

Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project (AACP)

Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department, Assam

INTRODUCTION :

Animal Husbandry is potentially one of the most important sectors for rapid socio-economic development of the state. Fast growth in this sector is essential not only to achieve higher productivity levels in livestock products, but also for increase in rural household income.

One of the main objectives of the department, at present, is to create gainful employment opportunities for unemployed youth of the state.

The per capita consumption rates of animal proteins for human population are also to be boost up through successful implementation of this project.

Considering the above facts, the department embarks upon renewed strategic shift in its functioning style and delivery of veterinary services like training in different branches like Dairy, Poultry, Piggery etc, skill up-gradation, creation of infrastructure, technical guidance, use of Departmental infrastructure, marketing of livestock products etc.

RATIONAL FOR INVOLVEMENT :

The contribution of livestock sectors to state's Gross Domestic Products (GDP) is estimated as 7.7 percent, only second to crop agriculture. The livestock account for 22 percent of GDP of Agriculture sector without accounting for contribution made by animal power and manurial value of animal dung.

Over 90 percent of all livestock and poultry are owned by small holders and it forms a major source of their family income. The livestock sector also has a considerable impact on rural employment. Women account approximately for two third of all labour

incurred in dairy and other livestock enterprises. Further in the absence of mechanization almost all the power requirement for Agricultural operations is provided by livestock.

Despite large livestock population, the productivity of the stock is very low. The state has the lowest per capita availability of livestock products, milk 83 gm. per day, meat 2 gm. per day and egg 20 nos. per capita per year much lower than the national average. The large demand supply gap indicating vast potential market available for milk, egg & meat.

During ARIASP (LDC) i.e. World Bank phase - I, the department charges a nominal cost against each frozen semen straw. Recently, the department estimated the cost of production as Rs.55.00 per F.S. straw.

Project Interventions

1. Cattle Development
2. Disease Control (Animal Health)
3. Animal Nutrition – Fodder Development
4. Bull Mother Farm, Barapetta
5. Poultry & Duck Development
6. Piggery Development
7. Project Implementation Unit (LDC)
8. Goat Development

1. CATTLE DEVELOPMENT:

For cattle development the department has prepared several rural based schemes. For this, the existing three FSPC at Khanapara, Kaliapani (Jorhat) and Ghungoor (Silchar) will be operated by Assam Livestock Development Agency (ALDA).ALDA will

produce Frozen Semen and will deliver to all 515 nos. of AIC under AACCP. The W.B. has agreed in cost table to start functioning with few infrastructure developments from the next financial year 2005-06 to 2009 -10.

2. DISEASE CONTROL (ANIMAL HEALTH):

The Livestock development programme does not stand a chance to succeed unless a well-organized animal health service is built up and prevention of livestock against diseases and pests is assured. The exotic and cross breed animals are more susceptible to diseases prevalent in Assam making an efficient and well knit animal health organisation all the more imperative.

3. ANIMAL NUTRITION (FODDER DEVELOPMENT):

In most parts of the State, traditionally animals are managed under extensive system on open grazing. However, management systems are changing and in the peri-urban areas, the productive animals, especially crossbreeds are stall-fed. There is an overall shortage of feed resources in the State. The major sources of feed for livestock are paddy straw, agricultural bi-products like oil cakes (mustard and sesamum cakes), small quantity of wheat bran and un-conventional feeds like *babul* pods and mango seed kernel, tamarind seed, tea waste etc. Cultivation of green fodder is not popular in the State. As the nutrition requirement of high producing animals is higher than the indigenous, there is a need to augment feed and fodder resource. The strategy would be to popularize green fodder cultivation as a part of farmers cropping pattern and as a catch crop. In addition the technology of enriching poor quality roughages through urea/ urea molasses treatment along with Urea Molasses Minerals blocks licks would be popularized.

4. BULL MOTHER FARM, BARAPETTA:

For production of proven bulls the Bull Mother Farm, Barapetta will be gear up.

5. POULTRY AND DUCK DEVELOPMENT:

The project interventions would be limited to backyard poultry and duck farming. The experience of Danida assisted Tamilnadu Livestock Development Project would form the basis for interventions in backyard poultry. 100 villages would be covered under the programme. One woman from each village would be identified and trained in vaccination, first aid, deworming and de-lousing of birds and transfer of technology developed in Tamilnadu to backyard poultry farmers. The duck development programme would be taken up mainly in the low lying swampy districts. The local ducks would be crossed with Khaki Campbell procured from Central Duck Breeding Farm, Bangalore to improve its egg laying capacity. The experience in Kerela show that *Chara Chambali* breed is better suited for backyard duck farming. The Chara Chambali duck germ plasm would be procured and used in future duck improvement programme.

6. PIGGERY DEVELOPMENT:

The local variety of pig is black in colour, but it has a small body size, poor growth rate and low prolificacy giving poor returns. In ARIASP a stock of Hampshire and Yorkshire (14 females and 7 males) were imported from USA and are being reared at Base Pig Breeding Farm, Khanapara for multiplication. 175 nos male have been sold on Government determined price to interested breeders for upgradation of their piggery stock. The programme is very popular in the State and needs to be expanded. The tribal areas have preference of black colour pigs. Therefore in the future upgrading programme it is proposed to use large black breed to ensure black colour crossbred progeny. There exists a large market for such pigs in the adjoining states of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland.