Animal Husbandry Department

Policy Note 2005-2006

Demand No.6

LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

LIVESTOCK FARMS

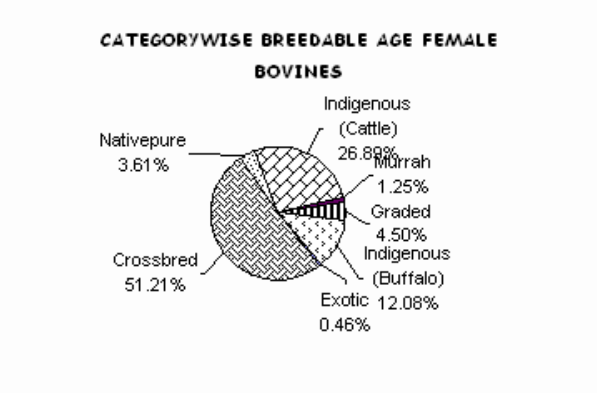
Livestock farms are maintained for selective scientific breeding of specific species of livestock. They serve as demonstration farms and training centre for needy farmers. Moreover, it acts as a source for quality livestock to the farmers. There are 11 livestock farms, out of which 3 are sheep farms. In addition there is one farm exclusively for breeding poultry. The location of the farms and species maintained in each farm is as follows:

Sl.No	Name of the Farm	Species maintained
1	Exotic Cattle Breeding Farm, Eachenkottai (Thanjavur district)	Cattle
2	District Livestock Farm, Hosur (Krishnagiri district)	Cattle, Sheep, Goat, Pig, Poultry and Horses
3	District Livestock Farm, Abishekapatti (Tirunelveli district)	Buffalo, Sheep, Pig and Poultry
4	District Livestock Farm, Udhagamandalam (The Nilgiris district)	Cattle
5	District Livestock Farm, Pudukottai (Pudukottai district)	Cattle, Buffalo, Sheep, Goat, Pig and Poultry
6	District Livestock Farm, Orathanad (Thanjavur district)	Buffalo, Cattle
7	District Livestock Farm, Chettinad (Sivagangai district)	Cattle, Sheep, Goat, Pig and Poultry
8	Livestock Farm, Korukkai (Thiruvarur district)	Cattle and Goat
	Sheep Farm, Chinnasalem	

9	(Villupuram district)	Sheep and Goat
10	Sheep Farm, Mukundarayapuram (Vellore district)	Sheep
11	Sheep Farm, Sathur (Virudhunagar district)	Sheep and Goat
12	Poultry Farm, Kattupakkam, (Kancheepuram district)	Fowls and Turkey

CATTLE AND BUFFALO DEVELOPMENT

Cattle comprise 84.64% of the total bovines reared in the State, in which exotic, crossbred, indigenous and native pure accounts for 0.44%, 55.79%, 6.01% and 37.76% respectively. Buffalo comprises 15.36% of the total bovine population and 7% of the total livestock reared in the State. The categorywise breedable age female cattle and buffalo population and their percentage are as follows.



Sl. No	Category	Breedable age female population	Percentage to total breedable age female population
I	Cattle		
	Exotic	23,067	0.46
	Crossbred	25,65,876	51.21
	Nativepure	1,80,399	3.61
	Indigenous	13,47,446	26.89
	Total	41,16,788	82.17
II	Buffalo		
	Murrah	62,543	1.25
	Graded	2,25,483	4.50

	Indigenous	6,05,303	12.08
	Total	8,93,329	17.83
III	Bovines	50,10,117	100.00

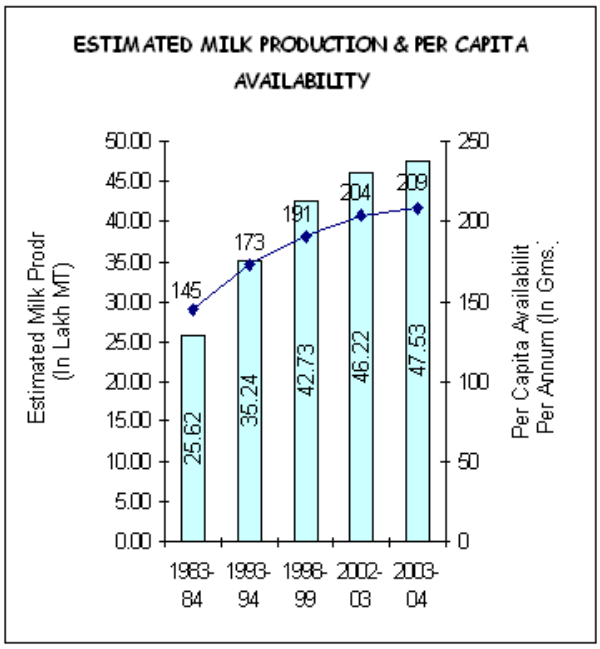
Non-descript animals have a higher age at first calving, low lactation period, low milk yield, lengthy dry and inter-calving periods, but they are highly disease resistant and heat tolerant. The exotic breeds have early maturity, lengthy lactation period, high milk yield, short dry and intercalving periods but they are less disease resistant and heat tolerant. To improve these economic traits and also to preserve the desirable traits like disease resistance and heat tolerance of indigenous animals in a short time at an affordable cost, cross breeding is an effective solution. Native pure breeds like, Kangayam and Umblachery germplasm have inherent capacity to withstand tropical environmental stress and diseases, have genes for better feed conversion efficiency and are well adapted to local environment.

