

LIMAH '04: A NOVEL INITIATIVE IN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY SECTOR

The only way to make Animal husbandry activities economically viable, and socially acceptable is to inculcate a culture of commercialisation of AH activities, and to promote entrepreneurship in this sector. Unfortunately vets are still happy with the 'family cow system', wherein the animal is reared not on economic scale, but on emotional front. The 17th quinquennial census report points towards a rapid reduction in the animal population and the onus is on us to identify suitable alternatives.

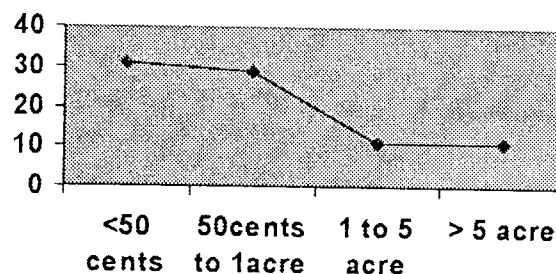
It was with this objective, in mind that LIMAH '04 (Local Investors Meet in Animal Husbandry) was formulated by the Nilambur Vet Forum. The first one of the series, a work shop on "commercial goat rearing" was held on 22 nd May, 2004 at Peevees Auditorium, Nilambur. The function which was presided over by Smt. Padmini Gopinath (President, Nilambur Grama panchayat) was inaugurated by Sri.Aryadan Mohammed, MLA. Dr.N.Santhy(District Animal Husbandry Officer, Malappuram) read the message of Dr.N.N.Sasi, Director of Animal Husbandry in her address. Dr.K.G.Suma (DAHO, Trichur), Dr.Haroon Abdul Rasheed felicitated the function.Dr.Prakasom.R (Regional Director IMG, Kozhikode),Dr.Mohanan PV (Lecturer, Extension Training Centre,Taliparamba) and Dr.VinodKumar.K (Farm Officer, Govt.Goat Farm ,Attapadi) handled the technical session. The organisers had invited Sri.Haris Chandra(Lead Bank Manager), Sri.Gopinath (Assistant General Manager ,NABARD) and Sri.Joseph John (Manager,District Industrial Officer, Malappuram) for a face to face interaction with the participants.It really helped a lot to attract banker's attention to the feasibility of commercial Animal Husbandry activities. Accordingly, Lead Bank has agreed in principle to lend to AH sector generously.

Lead Bank Manager Sri.Haris Chandra had invited the vets to participate in the block level and District level Bankers' committee and forward new projects in the field.

About 150 persons from different parts of the district and neighbouring districts such as Palaghat and Kozhikode participated in the Work Shop. Ninety Two participants responded to the feed back sheet. Twenty five among them have already started goat rearing.Those who could spare 5 acres and more are 11 in numbers and the details listed as chart below

Figure 1

Available area to spare exclusively for goat rearing among participants



Limah'04 has received good attention from all quarters being the earnest effort to commercialise this sector. Director,Dr.N.N.Sasi had extended all support since the idea of developing commercial entrepreneurship in AH sector is generated.

The findings of the recent census shows an alarming negative growth in the total number of cattle in Kerala. Although this can be attributed to a shift from local varieties to improved varieties, this explanation does not hold good in the case of Kerala, where a major chunk of the animal population is already cross bred. The reduction in the numbers indicates that farmers are switching over to more prospective fields. Another factor, which should not be overlooked is the fact that there are still many small scale dairy farms which thrive well when thousands of litres of the so called 'Milk' is being pumped in daily from neighbouring states. The recent trend to wide acceptance of vanilla cultivation also should be borne in mind.

A conclusion, which can be arrived at from the above facts is that the farming community still accepts any field that is commercially viable whatever be the initial expenditure involved. The reduction in the cattle population can thus be attributed to non- viability of AH sector. This issue has to be dealt with seriously, or it will only be proper to say that the existence of AH activities and the AHD itself will depend on how well we can tackle this situation.

