

# India's own vaccine producer

An integral part of modern poultry health management is vaccination and the founder of Venky's (Venkateshwara Hatcheries PVT Ltd), who are now one of India's largest agribusinesses, appreciated this from the outset with the creation of Ventri Biologicals.

The Venky Group supplies poultry vaccines across India and further afield to countries including Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Nigeria, Zambia, Yemen and Kenya.

This operation started in 1980 with the production of freeze dried live vaccines.

By 1985 killed oil adjuvanted vaccines were being produced and by 1990 bacterins were also available.

In 1993 the production of cell associated Marek's disease vaccine had commenced and 1997 saw the production of a vaccine against inclusion body hepatitis, which for some years had been a scourge of Indian

poultry farmers. In 2007 a multivalent salmonella vaccine was launched.

Today, Ventri Biologicals has two vaccine production units. The first is located at Malkhed on the Pune Panshet Road and the second one is at Rajeev Gandhi International Biotech Park, Hinjewadi, Pune. Both have



biometric controlled access and operate to WHO standards.

The success of the company can be seen by its output which has grown from 60 million doses in 1980 to 4,200 million in 2005 and just over 7,000 million doses last year.

In addition to supplying vaccines the company supplies bulk antigen for use by other companies, including at least one in the EU so, obviously, EU standards are in place.

India has many very small poultry farmers so, unusually, vaccine vial sizes range from 100 to 10,000 doses

## Excellent distribution

In India much of Ventri's success has been their excellent distribution system which is centred around six regional depots that supply 21 forwarding agents who, in turn, service 1,140 distributors and have a field force of 140.

Originally SPF eggs were imported from SPAFAS. Now they produce their own SPF eggs from their own SPF flocks which are located in the upper reaches of a remote valley and well away from any commercial poultry.

These flocks are regularly 100% tested to confirm the absence of all the important poultry pathogens. ■

**The two vaccine production units. Below left, the biometric entry procedure and, below right, SOPs are clearly displayed.**

