

Future Strategy for the development of livestock sector during 9th plan

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Livestock and poultry are the largest productive assets of the rural farmers of Kerala. Approximately 84% of the livestock population is shared by the rural farming population of Kerala. Whatever changes are brought in this farming community, it will impart drastic changes not only in the economy of the State as a whole, but also lead to changes in the socio cultural status of the State.

The contribution of livestock sector to Kerala's economy is significant and this sector contributes 10.3% of the State's Gross Domestic Product with a minimum of 1.3% of the budgetary provision.

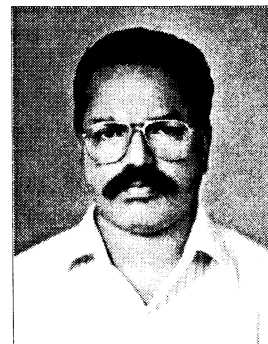
The growth rate in milk production in Kerala during the last two decades is highest among other states in India i.e. 9.3% as compared to 4.7% of national average. This sector contributes 2/3 of the animal protein requirement of the population. Kerala State has converted more than 60% of the non-descriptive local cattle population to medium or high producing crossbred cattle within a shortest span of 25-30 years, through a planned cross breeding programme. The crossbred population at national level is estimated to 10%. The average milk yield of cows has been raised from less than one litre/day to 6 litres/day, making the state average of milk production from 2 lakhs Metric Tonnes to 22.2 lakhs M.T. 1994-95. The average milk consumption per head has been pushed to 192 Grams from 32 grams of 1960.

Salient features of this sector.

Livestock rearing continues to be an integral part of Kerala's rural life from time immemorial. The contribution of this sector has been substantial from the point of view of income generation, employment enrichment of soil through organic recycling and also nutritious food supply to the people.

The rural endowment of Kerala, particularly, the abundance of unutilized manpower and steady system of living are highly suited for livestock and poultry rearing on a home-stead basis. High pressure on land, fragmentation of land by land reforms act, change in the cropping pattern, conversion of land to some other purposes, decline of paddy cultivation etc. has seriously affected the livestock sector. In spite of all these constraints, Animal Husbandry Sector has been emerging as a major avenue for self-employment among small and marginal farmers of Kerala. The income generated by this sector small and marginal farmers, landless rural labourers. The target group of this sector is through economically weaker sections of the society i.e. mainly marginal and small farmers and agricultural labourers.

The 9th plan profile of Animal Husbandry Sector needs (1) It should be grown/production oriented, by developing the local resources and basic infrastructure to maximise milk, meat and egg production (2) The production assets and skill should be transferred to the target group.



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The grass root level planning of Animal Husbandry Sector necessitates

- (1) To increase the production of milk, meat and egg
- (2) Increase employment opportunities
- (3) Increase the per capita income of the rural farmer and low income group. To achieve this object, the thrust area has to be identified and future strategies have to be evolved, by considering the needs, demands, infrastructural facilities, available resources and the utilisation potentials.

Strategy to increase milk production.

1. The production potential of the crossbred cattle is to be increased. The crossbred population of the State is estimated to be 60%. The remaining 40% non-descriptive cows has to be transferred crossbred, to make the percentage of crossbred cattle population of the State to be 70% during the 9th plan period. This transformation itself will increase by 40% in the level of milk production in the State.

2. Genetic potential of the crossbred cows has to be improved.

Increase in the demand of milk and milk products necessitates the growth of milk production. The improvements in genetic quality of cows for increased milk production is unlikely to be a serious problem in the years to come.

(1) Artificial Insemination facilities should be strengthened. The skill of the artificial insemination personnels should be improved by updating their technical skill.

(ii) Artificial Insemination programmes should be intensified. The present system of one Artificial Insemination Centre for every 750 breedable cows should be modified as one artificial insemination centre for every 500 breedable cows.

(iii) More Artificial Insemination Centres are to be opened in Malabar area to supply technical and extension support to the rural farmers.

(iv) Artificial Insemination centres should be rearranged to the hand reach of

the farming community in proportion to cattle density.

(v) Arrangements have to be made to provide Artificial Insemination at the door step of the farmer.

(vi) Artificial Insemination centres should be situated in places where women farmer can bring their cows for artificial insemination.

(vii) Farmers should be given adequate training to detect heat and time of artificial insemination.

(viii) Wide use of premium bull semen should be introduced.

(ix) Modern scientific achievements like embryo transfer technology should be popularised.

(x) The research and development efforts of cattle breeding activities should be strengthened.

(xi) Provide increased extension support to farmers.

3. Availability of feed and fodder.

To reduce the cost of milk production, the fodder production programme has to be popularised. At present there is a decline in the availability of dry fodder. The State cannot enforce strict land utilization laws to avoid the land left without cultivation. The farmers may be encouraged to take up fodder cultivation as an economic crop. The co-operative sector or the local bodies should take initiative to cultivate legumes and pulses in the paddy field during fallow period. Screening and selection of improved varieties of fodder crops and its products. Under social forestry programme, more fodder plants and trees like Jack fruit tree, Subabul and Peraal should be planted. Hay production should be popularised in surplus seasons.

Programme should be arranged to supply bailed straw enriched with urea and molasses.

Improvement in Management Practieces.

