IVRI, ERS Kolkata participated in panel discussion on “Is chicken consumption threat to human?” at West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences, Kolkata

A panel discussion on “Is chicken consumption threat to human?” was held at West Bengal University of Animal Sciences (WBUAFS), Kolkata on 20th August, 2014 where Dr U. K. Bandyopadhyay, Principal Scientist and Dr. A. K. Das, Scientist of IVRI, ERS, Kolkata participated. The said panel discussion was chaired by Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor of WBUAFS. Dignitaries from WBUAFS, Animal Resources Development Department, Govt. of West Bengal, Health and Family Welfare Department, Govt. of West Bengal, Poultry Federation of West Bengal and representatives from poultry industry and field also participated. The matter was discussed elaborately particularly against the backdrop of antibiotic residues reported in poultry meat.

Dr. A. K. Das informed that based on available data and research findings, the presence of antibiotic residues in edible tissues, especially muscle in chicken, are far below the maximum residue level. He also stated that Indian cooking procedures with sufficient time and temperature accelerate losses of antibiotic residues and provide an additional margin of safety for consumers. Hence, chicken meat is practically not a threat to human.

During the course of discussion, Dr. U.K. Bandyopadhyay stated that antibiotic resistance is a major problem now-a-days and rampant use of antibiotics in human as well as livestock and poultry must be discouraged. However, poultry, alone, should not be blamed for the purpose. He suggested to stop use of antibiotics as growth promoter in poultry and also advocated to give more emphasis on preventive measures to control diseases rather than antibiotics, which should only be used to cure the diseases.

Lastly, it was decided by the house that a position paper on this discussion will be prepared and sent to the office of Hon’ble Chief Minister of West Bengal.