



Sphere India  
National Coalition of Humanitarian Agencies in India

**Workshop**

**On**

**'Mainstreaming Animal issues in DRR'**

**Release of 'National Guidelines on Management of Animals in Disasters'**

**In association with MoFAHD, NDMA & VCI**

India International Centre, New Delhi,

22nd June, 2022



24/8/22

13242

A.D.V.I.P.A.

## Inaugural session



Shri Atul Chaturvedi, Secy,  
AHD delivering Inaugural  
address



Kamal Kishore, Member,  
NDMA, delivering Special  
addressing



## **Background and Context**

Over the years natural disasters have caused widespread destruction to life and property, including high casualty of animals in India. This has a devastating impact on the rural economy as India's large livestock population is central to the country's agriculture. Significantly, livelihood of about two thirds of rural population is dependent either directly or indirectly on animals. The rural population has a special bonding with animals which is always reflected during disasters. Considering the important role played by working animals in the livelihood of vulnerable communities dependent on livestock, the challenging task for future is to protect our livestock through pro-active mitigation and capacity building measures in an institutionalized manner with appropriate legal provisions.

It is in this context that Policy Perspectives Foundation (PPF) and Sphere India organised a national level workshop under the aegis of Ministry of Animal Husbandry, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Veterinary Council of India (VCI) at the India International Centre, New Delhi on 22nd June, 2022. The workshop also featured the release of 'National Guidelines on Management of Animals in Disasters', an initiative of Sphere India in association with NIDM.

The objective of this workshop was to deliberate on measures to institutionalize animal related issues in disaster management framework and formulate an appropriate framework of coordination for multi-stakeholders in the field. It also envisaged furthering the initiative to establish Veterinary Emergency Response Units (VERU) in veterinary universities to impart knowledge and skill to veterinary students, veterinarians and other stakeholders and capacity building of responders (NDRF & SDRF etc.) for swift rescue of animals in disasters, besides generating awareness among stakeholders on management of animals in emergencies.

The significant feature of the workshop was high level participation of key agencies of the Govt of India namely, Ministry of AHD, NDMA and VCI besides experience sharing by four states (Assam, Kerala, Rajasthan and UP) and NDRF and presentations by two premier veterinary institutions namely, Tamil Nadu Veterinary & Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS) and Bihar Veterinary University. The workshop was conducted in hybrid mode.

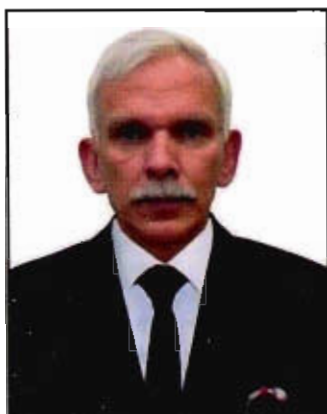
The workshop made a number of valuable recommendations which will hopefully pave way for appropriate amendments in the Disaster Management Act to include animal care and protection into national, state and district Disaster Management Plans and an action plan for capacity building of all stakeholders in this field.

## **Recommendations**

The key recommendations of this workshop are as follows:

- \* Amending the Disaster Management Act, 2005 to include Animals in DM framework and also to include Secretary, Animal Husbandry in the National Executive Committee.
- \* Promoting training & Capacity building on Management of Animals in emergencies to key stakeholders like veterinarians, para-vets and SDRF etc. generate more human resources in this field.
- \* Adopting a community-based approach towards animal protection in disasters by training community representatives, PRIs and 'Apada mitras' etc.
- \* Encouraging ex-servicemen from Veterinary Corps to register themselves with District Disaster Management Authorities to be force multiplier.
- \* Proposing amendment by all the Veterinary Universities and colleges to Minimum Standard of Veterinary Education (MSVE), 2016 with dedicated chapters on Disaster Management, DRR and the Challenges relating to Disaster Management with regard to Animals in consultation with VCI.
- \* Establishing more Veterinary Emergency Response Units (VERU) in veterinary universities and colleges.
- \* Establishing National Digital Animal Health Mission on the lines of National Health Mission to prioritise animal protection.
- \* Furthering the initiative of AHD relating to census of livestock by tagging of animals.
- \* Increasing investment and efforts towards integration of animal protection in disaster management policy and programmatic framework.
- \* Ensuring effective multi-sectoral coordination between Depts of Animal Husbandry at Centre and states, SDMAs, NDRF and Veterinary Institutes for disaster preparedness, response and rescue of animals.
- \* Adopting a community-based approach towards animal protection in disasters by training community representatives, PRIs and first responders.

