

Brainstorming Session on mRNA Vaccine Platform Held at ICAR-NIFMD, Bhubaneswar



Arugul, February 20, 2026: A national-level brainstorming session on “mRNA Vaccine Platform for the Control of Transboundary Viral Diseases with Pandemic Potential including Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD)” was successfully organized in hybrid mode at ICAR-NIFMD on February 20, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. onwards. The programme was conducted following the recommendation of the Research Advisory Committee of the institute.

The workshop aimed to critically explore the potential of mRNA vaccine technology as a next-generation platform for animal health and One Health applications, particularly for transboundary viral diseases such as FMD. Leading experts from across the country participated and shared their insights on recent advancements and future prospects of mRNA-based vaccine strategies.

The event commenced with the national song “Vande Mataram.” Dr. R.P. Singh, Director, ICAR-NIFMD, delivered the welcome address and emphasized the urgent need for innovative vaccine platforms to combat emerging and re-emerging viral diseases. Dr. Jitendra K. Biswal, Senior Scientist, ICAR-NIFMD, briefed the participants on the objectives and expected outcomes of the workshop.

The technical session featured distinguished speakers including Dr. Naveen Kumar, Director of ICMR-NIV, who delivered a lecture on “Epitranscriptomic Modifications: A Game Changer for mRNA Vaccine Stability.” Dr. Milan Surjit from BRIC-THSTI presented on “Comparing Self-Amplifying and Circular mRNA Vaccines for COVID-19.” Dr. Suresh H. Basagoudanavar, Principal Scientist at ICAR-IVRI, elaborated on “RNA Vaccine Platforms for Transboundary Animal Disease Control.”

Expert panel members Dr. B. Pattnaik, Director Research, SOA University, and Dr. A.K. Patel, Scientist D and Joint Director at Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre, offered valuable remarks on the challenges and opportunities in mRNA vaccine development. This was followed by an engaging panel and general discussion session, where participants deliberated on collaborative strategies and research priorities.

A total of 62 scientists and researchers participated in the workshop, including 30 attendees present physically and 32 participants who joined virtually. Dr. B.V. Sunil Kumar, Senior Scientist, ICAR-NIFMD, presented the formal vote of thanks. The session concluded with the National Anthem.

Dr. R.P. Singh congratulated the organizing team, including Dr. Jitendra K. Biswal and Dr. B.V. Sunil Kumar, for successfully conducting the brainstorming session and fostering meaningful scientific dialogue on advancing mRNA vaccine platforms for transboundary viral disease control.

