

Dr. J. K. Mohapatra Takes Charge as Director (Acting), ICAR-NIFMD

Bhubaneswar, 9 September 2026: Dr. Jajati Keshari Mohapatra, Principal Scientist, ICAR-National Institute on Foot and Mouth Disease (NIFMD), Bhubaneswar, has assumed charge as Director (Acting) of ICAR-NIFMD on 9 September 2026.

Dr. J.K. Mohapatra is a distinguished Veterinary Virologist with an M.V.Sc. and Ph.D. in Veterinary Virology from ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar. Prior to assuming the charge as Director (Acting), Dr. J. K. Mohapatra served as the Scientist-in-Charge of the Institute, providing scientific and institutional leadership in FMD research and related activities. Dr. Mohapatra brings with him more than two decades of dedicated experience in FMD research, diagnostics, molecular epidemiology, virus evolution, sero-epidemiology and reverse genetics. His academic and professional journey has been closely associated with FMD research, making him a scientist whose career is deeply intertwined with the scientific advancement of FMD control in India. His significant contributions include the development of molecular diagnostic assays, the r3AB3 DIVA ELISA, genetically engineered negative-marker vaccine, genomic resources for Indian FMDV isolates, and candidate vaccine strains, along with research on FMDV evolution, genetic diversity and molecular epidemiology.

His scientific contributions have been recognised through several prestigious honours, including the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) Young Scientist Award, Jawaharlal Nehru Award for Post Graduate Agricultural Research, and Dr. D. R. Uppal Award for Best Doctoral Thesis in Microbiology.

With his extensive scientific expertise and longstanding association with FMD research, Dr. Mohapatra brings vast knowledge, valuable experience and leadership to ICAR-NIFMD, strengthening the Institute's continued efforts towards FMD surveillance, diagnosis, control and eradication in India.

ICAR-NIFMD extends its best wishes to Dr. J. K. Mohapatra on assuming this responsibility.

