

2nd Indo-Global Summit & Expo on

Veterinary

October 26-28, 2015 Hyderabad, India

Emergence and resurgence of animal diseases: Research challenges in the changing climate scenario

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Emergence and resurgence of animal diseases: Research challenges in the changing climate scenario, in India, the livestock production system is approaching towards an industrial revolution, where livestock sector which is an important component of Indian agricultural economy, provide livelihood support to the rural population. Nonetheless, several factors impede the profit from this valued sector. One amongst them is climate change, which has been seen as the most significant challenge in the 21st century. Though, the intimidation of climate change and global warming has been accepted globally, it is predicted that the consequences of climate change would be greater in Asian countries, because of its size and diversity. Majorly animal health is affected by climate change through four ways: Heat-related diseases and stress, extreme weather events, adaptation of animal production systems to new environments and emergence or re-emergence of infectious diseases, especially vector-borne diseases. Changes in climatic patterns may affect disease behavior in terms of spread pattern, vectors, reservoirs, pathogen bionomics and their ability to survive and establish in new ecosystems and maintain persistence in novel habitats. Pathogen invasion may result in the emergence of novel diseases, presenting major challenges for the sustainability of future animal agriculture. To lessen such kind of increasing infectious disease incidences and check their wide geographic spread, collaborative efforts are needed to counter and or reverse global warming. Moreover, certain infections in livestock appear to be of increasing public health concern. In-depth insight into such factors may help in designing appropriate disease combat or eradication programs. For the beneficial farming system, there is need for identifying specific risks and hazards, assessing impact and adopt control measures. We are in urgent need to improve the capacity building for efficient surveillance and control of animal diseases establishing set-up for containment of any eventual disease epidemic/pandemic which are expected to increase including Vector-Borne and Zoonotic diseases. Expanded surveillance activities could detect shifting patterns of disease distribution so that emergency department personnel would be aware of emerging threats. It is imperative now take appropriate action to mitigate and adapt to climate changes to gain profit from this growing sector in the country.

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Broiler Japanese quail rearing- a boon for both urban and rural poultry farmers

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The Japanese quail (*Coturnix japonica*) is known to have been domesticated since the 12th century AD in Japan and is commonly reared in many parts of the world. In India, commercial broiler quail farming has created a huge impact in recent years and many farms have been established throughout the country. Tamilnadu is growing into a major producer and consumer of Japanese quail meat in India. Japanese quails are commonly reared in both the cage and deep litter system. Female quails are heavier than males. Japanese quails are marketed at 25-30 days of age for meat purpose with 160-210g body weight, 2.50-2.75 feed conversion ratio and livability of 94-98%. The cost of quail was Rs.5.00/ chick and the average feed consumption and feed cost was 500g/ bird and Rs.28.00/ kg. The average dressing percentage is 70-74%. Quails are marketed at the rate of Rs.40/- per bird and Rs.400/- per kg of meat. A profit of Rs.7/quail can be earned by selling live quails. Rearing of Japanese quails can be taken up both in urban and rural poultry farmers.

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