The unique capability of pathogenic mycobacteria to infect and cause disease across species, has led to the establishment of reservoirs of infection, circulation and persistence of pathogenic mycobacteria in the environment in hosts other than humans. The presence of pathogenic mycobacteria in diverse species weaves a complex web perpetuating its survival in the environment.

The conference is geared to address this problem namely, the prevalence of tuberculosis in non-human hosts and its impact on current control and research strategies. The conference is the first of its kind in the country and aims to bring together on a common platform health managers (Ministry of Health & Family welfare), veterinarians (Dept. of Animal husbandry, dairying & fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture), and prominent researchers in the specific field. After due deliberations, it is expected to make necessary recommendations in terms of research inputs required to combat mycobacterial disease wherever it occurs.