

# Monitoring and Managing Covid 19 Pandemic Situation at Pusa Campus - A Brief Note



**ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research  
Institute New Delhi - 110 012**

## **Monitoring and Managing Covid 19 Pandemic Situation at Pusa Campus - A Brief Note**

Second surge of Covid 19 pandemic broke out in the NCT of Delhi around first week of April, 2021 and large number of people contracted the killer virus. In fact, the country faced the harrowing experience of April 2021 and large number of precious lives were lost. Its reflection could also be seen among the ICAR-IARI staff and their families and by the second week of April 2021 a large number of residents got infected with corona. Government of NCT of Delhi declared a curfew from April 20, 2021 and subsequently announced lockdown in the capital. By this time many residents of our campus, including large number of PG students got infected and developed different levels of symptoms. The Institute deliberated the potential danger and imminent loss due to spread of virus and took a conscious decision to switch over to work from home mode although all essential works, teaching research and extension activities continued to be carried out virtually with bare minimum physical presence of staff at work sites.

### **Establishment of Corona Monitoring Cell (CMC)**

At the Institute level, a Corona Monitoring Cell (CMC) was created vide office order No. E&P/Corona Cell/2021 dated 22.04.2021 comprising of Scientists, Technical and Administrative staff, medical team and security wing (Annexure 1). The CMC has also representation of Pradhans of Residents' Welfare Association (RWA) of different colonies of the Pusa Campus including Krishi Kunj and the Institute Joint Staff Council (IJSC). The Corona Monitoring Cell has the following members and some invited members.

#### **Chairman**

Dr. Indra Mani Mishra, Head, Div. of Agri. Engineering

#### **Members**

|                                         |                                 |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Dr. Rashmi Aggarwal, Dean & JD (Edn.)   | Dr. Anil Sirohi, MOHR           |
| Dr. K. M. Manjiaiah, Associate Dean     | Dr. D. K. Singh Deputy MOHR     |
| Sh. Pushpendra Kumar, Registrar & JD(A) | Dr. N. K. Soora, Professor      |
| Dr. Anil Dahuja, Professor              | Dr. R. R. Burman, Pr. Scientist |

|                                                                                   |                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Dr. Debashish Chakraborty, Pr. Scientist                                          | Dr. Anita Srivastava, Medical Officer,<br>IARI Dispensary |
| Dr. Shakeel Ahmad Khan, Pr. Scientist                                             | Dr. Girish Jha, Pr. Scientist                             |
| Dr. Jay Prakash, Pr. Scientist                                                    | Dr. Atul Kumar, Pr. Scientist                             |
| Sh. S. K. Sinha, CAO                                                              | Dr. Vijay Pooniya, Sr. Scientist                          |
| Dr. Amit Goswami, Pr. Scientist                                                   | Dr. Prolay Bhowmik, Scientist (Sr. Scale)                 |
| Dr. Harikrishna, Scientist                                                        | Sh. Veer Pal Singh, In-charge Security                    |
| Sh. Manos Chowdhary, AO                                                           | Sh. Rajkumar, Secretary, IJSC (staff side)                |
| Sh. Satyendra Kumar, Asst. Administrative Officer, E&P Section – Member Secretary |                                                           |
| Sh. Amarnath Thakur, Pradhan, Janak<br>Vihar                                      | Sh. Anuj, Pradhan Krishi Kunj                             |
| Sh. M M Rana, Pradhan, E Type Quarters                                            | Sh. B S Rawat, Secretary, E Type Quarters                 |

The CMC started meeting every day at 6.00 in the evening under supervision of Director, ICAR-IARI to take stock of the pandemic situation at different residential colonies of the campus, all Divisions/Centres/Units, identifying the issues and planning interventions to address the issues. The first meeting of the committee took place within hours of its formation on 22nd April 2021, keeping in view the alarming situation and timeliness of actions. The meeting continued for consecutive 30 days *i.e.*, till 21-5-2021 and after that the frequency of the meeting has been reduced to twice a week keeping in view of improvement in the Covid situation in the campus.

### **Covid Management Interventions of CMC**

The CMC started working according to the national guidelines of five fold strategy of testing, tracing, treating, adhering covid appropriate behavior and facilitating and encouraging for vaccination. The CMC formed an extended team by including dispensary staff, institute transport personnel including drivers, guesthouse workforce. Essential trained paramedical staff were hired for this purpose to make the team a truly professional one so that it can perform the intended covid monitoring and management job flawlessly and effectively.