Launching of Key Village Scheme by the Department during 1952-53 in selected areas started the first step towards livestock development by systematic and controlled breeding, feeding, disease control and scientific management. This was later intensified with the implementation of Intensive Cattle Development Project during 1974 for intensive cross breeding of cattle to increase milk production.

The policy followed for breeding of cattle and buffaloes in our State is as follows:

- Cross breeding the local non-descript breedable female cattle by using the semen of dairy breeds like Jersey and Friesian.
- Grading local buffaloes by using the semen of Murrah bulls.
- Breeding crossbred cows with crossbred bull semen.
- Selective breeding of native pure breeds of cattle such as Kangayam and Umblachery in their respective breeding tracts.

With the above policy followed for breeding, the crossbred cattle population has remarkably increased from 17.71 lakhs as per 1994 Census to 50.99 lakhs as per 2004 Census registering an increase of 188%. During the same period, the number of indigenous cattle has decreased from 59.09 lakhs to 34.52 lakhs, a decrease by 42%. Though there is a decrease in the indigenous population, there is a significant growth in crossbred population. In fact, the growth in population per year in the last decade has been 18.79%. This is mainly attributed to the successful implementation of the artificial insemination programme, which has increased milk production in the State.



Artificial Insemination

Superior genetic resources play a pivotal role in productivity enhancement of the dairy animal. Moreover, a proven technology for faster multiplication of genetically superior milk production traits is artificial insemination as this horizontally disseminates superior genetic resources in a population with in a short period and at low cost. With this in mind and to improve the production traits of cattle and buffalo, the Department introduced artificial insemination with liquid semen of exotic and graded breeds since 1948. Further with the introduction of frozen semen during 1975, liquid semen was gradually phased out and all the artificial insemination centres started using frozen semen from 1993. Today, the State occupies the number one position in the entire country in carrying out artificial insemination covering about 44 lakhs cases annually.

Four frozen semen production stations are functioning in the following places catering to the need of the 3,176 Artificial Insemination Centres located throughout the State.

- Eachenkottai, Thanjavur District;
- Abishekapatti, Tirunelveli District;
- Hosur, Krishnagiri District
- Udagamandalam, The Nilgiris District.

To freeze and store the frozen semen straws, liquid nitrogen is essential. In the Department, ten liquid nitrogen plants are functioning two each at Eachenkottai, Abishekapatti, Hosur and Uthagamandalam, one each at Saidapet (Chennai) and Thiruparankundram (Madurai) producing liquid nitrogen. Moreover, to store and distribute the liquid nitrogen and frozen semen straws to various veterinary institutions and sub centres involved in artificial insemination, twelve Frozen semen banks are functioning one each at Vellore, Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchirapalli, Dharmapuri, Tirunelveli, Thanjavur, Cuddalore, Sivagangai, Chennai, Dindigul and Salem.

During 2004-05 (Upto February 2005), 23.34 lakh doses of frozen semen and 1.42 lakh litres of liquid nitrogen were produced in the Frozen Semen Production Stations and Liquid Nitrogen Plants in the State.

With the aim of improving conception and calving rate, "Infertility Camps" are conducted, for the benefit of farmers. In such camps all the animals are thoroughly examined, problem diagnosed and treated accordingly.

The categorywise bovines maintained in the livestock farms are as follows:

Sl.No.	Name of the Farm	Bovines Maintained
1.	Exotic Cattle Breeding Farm, Eachenkottai	Jersey, Holstein Freisian, Jersey Cross, Umblachery, Holstein Freisian Cross, Murrah,
2.	District Livestock Farm, Hosur	Jersey, Crossbred, Sindhi, Kangayam
3.	District Livestock Farm, Abishekapatti	Murrah, Jersey, Crossbred
4.	District Livestock Farm, Udagamandalam	Jersey, Holstein Freisian, Crossbred
5.	District Livestock Farm, Pudukottai	Crossbred
6.	District Livestock Farm, Chettinad	Crossbred, Tharparkar
7.	District Livestock Farm, Orathanad	Murrah
8.	Livestock Farm, Korukkai	Umblachery

The Department has been working on Embryo Transfer Technology (ETT). Embryo transfer units have been established at Exotic Cattle Breeding Farm, Eachenkottai of Thanjavur district and at District Livestock Farm, Hosur of Krishnagiri district.