

Molecular studies on PRRS virus in pig population for development of sustainable diagnostics and vaccine

By Dr. Bilqeesa Bhat

Dr. Madhuri Subbaiah from National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB), Hyderabad, in collaboration with Central Agriculture University, Mizoram has received a ICAR-NASF grant to characterize the virus and develop pen side diagnostic kit and recombinant chimeric vaccine with DIVA capability. There is neither a certified PRRS vaccine available nor is the vaccination against this disease practiced in India. Development of a PRRS vaccine that possesses high immunogenicity, conferring broad protection, is thus a need of the hour. Vaccination of pigs against PRRS will remarkably improve the agricultural economy of the north eastern part of the country.

Pig farming is a major source of survival for marginal farmers in North east region (NER) due to their specific food habits. Highest monthly per capita consumption of pork is recorded in NER compared to rest of India. Piggery provides not only good source of nutrition to the population but is also source of bristles and manure at low cost maintenance. Despite these factors, the economics of pig rearing is marred with disease outbreaks, greatly affecting their productivity and their reproductive performance. Porcine Reproductive Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) is one of the important viral diseases and now considered as economically most significant swine disease worldwide.

Contact details:
Director, E-mail: director@niab.org.in