

Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, visits ICAR-National Institute on Foot and Mouth Disease, Bhubaneswar

25th August, 2023, Bhubaneswar

Ms. Alka Upadhyaya, Secretary, DAHD, Govt of India, Dr. Joykrushna Jena, Deputy Director General (FS & AS), Dr. Abhijit Mitra, Animal Husbandry Commissioner, DAHD, Shri. S.K. Vashisth, Principal Secretary, FARD, Govt of Odisha visited ICAR-National Institute on Foot and Mouth Disease (ICAR-NIFMD), Bhubaneswar on 25.08.2023 on the occasion of concluding session of FMD Vaccine potency/ VNT Harmonization Workshop attended by all vaccine manufacturers and vaccine testing laboratories. All the dignitaries were invited for a plantation ceremony (*Ficus elastica*) followed by visit to the institute's state-of-the-art Biosafety level 2 & 3 laboratory facility, including electron microscopy unit. Dignitaries were highly impressed with the facilities and the Institute activities being carried out.



Dr. R.P. Singh, Director gave a formal welcome address followed by the presentation on institute activities and its contribution to support high priority National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) of Government of India. The experts Dr V.A Srinivasan & Dr B.Pattnaik expressed their opinion on importance of harmonization and need of animal BSL-3 facility. Dr. Joykrushna Jena, Deputy Director General (FS & AS) narrated about the Animal Science institutes under ICARs support to DAHD activities. Dr. Abhijit Mitra, Animal Husbandry Commissioner interacted with the vaccine manufacturers stressing upon a good quality vaccine for the control of FMD. Secretary DAHD and Chairman of the programme Ms. Alka Upadhyaya stressed ways and means to reduce the burden of FMD on the Indian livestock population through good quality vaccine, vaccination and other interventions.

(Source: ICAR-National Institute on Foot and Mouth Disease (NIFMD), Bhubaneswar)