

International workshop on 'Surveillance and diagnostics for equine influenza' for delegates from SAARC nations under OIE twinning project on Equine Influenza

16-25 Feb, 2016

Collaborating institutes

National Research Centre on Equines,
Hisar, Haryana, India

&

Animal Health Trust,
Newmarket, UK

An International workshop on 'Surveillance and diagnostics for equine influenza' for delegates from SAARC nations was organized under 'OIE twinning project on Equine influenza' at National Research Centre on Equines, India from 16-25 Feb, 2016. The workshop was attended by 16 delegates: one each from five SAARC countries viz. Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Afghanistan and 11 delegates from India including Jammu and Kashmir (1), Himachal Pradesh (1), Punjab (1), Rajasthan (1), Uttarakhand (2), Uttar pradesh (2), Gujarat (1), Maharashtra (1) and Animal Quarantine Station, Mumbai (1).



The training was provided by Experts from NRCE, India (**Dr Nitin Virmani, Dr B.C.Bera**) and Animal Health Trust, UK (**Dr Debra Elton and Elizabeth Medcalf**). The training was strictly 'Hands On' training with emphasis on learning on doing.

During the inaugural session **Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Director, NRCE** gave an overview of the research and activities of the institute and Indian scenario of Equine influenza. A training manual was released during the inauguration of the workshop.

Participants were trained in various techniques required for isolation of equine influenza viruses in embryonated eggs/ MDCK cells, biosafety and biosecurity, virus titration through haemagglutination, Haemagglutination inhibition assay, Antigenic characterization of EIV by HI assay using ferret antisera, Monoclonal antibody based Sandwich ELISA for EI Antigen detection, Single step RT-PCR for diagnosis of EI infection, Two step subtyping RT-PCR for HA/NA genes of EIV (H3N8), TaqMan Probe based qRT-PCR for diagnosis of EI infection.

The delegates were also taken for one day Field visit to Hanumangarh – to have real time feeling of our extension work, liaising with stakeholders, sample collection and developing a network across the country. This part was equally important for the participants as they could actually visualize and practically collect samples from horses in the field. Further the participants were detailed through lectures on various aspects of equine influenza virus, transmission patterns, Quality control & GLP in the laboratory, Control & management of EI - Biorisk & biohazard and Vaccine strategies for equine influenza at the face of outbreak.