## Proceedings of the Workshop: Salient Features



### Chief Guest

#### **Shri Atul Chaturvedi**

**Secretary, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Govt of India**

In his inaugural address Shri Chaturvedi, mentioned that India has a large thriving animal sector with compound annual growth rate of 8% plus, contributing 5% of the GDP. Referring to high return to farmers on investment on animals, he added that even during disasters when crops get destroyed, farmers having highland can subsist through livestock. For these reasons, increased investment in animal protection during disasters was imperative. He mentioned that the AHD was working on one Health concept which is based on the concept that animal health and human health sectors work with each other. He referred to some of the recent initiatives of the Department which include digitization by tagging of livestock population, a framework for mitigating animal disasters including animal pandemic preparedness, strengthening animal surveillance with early warning and response system through Artificial Intelligence and bolstering the regulatory framework by making the approval process more transparent and efficient. He concluded by saying that to achieve this a time bound framework with multi sectoral coordination was a must.



#### **Shri Upamanyu Basu**

**Joint Secretary, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Govt of India**

Shri Upamanyu Basu, Jt. Secretary, AHD, interalia, suggested that VERU course should be part of the university programme of the students to prepare them for animal protection during disasters and other emergencies. Impressing on the need for effective animal rescue coordinated efforts on ground, he mentioned that

AHD was heading the largest vaccination programme for animals and suggested similar vigour and concerted efforts towards capacity building for protection of animals including wild animals. He added that to build on and strengthen existing efforts for animal protection, political and bureaucratic support along with people's commitment was crucial. Concurrently, legal framework for animal welfare must be bolstered. To conclude, he summarized the key recommendations of this workshop which are mentioned separately.

### **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**

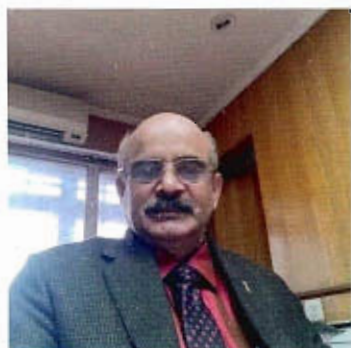


**Shri Kamal Kishore, Member NDMA**, referring to a very clear economic rationale to invest in animal protection, mentioned that strengthening animal protection during disasters would need various measures like laws, regulatory framework, community-based approach, integration of planning process and SOPs in state and district DM Plans, capacity building of NDRF and SDRF, further skilling of Aapda Mitra and also investment in wildlife protection.



**Shri Krishna Vatsa, Member NDMA** mentioned that high mortality in floods was due to insufficient provisions for preparedness and animal care. He suggested that with funding window open, the time was opportune to invest in preparedness, mitigation and response during floods. He mentioned that during disasters key functions in relation to animal care included animal rescue which requires certain techniques, skills and equipment; response involving provisions of shelter, water, food and veterinary care besides ensuring their health, vaccination and shelter etc. He added that important interventions include developing a broad framework for animal care and protection; state level interventions; setting up community level infrastructure for animals; developing technical capacities for animal care besides adequate investments. He averred that the real challenge was to bring all the stakeholders in this field together.

## **Veterinary Council of India (VCI)**



**Dr Vinod Bhatt**, Secretary, VCI, referring to helplessness of communities for lack of preparedness on their part, impressed upon the need to reconfigure educational guidelines for veterinary institutions to ensure preparedness plans in a professional manner. He recommended the need for formulating a clear guideline in the graduate level syllabus for students to prepare for the challenges in animal protection during disasters.

