conduct a survey of 200 poultry farms to determine whether ND vaccination reduces ND outbreaks and got the following results.



Strategies to control confounding: Confounding can be controlled at both the design and analysis stages of an epidemiological study. At the design stage, randomization distributes potential confounders evenly between intervention groups, while matching ensures that cases and controls are similar with respect to important potential confounders. At the analysis stage, stratification allows the exposure–outcome association to be examined separately within levels of a confounder, whereas multivariable regression analysis allows simultaneous adjustment for multiple confounding variables.

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