



INFUSE

Innovations in Nutrition & Food for Unified Solutions and Empowerment

The INFUSE Summit 2025, successfully organized by the ICMR-NIN and held from 4th– 5th December 2025, brought together innovators, researchers, and public health professionals from across the country to showcase cutting-edge solutions in nutrition and food systems.

The Summit was inaugurated by Dr. Bharati Kulkarni, Director, ICMR-NIN and Dr. Rajiv Bahl, DG, ICMR, & Secretary, DHR, addressed the gathering virtually, emphasizing the importance of innovation-driven approaches for strengthening public health nutrition in India.

From over 150 applications received nationwide, 33 promising innovations were short-listed and presented across key thematic areas including food technology, micronutrient assessment, precision nutrition, and point-of-care diagnostics. The event fostered meaningful dialogue and collaboration, reinforcing ICMR-NIN's leadership in advancing innovation to improve public health nutrition outcomes.



Dr. BHARATI KULKARNI, Director

- Chaired the monthly meeting to discuss Intramural and Ignition Grant Projects funded by ICMR with NIN Scientists (1st December, 2025).
- Participated in the INFUSE – Innovations in Nutrition & Food for Unified Solutions and Empowerment Summit 2025 at ICMR-NIN (4th & 5th December, 2025).
- Delivered an invited talk on "Nutrition as a Crucial Economic Driver for Human Capital," during the panel discussion on 'Right to Accessible and Affordable Healthcare in Telangana', chaired by Shri Damodar Rajanarasimha, Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Government of Telangana, at the Telangana Rising Global Summit 2025, Bharat Future City, Hyderabad organized by the Government of Telangana (8th December, 2025).
- Participated in the 13th Public Health & Nutrition (PHN) Capacity Building Workshop for Nutrition Policy Course organized by Centre for Chronic Disease Control (CCDC), New Delhi (15th December, 2025).
- Participated in a meeting to discuss strategies to improve the quality of supplementary nutrition provided at Anganwadi Centres under the Chairpersonship of Ms. Radhika Jha, Joint Secretary (Poshan Abhiyan), Ministry of Women and Child Development (virtual) (16th December, 2025).
- Participated in a meeting with international experts in Public Health, Micronutrient Assessment and representatives of Gates Foundation along with ICMR-NIN Scientists (16th December, 2025).



Dr. G. BHANUPRAKASH REDDY

- Delivered an invited talk on 'Formation of advanced glycation end products during ultra food processing: Detection methods, levels, health impacts and mitigation approaches,' at INTECH Conference on 'Innovation in Food Processing and Flavour Technologies: Advancing Safety, Nutrition and Health,' Organized by ILSI-India, New Delhi (9th December, 2025).



Dr. SUBBARAO M GAVARAVARAPU

- Delivered an invited talk on "From trends to truth: Combatting Nutritional Misinformation through Nutrition Literacy," at the 30th A.P State IAPSM & IPHA Joint Conference –2025 (12th December, 2025).
- Attended the meeting of the DHR Travel Grants Committee virtually (15th December, 2025).
- Chaired 55th meeting of the Scientific Panel on Labelling and Claims/Advertisements (SP-08) of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) (16th December, 2025).
- Attended the virtual Pen-holder meeting of the working group on White paper on 'School Meals and NCDs', with London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and Novo-Nordics Foundation (16th December 2025).

Dr. K. RAJENDER RAO

- Participated as an Expert/Judge in the area of Biological Sciences "Avishkar 2026", University Level Research Competition organized by SRTM University, Nanded (9th December, 2025).

Dr. P. RAGHAVENDRA

- Participated as a domain expert along with Dr. C. S. SURYA GOUD in a round-table titled "Bridging Evidence and Practice: A Consensus Conference on the Use of Low-Sodium Salt Substitutes as a Public Health Intervention," held at New Delhi (2nd December, 2025).
- Conducted a pre-conference workshop on "Assessment of Nutritional Status of the Community," along with Mr. K. SREERAMA KRISHNA at the Tamil Nadu IAPSM-State Conference held at Tirunelveli Medical College attended by Medical Postgraduates (10th December, 2025).

Dr. R. NAVEEN KUMAR

- Participated as a speaker and resource person at the National Conference on 'Future of Food: Harnessing life sciences, and food technology for sustainable nutrition', at St. Aloysius Deemed University, Mangalore, (11th & 12th December, 2025).
- Attended the 31st Indian Convention of Food Scientists & Technologists (ICFoST) 2025, organized by the Association of Food Scientists & Technologists (INDIA), Mysuru at NIFTEM, Thanjavur (18th, 19th & 20th December, 2025).



