

Dr H.K. Pradhan Passes Away



Dr Hare Krishna Pradhan, MVSc, PhD, FSIP, FIAVMI, eminent avian pathologist, researcher, able administrator and bird flu man of India was born in a poor teacher's family in a small village Khajuri Pada in Khandmal district of Orissa and was one of nine siblings. He completed his studies right from primary till his BVSc&AH, MVSc (Veterinary Pathology) from OUA&T, Bhubaneswar and PhD (Veterinary Pathology) from IVRI, Izatnagar, UP with support of scholarships. He got opportunity to work for his masters and doctoral under guidance of eminent Veterinary Pathologists of country Prof. B.C. Nayak and Professor G.C. Mohanty. He joined as Scientist S-1 (ARS, Second Batch) at Division of Avian Diseases, IVRI, Izatnagar in 1977. Here he conducted intense research on pathogenesis and pathology of poultry diseases, supervised MVSc and PhD students and reported a number of new poultry diseases. A renowned Poultry Pathologist, Dr Pradhan worked on number of poultry diseases including Infectious Bronchitis, Avian Mycoplasmosis, Marek's disease and Bird Flu. His significant contributions included development of killed vaccine for H5N1 and helped in controlling avian influenza. First time in India, he diagnosed exotic disease viz. BVD, MCF, BIV etc. He has published more than 108 scientific papers of which 18 were in foreign journals. Dr Pradhan's scientific contributions are endless and his research papers have been included in the textbooks referred worldwide, although he has worked only in India. He has delivered several invited lectures across India.

He played pivotal role in getting Deemed University, IVRI in 1980s and validation of the 1st BSL-4 Lab of India and headed its functions with great dedication and devotion first as Joint Director and later as Director. Dr Pradhan also helped and promoted the Biosafety Concept in facilities in India to safe guard both animal and human health. He was associated in setting up the HSADL which was his biggest life time achievement. It was this achievement that prompted President Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, who was then the advisor to the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), to offer Dr Pradhan consultancy job to set up an Animal Disease Lab under the DRDO, Gwalior, MP.

The HSADL/NIHSAD was recognised as Referral Lab of Avian Influenza by FAO/OIE during his tenure. He was associated in establishment of some BSL-3 labs in India. He was National Consultant in WHO from January 2008 to March 2012. After retirement, he served as FAO Consultant for emerging threat to poultry industry Avian Influenza. He worked in several expert committees of the ICAR and other national scientific organizations. His contributions were always very apt and helpful. Dr Pradhan's dream was to set up a laboratory to deal with bio-terrorism threat, which he foresees as harsh reality in the world.

In passing of Dr H.K. Pradhan on 6-8-2020 we have lost a fine colleague, excellent scientist, researcher and good administrator. He was polite, down to-earth and a workaholic. He is survived by his wife Mrs Krishnapriya, a son and a daughter. **IAMP prays Almighty God to bestow peace to his soul and give strength to his bereaved family to bear this great loss.**