

## Annual Review Meet of FMD laboratories located pan India held at ICAR-NIFMD, Bhubaneswar on 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, June, 2024



The tremendous potential of the livestock sector in the country is considerably curtailed due to the prevalence of one of the most contagious animal viral diseases, called Foot and Mouth Disease that affects more than 70 species of animals. The National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) subsequently renamed as Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP) is a flagship scheme launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in September 2019 for the control of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis. Under the scheme, countrywide free-of-charge biannual vaccination of cattle and buffalo is being carried out against FMD. ICAR-National Institute on Foot and Mouth Disease (ICAR-NIFMD) as the National Reference Laboratory for FMD has been extending all requisite technical support to this programme in form of indigenous diagnostic kits and service, critical inputs on disease epidemiology, vaccine seeds used in the programme and development of human resource to undertake FMD surveillance in the country with the help of its 32 state FMD network laboratories located in all parts of country. Also, ICAR-NIFMD having a state-of-the-art BSL-3Ag laboratory facility is executing its international responsibilities being the 'FAO Reference Centre for FMD' as designated by the FAO of the United Nations.

ICAR-NIFMD organised the "31st Annual Review Meeting (ARM) of State FMD Network Laboratories" from 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at its Bhubaneswar campus which was Inaugurated and chaired by Dr Raghavendra Bhatta, Deputy Director General (Animal Science), ICAR. The meeting was attended by Dr Ashok Kumar, Assistant Director General (Animal Health), ICAR, officials from the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India and scientists and officers from 32 state FMD network laboratories. Director, ICAR-NIFMD briefed the delegates about the overall activities and new research initiatives taken at the Institute.

During the two-day meeting, FMD centres from entire country presented their activities and progress made so far. The recommendations and action points that emerged at the end of the deliberations will further strengthen FMD control mission in order to realize the dream of '**FMD mukt Bharat.**'