

**“Recent advances in animal disease diagnosis and vaccines”**

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**Aim and scope**

India's livestock sector is one of the largest in the world. It plays a significant role in building our national economy and in socioeconomic development of India. Animal husbandry, an integral component of Indian agriculture is also a vital factor for rural economy supporting the livelihood of millions of rural people. The livestock sector alone contributes nearly 25.6% of total value of output in Agriculture, Fishing & Forestry sector. The overall contribution of Livestock Sector in total GDP was nearly 4.11% during 2012-13. India has the world's largest dairy herd and stands first in milk production. India is also the third largest egg-producer in the world, at over 180 million eggs being produced every day or 65.7 billion eggs for the year 2011-12 and the world's sixth largest producer of poultry meat. Nonetheless, there are several challenges in this sector and the most important is disease outbreaks that continue to distress animal health and productivity. These diseases affect animals' performances, reduce fertility, delay maturity, decrease production of milk, eggs, or wool. Additionally, more than 61% of animal diseases are zoonotic and pose a threat on the human society. The costs of animal disease can be direct costs – immediate impact on livestock populations and agriculture – and indirect costs, such as losses in trade, cost involved in control efforts and impacts on human health. Disease diagnosis and control is thus recognized as essential for improving animal health and productivity. This special issue will focus on the recent advances in animal disease diagnosis and control strategies and encourages submission of research and review articles in the areas of animal disease diagnostics and vaccines.