

A Technical consultation on Latent Tuberculosis Infection in India

National Institute for TB Research, Chennai, 29-30 June, 2017

National Institute for Research in TB (NIRT) in collaboration with the National TB Programme, International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) South East Asia office and ICMR, supported by USAID, organised a Technical Consultation on June 29-30, 2017 at NIRT Chennai. The participants for this consultation were national and international technical experts on latent TB infection, national, state and district level TB programme (RNTCP) managers, technical partners of RNTCP, researchers, donor agencies, academic institutions and non-governmental organisations.

The objective of the consultation was to deliberate discussions on current situation of LTBI in India, understand global responses to LTBI, update on the current guidelines, identify modalities to implement and scale up of LTBI treatment, to design locally appropriate interventions to combat LTBI and to address the policy - practice gap in implementation in the country. A literature review on LTBI in India for the last 20 years had been undertaken and a summary document is proposed.

The key recommendation from the 2-day consultation was to set up a national working group on LTBI by the RNTCP or India TB Research Consortium. Three major thematic areas- diagnosis, treatment and research need to be taken forward by the working group. The summary document of literature review to be completed and shared with the working group. The document would guide in LTBI agenda setting.

Discussions and Recommendations:

The presentations by the experts were insightful with stimulating discussions. This is the first national level consultation on LTBI. In a time when India is grappling with the active TB disease, LTBI is often put aside due to various reasons. But the expert group as well as the national TB program leadership agreed that it's time for India to take on LTBI. And in fact for this reason, the national strategic plan for the next five years includes LTBI in its action plan.

It was highly recommended by this consultation that a national working group on LTBI should be constituted and supported by RNTCP or ICMR coordinated India TB Research Consortium. The working group should have experts from key thematic areas identified in the consultation and representing various stakeholders that participated in the consultation.



Dr. Sunil Khaparade, DDG TB delivering the opening address



Dr. Sarabjit, presenting the scope and objectives of the consultation



Dr. Ranjani Ramachandran, presenting on LTBI Diagnosis



Group photo of all the participants attending the 1st Technical Consultation on LTBI