### *Creation of database of Covid infected individuals*

A database was created to identify the Covid infected individuals and the concentration of infections in different localities for taking necessary steps. A google form was created (<https://forms.gle/TLhNgwuqQXRa3fmN9>) and circulated to all the staff of the Institute to get the information. The residents of the campus voluntarily filed in the information and a database was created. Inputs were also received from the Pradhans of different residential colonies in the campus to add to the database.

### *RTPCR Testing*

Early detection of Covid is crucial for its treatment and recovery. In this pandemic situation, when RTPCR testing was so difficult, total 18 RTPCR testing camps were organized by the CMC at different places on the campus with the help of CRL Diagnostics Pvt. Ltd. The testing campaign was conducted with an aim to test



persons at their locations accordingly collection centres were made at Nehru Experimental centre, Janak Vihar, Pusa mela ground and Krishi Kunj. The staff of CRL Diagnostics Pvt. Ltd. had continuously visited the campus, collected samples of Covid infected and suspected individuals and provided reports within 24 hours. A massive awareness program was launched and announcement were made regarding need of testing of persons having any covid related symptoms and venue date and time. Institute staff using loudspeakers highlighted usefulness and need of testing in combating Covid -19 and all other efforts made by the CMC. This has helped the team in early detection and to start timely treatment of Covid 19 patients. Total 1139 samples were collected in these camps and 200 individuals were found positive. During last one month, April 22 – May 21, 2021, Pusa Campus had about 450 active Covid cases.

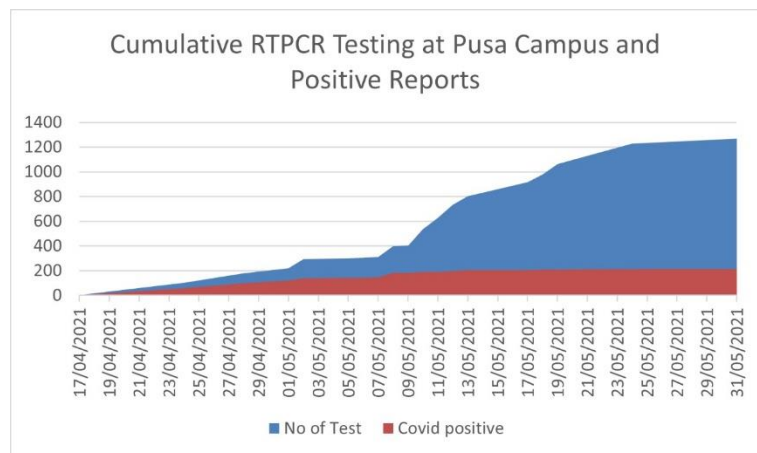
Free RTPCR testing camps were also organized with financial support from Pusa Bangiya Sangeet Sabha (PBSS), New Delhi, a socio-cultural organization for the needy people including the service providers for campus residents like vegetables & fruits vendors, sweepers, shopkeepers of Narmada Shopping Complex, Safal, Mother Dairy etc. Total 151 individuals got tested in these camps.



Free RTPCR testing was also organized for the campus residents, security guards, farm labourers, Daily Paid Labourers (DPL) of FOSU and OHLU and residents of servant quarters in collaboration with South Delhi Municipal Corporation at several locations in the campus. A total of 740 samples were collected in MCD

sponsored camps. RTPCR testing was also organized for the Senior Officers of ICAR, residents and service providers of NASC.

Testing proved to be major tool in monitoring and managing covid cases. The testing of floating population mainly those who were resource poor but super spreader was very important part of the Covid monitoring and management. This helped in arresting the spread of disease and saving people from contracting the killer virus.



### *Distribution of Free Medicine and ration*

Early detection and timely medication also helped greatly in minimizing the adversities and avoiding severity of Covid cases. A large number of people sought medical advice from the medical officer. A total of 45 students contracted corona virus and were tested positive. Medicines were prescribed by Dr. Anita Srivastava, Medical Officer of the Institute to all the individuals who had symptoms and found positive in RTPCR reports. Free medicine kits were distributed to the individuals who could not afford the same.



Total 85 medicine kits were distributed free of cost. This helped a lot in treating resource poor people who were otherwise super spreader of Covid-19. Free ration was distributed to 7 Rickshaw pullers of the campus.

