

AHEAD WITH FIRM FOOT STEPS

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The Department of Animal Husbandry, Government of Kerala, has a rich heritage, glorious past and record of many achievements. The growth and development of the department is spectacular. The journey towards this success was not without challenges. Conversion of our department to a major department was really an uphill task. But the spearheads of our department have displayed rare courage, determination and professionalism for achieving this.

Recent technological advances in the field of veterinary service are note worthy. We have therefore under taken an ambitious plan to strengthen our hospitals and develop our human resources in a phased manner. Establishment of veterinary institutions in every nook and corner of the state was a step in that direction. We are now in this process of establishing multidiscipline super speciality hospitals, with facilities of reference and research. Our diagnostic laboratories (the CDIO and its regional laboratories) and the Biological Production Unit have been provided with the latest diagnostic, monitoring, therapeutic and biological production equipments, to facilitate easy and quick diagnosis to the problem cases that we meet in the state. Our health delivery system, coupled with farmer friendly services and comprehensive disease control programmes has attracted attention of a lot.

The achievements of the cross breeding programme implemented in the state has become a role model for the country, with an unparalleled achievement of converting about 85% of the state's cattle population into high yielding cross bred. Achievements of supportive programmes like the 'Special Livestock Breeding Programme', the Kamadhenu Insurance Scheme, Poultry Production Schemes, Small ruminant

production programmes etc. are also remarkable.

Achievements in 2006:

The year 2006 also witnessed several innovative, enthusiasm creating activities in the department. Such activities commenced with the state level Animal Welfare Seminar, "Daya - 2006", in which several animal lovers actively participated and several practical recommendations for animal welfare in the state were initiated. Training sessions for Integrated Sample Survey workers, workshops for drafting a working manual for the institutions transferred to local bodies, workshops to educate veterinarians on handling of outbreak situation etc. were really useful. During 2006, the department initiated several programmes for bringing it's work force closer and closer to the general public and farmers. The regional workshops on Foot and Mouth Disease Control, the state level Livestock and Pet Show, ("Drisyas-2006") conducted at Engandiyoor in Thrissur District, convention of the women farmers ("Piravi-2006") at Manjoor, in Kottayam District etc. are a few to cite in this regard, which brought the department to the midst of the public.

The 'ADCP' third round vaccination programme and the poultry vaccinations under the "ASCAD", under taken by the department, went on smoothly, covering about 22 lakhs livestock and 80 lakhs poultry in the state.

Numerous public functions were organized by the department during 2006, with the objective of making the department a live and working department, such as State level inauguration of the new Insurance package, viz. the "Gosuraksha", at Palakkad, district level inauguration of the same, at Cherthala in Alappuzha district, state level launching of the premium Bull Semen Scheme ('Ksheera Dhara'), 'Face to Face' programme

at Mattupetty, with selected farmers and the Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry, inauguration of the developmental activities to the tune of Rs.1.2 crores at Turkey Farm, Kureepuzha, Rabbit farmers conventions at Alappuzha and Calicut etc. Hon'ble Chief Minister, State Animal Husbandry Minister, Local MLAs and MPs and several other dignitaries participated in the above functions, along with hundreds of public and farmers. The Animal Husbandry quiz series in Doordarshan, which is still continuing, is being attracted by thousands.

A model programme, "Suraksha" launched and implemented, in association with the Trivandrum Corporation, for Rabies Control, is proving to be one of the most important public interest programmes.

A good number of veterinary institutions were also opened in the year 2006, viz. the LMTC, Thalayolaparampu, new buildings for RAIC, Kunnamkulam, Aralummoodu, Training block in Veterinary Polyclinic, Kodungalloor, Veterinary Dispensaries at Aruvikkara, Peringammala, Kanjur, Paingottoor, Patyam, Kunnathur etc.

The department actively participated in the meetings of the Southern Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratory and also in the trainings for control of Avian Flu, organized by Government of India.

Print and Electronic media were utilized to the maximum extent by the Department, for high lighting the departmental activities. The National Seminar organized by the department at Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals, Palode and the conference of the Animal Husbandry Directors and other senior officers of the South Indian States, hosted by the department, are also memorable events.

The department enthusiastically participated in the discussions with the Union Agricultural Minister, in connection with the implementation of the 'Vidarbha Package' for rehabilitation of the families of farmers committed suicide and in the Task Force meetings for the XIth plan.

We could handle the "Disease outbreaks" occurred in the state on a war footing basis and could bring the diseases such as Anthrax, Swine fever etc. under full control.

The department had a very good association with

the professional and service associations during the year 2006. Convening of higher DPC, Promotion of Senior Officers, declaration of probation of Veterinary Surgeons (which was a long pending issue), publishing the gradation list of Livestock Inspectors, timely promotion of Assistant Field Officers etc. are some of the important achievements in the area of administration.

A few other programmes which are ready for launching in the state, include raising the IAH & VB, Palode to GMP standards, strengthening of the LPIO laboratory so as to achieve NABL accreditation, commencing the functioning of LMTC, Kottiyam, District Level Livestock Show ("JIVA - 2007") at Kollam, state level media workshop ("Askarakkootttam") at Trivandrum and Animal Husbandry Investor Meet ("AIM - 2007") at Ernakulam etc. With the above mentioned activities, involving participation of thousands of public as well as the departmental staff, the department is proceeding fast, with firm foot steps.

Challenges:

A few issues, which seem to be real challenges, are also before us. They are :-

- (i) frequently occurring disease outbreaks in the state
- (ii) implementation of 'Vidarbha Package', in a time bound manner
- (iii) task of attaining self sufficiency in milk, meat and egg

But we have to show that no challenge is too great for us. This is necessary to justify the huge investment we have made in terms of manpower, time and resources. We need to aspire to reach to national standards in our operations and inculcate a strong professional culture to achieve over targets. Let us transfer the benefits of technology to our farmer friends as a record of their year's long faith and loyalty to us. This calls for over enthusiastic participation to move ahead. I am sure, each and every one of us would rise to the occasion to transform our dreams to reality.

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