(Nilambur Vets Forum)

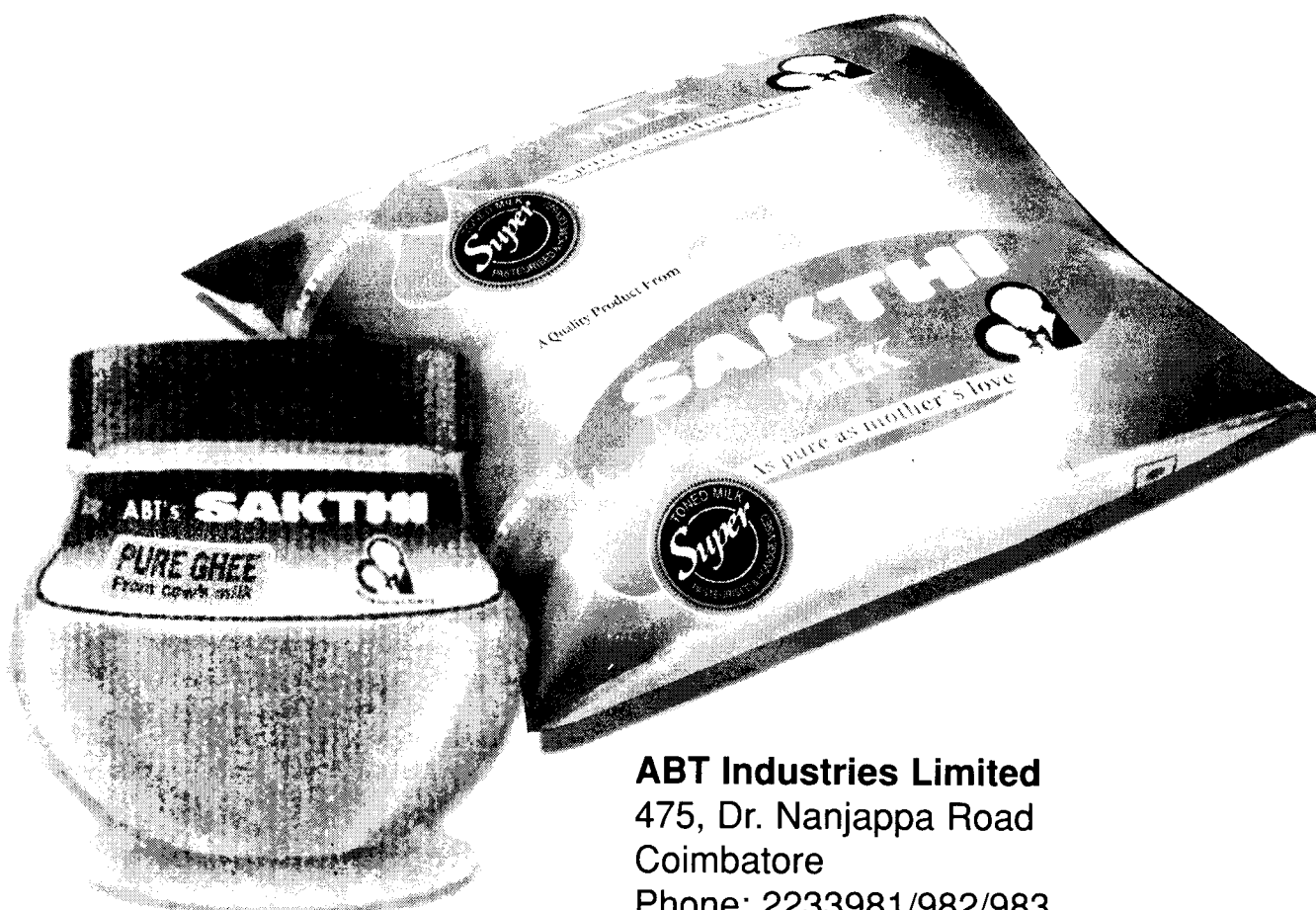
Assistance of district office bearers requested
to ensure timely publication of district news, retirements and obituaries report promptly
(drshibusimon@yahoo.co.in)

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