### *Regular Cleaning and sanitizing the campus*

The whole campus including office buildings and residential areas were cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis with the help of sophisticated equipment. The garbage from Corona Affected households were collected with the help of South Delhi Municipal Corporation



(SDMC) regularly for safe disposal. A total of 230 houses and common facilities were sanitized and cleaned on regular basis and about 7000 number of people were benefitted.

### *Setting up emergency oxygen support service*

Eight (8) beds with oxygen support were established at Ganga International Guesthouse. Total 10 oxygen cylinders were arranged for this purpose. A formal permission was obtained from District administration on behalf of the IARI Dispensary which facilitated need based uninterrupted oxygen supply. Cylinders were borrowed from IARI research laboratories for this specific purpose. These cylinders were filled regularly to maintain steady supply of oxygen to the patients. Patients suffering from acute oxygen shortage were provide temporary oxygen support prior to hospitalization. This facility provided an outstanding back up emergency plan that extended moral strength in recovering those Covid-19 patients who developed mild to moderate symptoms. This emergency oxygen support was given to many Covid patients of the campus including Senior ICAR officers and their family members. Two oxygen concentrators were procured by the Institute and four were donated by Mosaic India. Thus, the Institute dispensary has a total of 6 oxygen concentrators for emergency use in future too. A total of 32 patients were benefitted with emergency oxygen support facility.

### *Providing ambulance facility*

Ambulance and transport facility was extended to all covid affected staff and their families to carry them to testing centre and hospitals. IARI offered this facility to meet emergency as during lockdown period availability of hired ambulance was a great difficulty. This facility was very helpful to covid affected staff members in emergency. IARI had one ambulance and one more office vehicle was converted as an ambulance. A total of 75 staff members used this facility.

### *Isolation and Quarantine facility at IARI Guesthouses*

Isolation and quarantine facility was created for the Covid infected residents and service providers of the campus at Ganga International Guesthouse, Sindhu Guesthouse and Dr. Rajendra Prasad Farmers Guesthouse. Many Covid patients including Scientists Technical and Supporting staff and their family members, servants, security guards,

sweepers, vegetable and fruit vendors who did not have space at home for isolation were accommodated at these guesthouses. A total of 65 patients were benefitted with this facility.

### ***Special care to Covid-19 affected PG students***

Total 46 PG students of IARI were also found covid -19 positive and they were kept in isolation at Kaveri Hostel under medical supervision and constant monitoring of CMC. Institute took a very conscious decision to persuade all healthy students to go to their parents for better care and emotional strength during the devastating pandemic. All corona contracted students were quarantined and were given best care and treatments. All of these 46 PG students recovered and were sent home following all precautions. Institute facilitated everything, including PPE kits and preventive medicines, to such students to reach back their home safely

### ***Delivering food to the Covid affected families***

A large number of households in the campus got Covid infection and many of these households whole family was suffering from this disease. A base kitchen was established at Sindhu Guesthouse for preparing breakfast, lunch and dinner, which was packed and served to all Covid infected families on payment basis and free of cost to all those who cannot afford. Vegetables from IARI vegetable farm were supplied every day to the base kitchen. The service started from April 24, 2021 and till date food was delivered to about 60 households on a regular basis. A total of 5400 food packets were served and 200 people were benefitted with this arrangement.



### ***Establishing database of Plasma Donors***

A google form (<https://forms.gle/MBZVn22V6VvzuETq8>) was created and circulated to all the all the Covid infected individuals of the campus who got cured and



are willing to donate plasma. Total 14 responses were received till date. Two units of plasma were required for one Covid patient of the campus and it could be arranged inhouse. A total of 14 corona warriors volunteered for this donation.

### *Creation of Corona Fund*

All these interventions to manage Covid 19 pandemic situation needed investment of fund. A fund-raising drive was initiated on behalf of CMC and an appeal was made to all campus residents for generous contribution. Till 25th May 2021 a total of Rs. 9,20,145/- (Rupees Nine Lakhs Twenty Thousand One Hundred Forty Five only) was received from 309 individuals including the campus residents, their family members and other sympathizers including Pusa Institute Ladies Association (PILA). This fund has helped us in meeting many expenses and address Covid 19 pandemic situation efficiently and effectively. Presently we had Rs. 5,30,000/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Thirty Thousand only) at hand.

With the interventions of CMC at the institute level and support from all sectors more than 90 per cent Covid infected individuals of the campus have recovered. Despite all our sincere efforts, with a heavy heart, we mention that we have lost 12 colleagues (4 Scientists, 2 Technical staff, 4 Administrative staff, 1 Supporting staff and 1 DPL) and family members due to Covid 19 pandemic.

