



About the Workshop

Foodborne illnesses continue to pose a major global public health challenge, resulting in considerable morbidity and mortality—particularly in low- and middle-income countries. The rapid globalization of the food supply chain, the rise of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and evolving food consumption patterns have collectively heightened the risk of contamination and disease outbreaks. Strengthening laboratory capacity and surveillance systems is therefore crucial for the timely detection, control, and prevention of foodborne infections. To address these pressing issues, a five-day regional workshop on “Strengthening Capacity to Combat Foodborne Pathogens: An Integrated Approach to Food Safety” is being organized by the ICMR–National Institute for Research in Bacterial Infections (NIRBI), Kolkata, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi. The workshop intends to enhance laboratory and surveillance capabilities across the South-East Asia Region (SEAR) to effectively manage foodborne diseases. This capacity-building initiative aims to bridge critical knowledge and skill gaps by fostering collaboration among microbiologists, epidemiologists, and public health professionals. Through a blend of theoretical sessions and hands-on training, participants will gain practical experience in modern diagnostic tools, surveillance methodologies, and outbreak response strategies. Emphasizing the One Health approach, the workshop aspires to contribute to the development of safer food systems and to strengthen public health preparedness across the region.



Our Journey & Impact

A Legacy of Excellence in Infectious Disease Research and diarrhoeal diseases

-  Pioneering Infectious Disease Research: From cholera to antimicrobial resistance, enhancing scientific understanding and public health strategies.
-  Leadership in Disease Outbreaks: Investigating and addressing infectious disease threats, influencing India’s public health policies.
-  COVID-19 & Vaccine Trials: A crucial participant in COVID-19 diagnostics, pandemic response, and the clinical trials of Covaxin—India’s first homegrown COVID vaccine.
-  Innovation in Diagnostics & Treatment: Leading the validation of diagnostic kits, conducting sero-surveys, and engaging in advanced research to enhance disease detection and control.
-  Expanding Research Horizons: Broadening into environmental health, HIV/AIDS, vaccine development, and both emerging and re-emerging infections.

Five Days Workshop on “STRENGTHENING CAPACITY TO COMBAT Foodborne Pathogens : An Integrated Approach to Food Safety”

3-7 February, 2026
Kolkata | India



ICMR - NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN BACTERIAL INFECTIONS

Formerly, ICMR National Institute of Cholera And Enteric Diseases
WHO Collaborating Centre For Research and Training On Diarrhoeal Diseases



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Five Days Workshop on Strengthening Capacity to Combat Foodborne Pathogens: An Integrated Approach to Food Safety



Sir/Madam,
Foodborne illnesses continue to pose a major global public health challenge, resulting in considerable morbidity and mortality—particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

ICMR-NIRBI, formerly ICMR-NICED, is a Research Institute of the Indian Council of Medical Research which is an autonomous Institute of the Government of India and one of the pioneers in research of enteric infections in India, is going to organize a 5 days workshop on “Strengthening Capacity to Combat Foodborne Pathogens: An Integrated Approach to Food Safety”.

This will be the opportunity for the participants to learn hands-on from the experts on the subject directly and apply the learning for a safer food system.

If you a person strongly motivated to work in this field/ have the responsibility to work in this field, you may apply for the workshop.

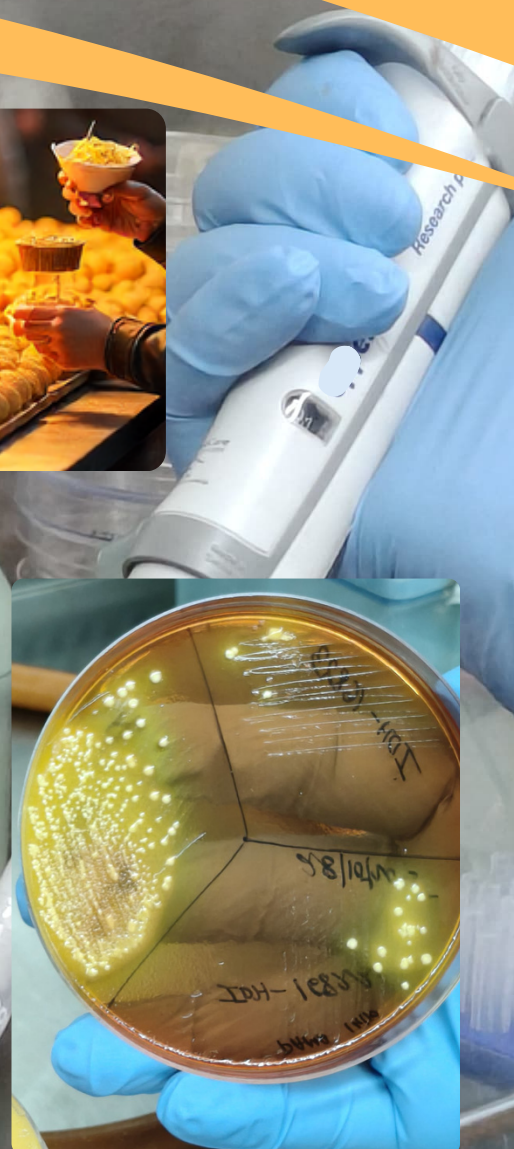
Dr. Santasabuj Das
Director & Scientist 'G'

3-7 February, 2026

Venue: ICMR–National Institute for Research in Bacterial Infections (NIRBI), Kolkata, India

Highlights of the program

- Overview of foodborne diseases and surveillance frameworks
- Food safety standards and risk assessment
- Isolation and identification of bacterial pathogens
- Molecular techniques (PCR, RT-PCR, Gel electrophoresis)
- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) monitoring
- Detection of viral pathogens in food and water
- Biosafety and quality assurance in laboratory settings
- Case studies and SOP development exercises



**To express your interest, please click
(or copy-paste in your browser):**

<https://forms.gle/Qiju3gBvSkwDpVkaA> **(INDIAN APPLICANTS)**

For more updates, please visit: <https://niced.org.in>

Objectives of the workshop

- Strengthen knowledge of epidemiology and transmission of foodborne pathogens
- Build laboratory capacity in culture, biochemical, and molecular detection
- Train participants in antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST)
- Promote awareness of food safety regulations and outbreak investigation
- Reinforce biosafety, biosecurity, and quality assurance practices
- Encourage One Health collaboration across sectors

Who can apply?

Researchers, microbiologists, epidemiologists, and public health professionals from:

- National reference laboratories
- Medical colleges
- State public health labs
- SEAR country institutions involved in foodborne disease surveillance

Participants

Approx. 25 selected participants from India and other SEAR countries.

Interested Indian candidates are requested to fill up the expression of interest by: 15th December, 2025

**Indian Standard Time (IST) will be considered*

Selection is primarily based on relevant experience and current responsibilities.

***International applicants from the SEAR countries: on invitation only**

**Selected candidates will be provided with travel,
accommodation, and local logistics.**

**However, submission of application form/ expression of
interest does not guarantee your selection. Decisions of the
organizers are final and binding regarding the selections.**