Dr. VIRENDRA V. PANPATIL

- Delivered a talk on "Small Animal Imaging – Research and Methodology," during the Research and Methodology Workshop at the 13th International Conference of Laboratory Scientists' Association (LASACON-2025), with the theme "Preclinical Insights from Animal Studies on Drug Discovery and Translational Research," held at Visakhapatnam (18th–20th December, 2025).
- Delivered a talk on "Radioactivity-Introduction, Properties of Rays, Quantitation, Half-life, Radiolabelling Techniques, Applications, and Safety Precautions", in the workshop on "Bioanalytical Techniques", organized by the Institute of Genetics & Hospital for Genetic Diseases, Hyderabad (20th December, 2025).
- Participated in the 10वाँ राष्ट्रीय राजभाषा सम्मेलन, organized by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and National Institute of Biologicals (NIB), Noida, (29th–30th December, 2025).



Ms SOUMYA GURRALA, DST-INSPIRE Fellow

- Received Dr. B. S. Narsinga Rao Best Poster Award for her presentation on 'Impact of B6 deficiency on cardiac fibrosis' at the 94th Annual Conference of Society of Biological Chemists India held at University of Hyderabad (17th-19th December, 2025).



TOBACCO FREE YOUTH CAMPAIGN 3.0

Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign 3.0, an outreach programme was conducted for students of Government Degree College, Uppal, Hyderabad.

Dr. Sapavat Shankar, Scientist-C, Public Health Nutrition Division, delivered an awareness lecture highlighting the health risks associated with tobacco use and the importance of adopting healthy lifestyle practices on the occasion. Dr. P. Sreenu, TO-B, Shashi Kumar, TA and Shirisha (Lab Asst) of the ET Division conducted a quiz on tobacco and health awareness. T-shirts and Posters were distributed to the quiz winners (18th December, 2025).



AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON POSH

The Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) of ICMR-NIN organized an awareness programme on "Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace and the POSH Act" to promote a safe, respectful, and inclusive work environment. The session was delivered by Dr. Mamatha Raghuveer Achanta, Women and Child Rights Activist, Pro Bono Advocate, and Founder of Tharuni NGO. The programme was led by Dr. Gargi Meur, Scientist - E, Lipid Chemistry Division & ICC Convener, with active participation from ICC members Dr. M. Maheshwar, Scientist-F & Head, Extension & Training and MYAS-NIN, Department of Sports Science, Dr. D. Teena, Scientist-D, Maternal and Child Health Nutrition, Ms. B. Tulja, Technical Officer and Ms. M. Rekha, UDC. To ensure wider outreach, the programme was conducted in two sessions—one in English and one in Telugu—both of which received encouraging participation (12th December, 2025).



PAPERS PUBLISHED/ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION

- Barbara Häslер, Naveen Kumar Ramachandrappa, Srinu Rotta, Archana Konapur, Thanammal Ravichandran, Paula Dominguez-Salas, Dorothy Foster, Max Claron, Delia Grace, Vakdevi Validandi, Arshnee Moodley, Linnet Ochieng, Caroline Bosire, Little Flower Augustine, Claire Heffernan, Santosh Kumar Banjara, Bharati Kulkarni. Investigating the bovine milk value chain of Hyderabad, India, with a focus on child stunting. *Phil. Trans. R. Soc. B.* 2026. Doi:10.1098
- Gomathi S, H Radha, GB Reddy, SS Reddy. Impact of maternal riboflavin deficiency on the growth and development of offspring rats. *Birth Defects Research.* 2026; 118: e70013.
- KK Kalahasti, P Savitikadi, CU Kumar, M Nagaraju, SS Reddy, GB Reddy. Prevention of diabetic retinopathy in a rat model by a functional food mix. *Molecular Vision* 2025; 31:411-422.
- Pullakhandam R, Augustine LF, Banjara SK, Dasi T, Palika R, Majumder R, Ghosh S, Sinha A, Kulkarni B. Impact evaluation of a population-based 'Screen and Treat for Anaemia Reduction (STAR)' strategy: a cluster randomised trial in rural Telangana, India. *BMJ Global Health.* 2025 Dec 25;10(12).
- Ravindranadh P, Dasi T, Deveraj JP, Banjara SK, Kulkarni B and Pullakhandam R. Machine learning based prediction of inflammation adjusted iron deficiency anemia using blood cell indices. **Accepted for publication in Ind J of Med Res.**
- Rawal, T., Gavaravarapu, S.M., Backholer, K. et al. What influences food choices of adolescents in India and how their food environment can be improved?. *BMC Nutr* 11, 225 (2025). [Https://doi.org/10.1186/s40795-025-01224-w](https://doi.org/10.1186/s40795-025-01224-w)