

2.5. Animal Husbandry

Animal husbandry has become a major component of agriculture, which is currently sustaining the livelihood of the rural households. Livestock rearing being 'a way of life' in rural areas and with more than 50% of the people relying on the above activities, it forms the backbone of the rural economy. Livestock production has been growing faster than any other agricultural sub-sector, and it is predicted that by 2020 livestock will account for more than half of the total global agricultural output in fiscal terms. Further to attain the rate of 4 per cent in the agriculture sector as envisaged in the Eleventh plan, the development and growth in the livestock sector becomes more essential. In Tamil Nadu, the contribution of livestock sector to the gross state domestic product is immense and between 1980-81 and 2002-03, the share of livestock sector has increased from 4.82 per cent to 5.37 per cent to the gross domestic product and from 13.88 per cent to 26.51 per cent to the agriculture sector. The State has a total population of the livestock of 249.42 lakh and has a poultry population of 865.91 lakh.

With the sustained efforts of the department in implementing various programmes with judicious utilization of animal and natural resources in an eco-balanced way, the estimated milk production, which was 35.24 lakh metric tonnes during 1993-1994, has increased to 55.86 lakh metric tonnes during 2007-2008. During the same period, the estimated egg production has increased from 2919 million numbers to 8394 million numbers, meat production (including Broiler Meat) has increased from 41.82 million kgs. to 398.137 million kgs. This has led to a per capita availability of 233 grams of milk per day and 128 numbers of eggs per annum. With increased thrust to this sector, it will not only be capable of meeting basic demands of the rapidly growing population but it will also help in comprehensive socio-economic transformation of rural people.

The thrust areas identified are:

- Bringing the landless labourers and marginal farmers into the fold of organized livestock rearing
- Strengthening of veterinary delivery system- intensification of door delivery system of veterinary services

- Improving the capability of all frozen semen production stations
- Increasing the fodder availability in the state
- Strengthening of extension services
- Providing marketing access and improving cold chain
- Improving the Diagnostic services by upgradation of Animal Disease Intelligence Units and Poultry Disease Diagnostic Labs to Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) standards.

The Programmes now in implementation are as follows:

Veterinary Services and Animal Health

Livestock Protection Scheme

For the benefit of more than 2.49 crores of livestock and 8.65 crores of Poultry in the State an innovative scheme viz: 'Livestock Protection Scheme' was first inaugurated on 18.01.2000. The Scheme was programmed to render service to the farmers in remote villages where veterinary institutions are inadequate. During the implementation of these camps Medical, Surgical, Gynecological, infertility treatments, Artificial Insemination, Pregnancy verification, Castration, Deworming, Preventive vaccination etc. are being carried out. Besides exhibitions are conducted on Animal Husbandry activities and Fodder cultivation. The programme will be continued during 2009-10 also.

National Agricultural Development Programme (NADP)/Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)

Under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, which is a new state plan scheme meant for a holistic improvement in the Agriculture and Allied sectors, it is proposed to provide assistance for the improvement in fodder production, genetic upgradation of cattle and buffaloes, enhancement of milk production, enlarging raw material base for leather industry, improving livestock health, poultry development etc.

Veterinary Sub-Centres

There are 1829 Sub-Centres functioning in various parts of the State, headed by Livestock Inspectors. A sum of Rs. 72.39 lakh has been proposed in the year 2009-10.

NABARD assisted scheme for providing Infrastructure Facilities under Tamil Nadu Veterinary Infrastructure Improvement Project

Many veterinary institutions in the State were functioning without adequate and proper infrastructure facilities, leading to non-delivery of quality veterinary services to the public. Improved infrastructure will provide improved veterinary services, contributing to reduction in the incidence of animal diseases, thereby increasing the overall productivity, which can contribute significantly to rural development. Therefore with an ultimate aim of rural development, the Department's infrastructure is being developed with assistance from NABARD Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).

Cattle and Buffalo Development

Improving Livestock Fodder Management for Tank irrigated areas and Non-Tank irrigated areas under IAMWARM Project

World Bank assisted Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agricultural Modernisation and Water-Bodies Restoration and Management project involving various Departments is to be implemented in the State from 2007 to 2013 for a period of 6 years. The main aim of the project is to improve the productivity per unit of water in agriculture and allied activities and enhance the farm income ultimately. For animal husbandry component, the World Bank has allotted Rs.3938 lakh for implementing various schemes in the 63 sub-basins during the project period.

During the year 2008-09, a sum of Rs.632.20 lakh is provided for improving Livestock Fodder Management for Tank irrigated areas and non/tank irrigated areas under IAMWARM Project and a sum of Rs. 2.60 lakh is provided for Establishment of Irrigated Agriculture Modernization and Water Bodies Restoration and Management Cell and Capacity Building under IAMWARM Project. An amount of Rs.0.28 lakh is proposed for the year 2009-10.

Strengthening of Statistical Cell

A statistical cell has been established in the Directorate for conducting Sample Survey for estimating the production of milk, meat and egg in the State. This is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme shared equally between the State and Central Government. A sum of Rs. 16.78 lakh has been provided for the year

2008-2009 as State Share. The scheme will continue in the year 2009-10 with an outlay of Rs.35.38 lakh.

Supply of Chaff Cutter to Self Help Groups

An amount of Rs.6 lakh has been provided for supply of Chaff cutters to 60 Self Help Groups in various districts during 2008-09. The scheme will be continued during 2009-10.

Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP)

Veterinary Dispensaries

The Veterinary Dispensaries opened in the colonies where, people belonging to Scheduled Caste are living were brought under Scheduled Caste Sub Plan. A sum of Rs.93.85 lakh has been made to meet the ongoing expenditure during 2009-10.

Upgrading Veterinary Hospitals as Clinician Centres

Veterinary Hospitals were upgraded as Clinician Centres in a phased manner to provide better Veterinary Services. The Veterinary Hospital, Polur in Tiruvannamalai Dist. located in S.C. area was brought under Scheduled Caste Sub Plan. A sum of Rs. 7.77 lakh has been proposed for the year 2009-10.

Mobile Veterinary Units

At present 55 Mobile Veterinary Units provide Health Cover to Livestock and Poultry in the remote villages. The Mobile Veterinary Units covering the Scheduled Caste colonies were brought under Scheduled Caste Sub Plan. A sum of Rs.26.60 lakh is proposed for the year 2009-10.

Hill Area Development Programme

The Nilgiris District occupies a unique position as a hill station and hilly terrain. For the upliftment of the people of this area, Hill Area Development Programme is being implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Programme. The programme will be implemented during 2009-10 also.

Western Ghat Development Programme

Establishment of Veterinary Institutions under Western Ghat Development Programme

For the benefit of people living in Western Ghat Development Districts, beneficiary oriented programmes and infrastructure development programmes have been proposed. A sum of Rs.0.05 lakh has been proposed for the year 2009-10.

Plan Outlay for 2009-10

Totally for Animal Husbandry sector, an amount of Rs. 15.79 crore is approved for the year 2009-10. Of this, an outlay of Rs. 0.77 crore is set apart for Scheduled Caste Sub Plan.