

## Webinar on Sustainable Alternatives to Eliminate Dependency on DDT in Vector Borne Disease Control Programme

CSIR-NEERI organised a Webinar on “Sustainable Alternatives to Eliminate Dependency on DDT in Vector Borne Disease Control Programme” on 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021 with an objective to engage the stakeholders, policy makers, vector control personnel etc. in the project activities. Dr. A. Ramesh Kumar, Sr. Scientist welcomed the participants and briefed the activities carried out under the project “Development and Promotion of Non-POPs Alternatives to DDT”. Followed by Dr. L. J Kanhekar, Project consultant gave glimpses and details about the topic.

Dr. Pradeep Kumar Srivastava, Director, Absolute Human Care Foundation and Former Joint Director, NVBDCP, Delhi was the expert speaker for the webinar and he communicated about sustainability as the major step before talking about developing new chemical and biological based insecticides. He defined the term sustainability as “meeting our needs without compromising the needs of future generations”. Sustainability is made of three pillars *i.e.* economy, society and environment. While focusing on vector management, there are only two ways *viz.* either kill adult or larvae. He also explained classes of chemicals which are used as adulticides in IRS (DDT, Malathion etc.), LLIN (Deltamethrin, Alphacypermethrin) and fogging (pyrethrum extract etc.). He emphasised on the use of fogging technique only in very high mosquito density area. In case of larval source management use of larvivorous fishes *e. g.* *Gambusia*, MLO and biolarvicides are successful as a large-scale method. To develop sustainable alternative products for vector control, product should be registered under Central Insecticide Board & Registration Committee or Drugs & Cosmetic Act. He accentuated on the 14 requirements which are compulsory to develop insecticides, and require information on product ingredients; chemistry; dose fixation; efficacy; inter & intra competition etc. He also gave details about core interventions under programme for LLINs and IRS. LLIN has been scaled up in many countries as it is already in use and is already registered and that’s why LLIN may go little longer compare to IRS. He pointed out WHO prequalified LLIN manufacturers in India. He discussed about significance of Stockholm Convention on POPs and how it plays crucial role in environment management. Dr. Srivastava discussed about neem as one of the eco-friendly and effective alternatives to DDT but it needs more R&D to be deployed at a large scale.

Total 131 people from Central/State vector control officials, Entomologists, Academic and research institutes registered and 79 participants attended the webinar. Dr. L. J. Kanhekar proposed vote of thanks. Participants were awarded with certificate of participation.