The following decisions were taken by the CMC to further strengthen our efforts fight Covid 19 pandemic situation and support the family members of the deceased staff and other needy persons in the campus for their rehabilitation so that they get back to the normal life.

1. An urgent need has been felt to arrange medical facility at the campus. IARI, in its campus should have 100 bed international standard hospital with 25 ICU beds. This is also a requirement for a global university that IARI is planning for. This hospital can cater to the needs and provide health services to sister ICAR Institutes situated in the campus and ICAR headquarter. The proposal to be included in EFC. We can propose 7-8 Doctors in the cadre of Scientist, Senior Scientist and Principal Scientist

for approval and recruited. Specialists may be hired from hospitals as per requirements. Fund can be mobilized through Alumni Association also in addition to fund allotted in EFC.

2. A new Society to be formed for staff welfare and process of registration to be initiated. New bank account for this purpose to be opened at the earliest. Working staff and their family members will be under the purview of the Society. Health and social welfare aspects to be covered by the Society. The society may be named as पूसा स्वास्थ्य कल्याण समिति. Health loans can be given to the staff for medical treatment etc.
3. A letter was received from South Delhi Municipal Corporation for supplying fuel wood for public good to designated Covid Crematoriums under SDMC. Dead and dry wood in the campus (about 500 tonnes) to be given to crematorium on humanitarian basis in public interest after following due official procedure. The necessary approval of the Council and also from forest department has been received. The wood shifting has started and will be completed within one month.
4. The Institute will make prior arrangements to fight the predicted third wave of Covid -19 or any other emergency attack by any virus or disease.



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No. E&amp;P/Corona Cell/2021

Date - 22/04/2021

### Office Order

In view of the massive surge of the covid-19 cases in the Delhi and it's spread in the campus, the competent authority has decided to expand the Corona Monitoring Cell and its activities by adding more members. The members of the existing Corona Monitoring Cell will continue to be in the expanded committee. The committee will monitor the corona positive cases, coordinate with the hospitals, facilitate logistic and support to the Covid-19 positive employees of the IARI including students and chalk out the strategies and implementation plan for checking the spread of COVID-19 cases in the campus. The composition of committee is as follows.

01. Dr. Indra Mani Mishra, Head, Div. of Agri. Engineering - **Chairman**

#### **Members**

- |                                                                         |                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 02. Dr. Anil Sirohi, MOHR                                               | 03. Dr. K. M. Manjaiah, Associate Dean            |
| 04. Dr. D. K. Singh Deputy MOHR                                         | 05. Sh. Pushendra Kumar, Registrar & JD(A)        |
| 06. Dr. N. K. Soora, Professor                                          | 07. Dr. Anil Dahuja, Professor                    |
| 08. Dr. R. R. Burman, Pr. Scientist                                     | 09. Dr. Debashish Chakraborty, Pr. Scientist      |
| 10. Dr. Anita Srivastava, Medical Officer, IARI Dispensary              | 11. Dr. Shakeel Ahmad Khan, Pr. Scientist, CESCRA |
| 12. Sh. S. K. Sinha, CAO                                                | 13. Dr. Girish Jha, Pr. Scientist                 |
| 14. Dr. Amit Goswami, Pr. Scientist                                     | 15. Dr. Jay Prakash, Pr. Scientist                |
| 16. Dr. Atul Kumar, Pr. Scientist                                       | 17. Dr. Vijay Pooniya, Sr. Scientist              |
| 18. Dr. Harikrishna, Scientist                                          | 19. Dr. Prolay Bhowmik, Scientist (Sr. Scale)     |
| 20. Sh. Manos Chowdhary, AO                                             | 21. Sh. Veer Pal Singh, In-charge Security        |
| 22. Sh. Rajkumar, Secretary, IJSC (staff side)                          |                                                   |
| 23. Asst. Administrative Officer, E&P Section - <b>Member Secretary</b> |                                                   |

This issues with the approval of Director, ICAR-IARI.

  
 (Ajay Kumar Soni)  
 Sr. Administrative Officer

Copy to:-

1. Chairman & members of the committee for strict compliance.
2. PS to Director/JD(Res.)/JD(Extn)/JD(Edu.)/JD(A)/PD/Comptroller/Dean(PGS) /CAO-I for kind information.
3. In-charge, AKMU with the request to upload this on IARI website.
4. All Notice Boards of the Institute.