**Parasitology, including immunological markers**

*Summary*

Parasitic infections of livestock cause huge economic loss through decreased productivity and increased veterinary treatments, and pose a risk to human health. Parasite, host and environmental components alter the course of an infection from the parasite. Hosts are able to initiate an immune response to resistant and/or tolerate infection, whilst parasites adapt to resist these strategies in order to survive and reproduce. On top of both, environment has a key control on epidemiology of parasitism.

Although killing of parasites using anti-parasitic drugs is popular as a prevention and control measure, the development of drug resistant poses imminent challenges globally. Hence, coupling of usage of anti-parasitic drugs with other strategies such as enhancing the host immunity through vaccines and selective breeding can elucidate most promising results in overcoming this challenge.

This thematic session aims to give a broad idea on importance about studying parasitism and host immunity.