The 9th January 2015, considered as the red letter day in the history of NIVEDI, Bengaluru, is the day on which the state of art laboratory was dedicated to the nation by Shri Radha Mohan Singh, the Honourable Union Minister of Agriculture in the service of animal health in the august presence of Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda, Hon’ble Union Minister of Law and Justice, Shri T. B. Jayachandra, Hon’ble Minister for Law, Justice & Human Rights, Parliamentary Affairs & Legislation and Animal Husbandry, Govt. of Karnataka, Shri S. R. Vishwanath and Shri Appaji Nadagouda, Hon’ble Members of Legislative Assembly, Karnataka, Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR and Dr. K. M. L. Pathak, Deputy Director General (AS), ICAR and a host of guests including Padmabhusan Prof. Mahadevappa, former Project Directors of this institute, Vice Chancellors, Directors and other invitees. It is indeed a proud moment for NIVEDIANS.

We are grateful to Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR and Dr. K. M. L. Pathak, Deputy Director General (AS), ICAR for their guidance, help and constant support. We acknowledge the support and help extended by Dr. Gaya Prasad Assistant Director General (AS), staff of ICAR Head Quarters, members of Project Monitoring Committee, my colleagues and others who directly and indirectly helped in successful completion of the construction work. Appreciation is accorded to NDDB, Anand for completing work in record time. This special issue was prepared on the occasion of Inauguration of Administrative building and Biosafety laboratory of NIVEDI at Yelahanka, Bengaluru on 9th January 2015.

Genesis of NIVEDI

National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (NIVEDI) was initiated as All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) by the ICAR during the VII five year plan in 1987. The Central Coordinating Unit (CCU) was established at the Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals, Bengaluru to co-ordinate research activities of four regional units. It was further strengthened during the VIII five year plan with the support of European Union under National Project on Rinderpest Eradication (NPRE) by giving the responsibility of 32 state level diagnostic/disease investigation laboratories. Later, realizing the impact of animal disease monitoring and surveillance on our entire livestock sector and to give a boost, ICAR upgraded this project to an independent institute on 1st April 2000 (during the IX plan) as Project Directorate on Animal Disease Monitoring and Surveillance (PD on ADMAS). The Directorate was shifted to IVRI Bangalore campus from IAHVB in 2001 and worked with 15 AICRP centres. Keeping in view the tremendous contributions of this institute to country's livestock health sector, the Council upgraded it to national institute and rechristened as National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (NIVEDI) on 26th October 2013. The institute finally shifted to its permanent campus at Yelahanka, Bengaluru during 2014 and presently working with 32 AICRP centres across the country.
The panoramic view of NIVEDI Administrative Building and Biosafety Laboratory.

Ribbon cutting ceremony of Administrative building of NIVEDI by Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture in presence of Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda, Union Minister of Law and Justice, Shri S. R. Vishwanath, Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly, Karnataka, Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR and Dr. K.M. L. Pathak, Deputy Director General (AS), ICAR and Dr. H. Rahman, Director, NIVEDI.

Unveiling the inauguration plaque of Administrative building and Biosafety Laboratory, NIVEDI by Shri Radha Mohan Singh ji, in the presence of other dignitaries.

Biosafety Laboratory (BSL-2) dedication to nation by Shri Radha Mohan Singh ji, in the presence of other dignitaries.

Lighting of the lamp by Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture, New Delhi and other dignitaries on the occasion of inaugural function.

Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR felicitated Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture during the function.
While dedicating the Biosafety laboratory to the nation, Shri Radha Mohan Singh ji, said that this is a golden moment in the history of NIVEDI and congratulated the ICAR and NIVEDI for setting up of National biosafety laboratory in IT-BT city, Bengaluru and urged the scientists to work towards the disease-free livestock production and economic upliftment of small and marginal farmers. He also stressed the need to develop climate resilient livestock breeds and on-site disease diagnostics. He insisted that NIVEDI should collaborate with other national organization like ISRO, DBT, DST and International agencies like CDC, FAO, USDA and OIE to facilitate quality data collection on animal disease information at par with the world. He wished scientists and researchers of NIVEDI for their future contributions to the nation and to uplift the country in world’s research forum.

Shri D. V. Sadananda Gowda ji appreciated immense contribution of NIVEDI in improving animal health through development of diagnostic kits, strategies for effective control of zoonotic, exotic and emerging diseases, vectors and national level disease information. He requested Union Minister for Agriculture to establish a Centre of Excellence in animal health research at NIVEDI and urged the scientists to work towards the welfare of the livestock farmers. He also stressed on the promotion of structured public private partnerships, to foster better synergy among research institutions and other disciplines in improving animal health.

Shri T. B. Jayachandra ji expressed his happiness for establishing a world class infrastructure so as to enable to develop technologies useful to the farmers and also stressed on importance of disease prevention measures to reduce losses incurred due to animal diseases. He insisted that NIVEDI should take the lead and support the state Veterinary Departments for quick disease investigation of outbreaks such as FMD, bluetongue, PPR etc., occurring frequently in the state. He emphasized that ICAR-NIVEDI should promote academic excellence utilizing its world class research facilities for imparting higher veterinary education, research and front-line extension.

Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary DARE and Director General, ICAR expressed gratitude to Shri Radha Mohan Singh ji for his presence and dedicating the Biosafety laboratory to the nation. He highlighted the importance of epidemiology and disease surveillance in disease control and also stressed on the One Health program initiated in the country.

Dr. K. M. L. Pathak, Deputy Director General (Animal Science) welcomed the guests and emphasised on development of a quality database on the disease outbreaks in different agro-ecological zones and NIVEDI with its Biosafety laboratory facility will be the torch-bearer in addressing the challenges to improve nation's livestock health. He complemented the Director and his team for the beautiful and state of art biosafety laboratory at silicon city, Bengaluru.

Dr. H. Rahman, Director, NIVEDI, briefed about genesis, origin, growth and the path traversed by the institute and complimented all the concerned who made significant contribution towards the development of the institute. He also highlighted the research on animal disease eradication, forecasting and forewarning of animal diseases and role of the institute in empowering the science in terms of training veterinarians, veterinary researchers and farmers.

Dr. M.R. Gajendragad thanked all the dignitaries, distinguished guests, scientists, press and media for their participation and making the programme a grand success.
Shri Radha Mohan Singh ji, released a pen-side diagnostic kit, Lateral Flow Assay (LFA) for quick diagnosis of brucellosis in livestock. Research Highlights of NIVEDI 'NIVEDI at a glance', a book on “Brucellosis – A Zoonotic Disease”, and NIVEDI newsletter were also released on the occasion. The progressive farmers and former Project Directors were felicitated during the function.

**Concept and Guidance**

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