## **States**

### **Assam**



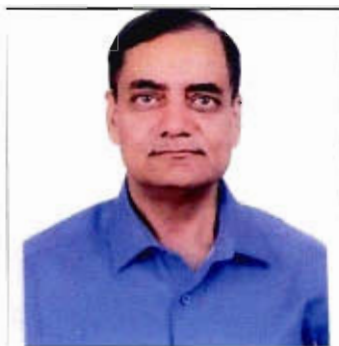
**Shri Vijay Bhaskar (SDMA, Assam)** shared the best practices and the key features of the State DM Plan which included mobile veterinary units, livestock insurance and low-cost shelters. He mentioned that Assam had made efforts to mainstream animal protection in policy framework. This includes bottom-up approach by involving communities and people. He emphasised the importance of convergence at the state, district and block levels to protect animals.

### **Kerala**



**Shri Shekhar L Kuriakose (SDMA, Kerala)** informed that Kerala had in place guidelines for animal care and added that the state's action plan on disasters was inclusive of animal care. The protection efforts included elephants and wild animals. He informed that Kerala had a decentralized model of animal husbandry system which leveraged support from local cooperatives, NGOs and farmers etc. Also, the state has created a virtual cadre for disaster management in animal husbandry.

## Rajasthan:



**Dr Anand Sejra (Addl Director, AHD, Govt of Rajasthan)** informed that Rajasthan has the second largest livestock population. He shared the action plan of the state government during disasters. It includes arranging fodder depots, cattle camps, mass evacuation of animals and providing subsidies to affected households to procure fodder etc. Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) are formed to respond to disaster situations.

## Uttar Pradesh



**Dr Monika Gupta (Sr Veterinary Officer, Govt of UP)** stressed on the need for multi-disciplinary inter-sectoral approach for handling animals during disasters. She advocated launching of 'Pashu-Mitra' scheme and combining it with 'Aapda Mitra' to be renamed as 'Pashu-Aapda Mitra'. She focused on the need of sharing and highlighting the success stories for animal care and recommended combining traditional knowledge with technical knowledge on animal protection.

## National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)



**Shri Manoj Yadav (DIG, NDRF)** mentioned that NDRF has trained professionals who undertake rescue and evacuation operations for animals during disasters. Besides, they also conduct awareness programs for community and school children etc. He shared some of the challenges, which include training of rescuers, upgradation of equipment, profiling of livestock and other animals and identification of safe locations etc. To overcome these challenges measures like pre- planning, quick response and improving logistics are required.



## Veterinary Institutions



**Dr Kumaravel, Tamil Nadu Veterinary & Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS)** informed that TANUVAS has developed SOP for animal protection as part of state DM plan. Under this the VERU coordinators play an important role in attending to the needs of animals, including conducting rescue missions during disasters. They also conduct training of rural youth, empowerment of women in protection of animals besides planning for multi-purpose evacuation shelters etc.

## Bihar Veterinary College, Patna



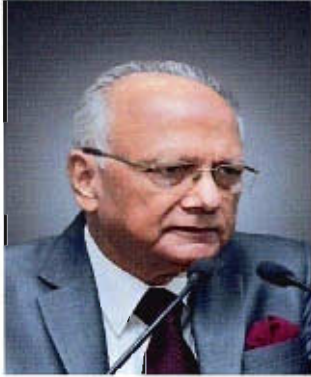
**Dr Pankaj Kumar (Incharge VERU, Bihar Vet College)** traced the genesis of the concept of protection of animals post Kosi floods in Bihar (2009) leading to establishment of first VERU Centre at Patna. VERU aimed at training students, livestock owners and AHD officials in safeguarding animals during disasters. It developed training modules ranging from animal handling in disasters to disaster risk reduction and preparedness. Highlighting the fact that over 1,000 vets have been trained in Bihar, he recommended training of stakeholders, particularly vets and para vets at state level with support of SDMA and AHD.

