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## **LSD affecting livestock reemerges in Odisha: IVSAH**

Bhubaneswar, Nov. 22 (UNI) Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), a Capripox viral infection affecting cattle, buffalo and goat has re-emerged in Odisha, the Institute of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry (IVSAH) said on Tuesday.

The disease, which is contagious and transmitted by agents like blood-sucking fly, ticks and Aedes mosquito, was detected in Odisha in the aftermath of the Fani cyclone that devastated the coast in May 2019,

The disease causes immense loss to livestock farmers and keepers on account of the death of animals, expenses on treatment and leads to a more than 20 percent reduction in milk production, Prof. Bramhadev Pattnaik, Dean of IVSAH, said.

The Genus Capripox virus has three viruses affecting ruminants— sheep pox, goat pox and LSD. Prof. Pattnaik said though the disease was initially confined to Africa, it spread to other continents subsequently.

It has been epidemiologically ascertained that LSD travelled to the state from Bangladesh through Jharkhand, he said.

The virus, which is also known to get transmitted through contaminated feed and water, had made a re-appearance in Khurda and Puri districts after a gap of about three and half years. The disease causes severe skin nodules in animals which subsequently turn into open wounds accompanied by high fever, he said.

Pattnaik said in the absence of an LSD vaccine, there was an urgent need to vaccinate the animals with double dose goat vaccine to prevent the disease from spreading.

The LSD vaccine being jointly developed by National Research Centre for Equine (NRCE), Hisar and Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Bareilly, is yet to be released to the market, he added

The virus was isolated in Odisha in 2019 by two Indian Council of Agricultural Research-run institutes— National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology (NIVEDI), Bengaluru and the National Institute of High-Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD), Bhopal, and it was found to be akin to the African strain, Dr. Balaram Sahu, Assistant Professor in the department of Microbiology in IVSAH, said.

He said extensive outbreaks of LSD had occurred in Rajasthan earlier this year and the virus had been characterised by the Veterinary and Animal Husbandry department of the state government in collaboration with CSIR Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), New Delhi.

Biosecurity measures like immediate isolation of affected cattle and use of mosquito and fly repellants need to be taken. Still, vaccination of the animals was of the greatest importance, Pattnaik said. UNI DP SSP