The beneficial results of the research programmes should be transferred to the farmers, for which the Veterinary institutions

of the Panchayats should act as mediators. The present facilities available should be improved to provide latest diagnostic facilities including X-Ray, Clinical Lab, Operation Theater, Mobile Van and Telephone .

Improvements in Veterinary Health Care and Disease Control

The contribution of livestock sector to the success of white revolution is remarkable. The livestock disease control measures implemented by the Animal Husbandry Department has played a key role in the success of the operation flood programme. At present the livestock disease control programme has been limited to the area south of Periyar river. This programme should be extended to the entire state to get the benefits to all the dairy farmers of the State.

The Government of India may be requested to extend support for the successful implementation of this scheme.

One of the important problem faced by the dairy farmer is the 'Mastitis' among high yielding cross-bred cows. It is proposed to have a 'Mastitis Control Cell' at the State level with well equipped diagnostic labs, extension unit to provide extension support and mastitis kits to farmers, arrange awareness camps among farmers, against mastitis.

Special Livestock Breeding Programme (rearing of calves) should be extended in an intensive manner to have the benefit of the scheme to all the weaker sections of the farming community to achieve the targetted milk production of 30 lakhs M.T. at 2000 AD.

The problem of helminthiasis among cross-bred calves, has to be tackled to promote growth and milk production for which a state level Helminthiasis Control Cell has to be established during the 9th plan period.

To Improve production of meat.

Goat rearing, pig rearing , rabbit rearing and broiler production are the main programmes that can be taken at the panchayat level to increase meat production. This will also lead to employment to the rural poor.

Meat Production in Kerala

Year	Thousand (Tonnes)	Value (Crores)
93- 94	129.70	365.02
94-95	133.55	445.50
95-96	137.02	517.91
96-97	142.48	(Targetted)

The Livestock census data shows that there is declining trend in the goat population of the State, due to intensive use of the goats for meat purpose.

The Department has to evolve a strategy during the 9th plan period to increase the goat population of the state. The existing facilities of goat farms of Komeri and Attappady have to be intensified along with providing more parent stock to Kodappanakunnu and conversion of Buffalo farm Kuriottumala to a goat farm. To meet the requirements of kids a goat farm has to be started at Parassal. Goat rearing will be intensively taken up in the Districts of Palakkad, Idukki, Wyand, eastern parts of Trivandrum, Kottayam and Kollam Districts. 10 goats will provide one full term employment. The goat farm available at Dhoni under the control of the KLD Board will also make available a kids required.

As and when we think about meat production we cannot ignore or neglect the pig production. Pig is the only animal which can convert the kitchen waste and slaughter house waste to at a lesser quality meat cost. Pig farming is developing in to an attractive business in the State with encouraging results. At present the State has the capacity to produce 60,000 piglings per year. (Meat Products of India- 20000, Kerala Agriculture University - 10000, Animal Husbandry Department - 10000, KLD Board- 20000).

It is proposed to supply 5 piglings per household to start Breeding Units for 20% of the household of the State. Pig production as an intensive programme will be taken up in districts of Kottayam, Idukki, Ernakulam, Pathanamthitta. Arrangements will be made to take back the piglings from the farmers for redistributing the same to other needy farmers.

Financial assistance for the construction of scientific styles, extension support along with quality feed, will be arranged through the Panchayat Veterinary Dispensary. The departmental farms will be strengthened to meet the requirement of the piglings.

Broiler production is gaining much momentum in the State. This fast advancing industry requires well planned out put and input. The non availability of quality mutton or beef necessitates the extensive production of broiler.

In the coming years, it is proposed to start, atleast 100 broiler units with 500 birds capacity at a harvest, in each district of the State. To meet the increasing demands of the broiler chicks, Regional poultry Farm, Koovappady will be converted in to a broiler farm. Facilities of IPD Block, pettan will be strengthened.

Financial assistance will be arranged from the Government of India and local bodies. To encourage marketing of broilers, mini slaughter houses with meat bunks will be arranged at Panchayat level. As and when the production of meat increases, marketing facilities under a co-operative sector can be arranged at Panchayat level, Block level and District level with an apex body at the State level.

To increase Egg Production

Years	Egg production (million)	Value
1993- 94	1844	143.62
1994-95	1916	220.40
1995-96	1991	248.88

The present per capita availability of eggs in Kerala State is 77. There is an increased demand of eggs as the consumption rate has been increased which exceeds the production. The availability of eggs should be brought to 180 eggs per head as per the recommendation of ICMR. Major portion of the eggs produced in the State comes from the backyard systems of poultry keeping; which is more economical as the Kerala farming condition is concerned.

In the 9th plan period, it is proposed to produce 1 crore day old female chicks in the Department farms, Kerala State poultry Development Corporation, and Meat products of India. These nurseries will be run by unemployed youths of the Panchayats, for which financial assistance from Governments and banks will be arranged and the technical support will be supplied through the Veterinary Dispensary attached with the Panchayat and Extension Unit of Department. It is proposed to start 5000 nurseries during the 9th plan period with a capacity to accommodate 2000 chicks/ year. These chicks will be taken back and redistributed among the farmers.

It is estimated that rearing of 500 birds could generate one employment opportunity and hence by taking up backyard poultry production, 20000 employment opportunities could be created.

Even with all the constraints prevailing in the State for milk, meat and egg production, the Animal Husbandry sector will dominate and attract more farmers to produce more milk, meat and eggs in the coming 9th plan period.

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