## Organisers

### Policy Perspectives Foundation (PPF)



**Shri PC Halder (President, PPF)** mentioned that the National Plan on Management of Animals in Emergencies released by the Animal Husbandry Dept. (GoI) in 2016 was acknowledged at the Mexico International as being the first by any country in this field. He impressed on the need for structured and institutionalised response for animal issues in disasters along with efforts to strengthen resilience. He suggested involvement of NGOs, CSOs and other stakeholders towards strengthening animal protection during disasters.



**Shri KM Singh (Vice President, PPF)**, first individual recipient of 'Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Purashkar', touched upon the need for proper and better coordination between institutional mechanisms in place and various stakeholders functioning at national, state and district levels. He drew attention to the existing shortcomings in efforts towards animal protection like inadequate training of human resources, inadequate training infrastructure, non-integration of AHD in DM framework and lack of awareness in farmers etc. He appreciated that VERUs were established in some of the states to fill these gaps and exhorted other states to follow suit.

### **Sphere India**



**Shri Vikrant Mahajan (CEO, Sphere India)** mentioned that the recent National DM Plan was a step in the right direction as it ensured that framework and policy level measures are in place for animal protection. However, operationalisation of these measures was critical through a whole of society approach. India is rich in community knowledge and strengths and there was a need to build on these to strengthen disaster management. He mentioned that the 'National Guidelines on Management of Animals in Disasters' is aimed at bringing together government, private and civil society partners for animal protection.

### Speakers and Subjects

Shri Atul Chaturvedi, Secy, MoFAHD	Inaugural Address
Shri Upamanyu Basu, Jt Secy, AHD	Valedictory Address
Shri Kamal Kishore, Member, NDMA	Special, Address
Dr Krishna Vatsa, Member, NDMA	Relevant Interventions for Animal Care
Dr Vinod Bhatt, Secretary, VCI	Special Address
Shri Vijay Bhaskar, SDMA, Assam	Mainstreaming Animal issues in DRR
Shri Shekhar Kuriakose, SDMA, Kerala	Animal Care in Disasters
Dr Anand Sejra, Addl Dir, AHD, Rajasthan	Measures for Disaster Risk Reduction
Dr Monika Gupta, Sr Vet Officer, UP	Animal care in Disasters
Shri Manoj Yadav, DIG, NDRF Hqr	Cap. Bldg. of Responders: Animal Rescue
Dr Kumaravel, TANUVAS, Chennai	Institutional Mechanisms /VERU
Dr Pankaj Kumar, Bihar Vet College	Cap Building of Veterinarians

## Photographs

### Main session



Dr. Krishna Vatsa, Member, NDMA moderating the Main session

### Valedictory session



Shri Upamanyu Basu, Jt Sec, AHD delivering Valedictory address



Dr Vinod Bhatt, Sec., VCI delivering Special address

## Rescue operation



**'Uttarakhand floods 2018: Rescue operation by NDRF'**

## About us



**PPF** Policy Perspectives Foundation (PPF)

The Policy Perspectives Foundation (PPF) was founded in 2005 as a non-profit and apolitical think tank on matters of national interest. The organisation's activities focus on complex and inter-connected challenges to internal peace, stability and development in India. It promotes debates and dialogues with scholars, development practitioners, civil society, government organisations and other stakeholders, and implements training, research and advocacy programmes on issues of national interest. The activities of PPF broadly fall under three categories namely capacity building, generation of awareness and social resilience. The organisation draws its strength from its founding members who are experts in the domains of **strategic affairs, internal security, disaster management, sociology, communication, management and governance.**



**Sphere India**

*National Coalition of Humanitarian Agencies in India*

Sphere India is a National Coalition of Humanitarian, Development and Resilience Actors in India. The strategic outreach of 155 full members includes key nodal organizations from UN, INGOs, National NGOs, CSR, Academic Institutions, Sector Networks, Expert Individuals, and State IAGs/Networks. The local outreach is evolving with 805 associate members as Sphere India Locally Empowered Organisations Network (LEON) and 1,80,000 community volunteers (CDRF -Community Disaster Response Force) mapped for varied capacities all over India. Sphere India facilitates multi stakeholder coordination, knowledge & capacity sharing and collaborative advocacy for enhancing accountability to affected and at-risk population.

\*\*\*\*\*