

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND POULTRY

(Item No.4)

01. Animal Husbandry occupies an important place in State economy as it provides remunerative and regular occupation due to regular income from livestock and poultry. The State Government have been instrumental in bringing about improvement in the State through implementation of schemes on cattle breeding, animal health cover, fodder development, animal husbandry extension, education and training. The salient features on Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Poultry are given below:

Animal Husbandry

02. The cattle and buffalo population in Tamil Nadu as per 1989 Livestock Census and the projected population for 1995 based on normal growth rate is as follows:

	Total Population		Breedable Population	
	1989	1995	(Crores) 1989	1995
Cattle	0.94	0.86	0.32	0.29
Buffalo	0.31	0.31	0.16	0.15

The total milk production which was 34 lakh tonnes during 1989-90 increased to 37.90 lakh tonnes in 1995-96. The egg and meat production in 1995-96 is 304.8 Crore eggs, and 40267.40 MT of meat respectively. This indicates the extent of animal husbandry importance in the rural economy of the State.

03. Apart from the cattle development programme, the Department has undertaken the following activities: Sheep Development, Goat Development, Piggery Development, Poultry Development, Rabbit Development, and Fodder Development. The Animal Husbandry Department is implementing the following beneficiary oriented schemes for alleviation of poverty. The farmers are encouraged to establish sheep, dairy, piggery units and calf rearing. Financial subsidy is also make the enterprise economically viable. These benefits are extended under programmes viz:- Special Central assistance, Integrated Tribal Development Programme, Hill Area Development Programme, Western Ghat Development Programme. In order to provide sustainable livestock production, increased milk production and increased income of livestock owners, the Government is implementing the following schemes with external assistance.

1. Livestock development under Tamil Nadu Agricultural Development Project with World Bank Assistance.
2. Agricultural Human Resources Development Project in the Animal Husbandry Sector Assisted by World Bank.
3. European Commission assisted Sheep Development Project.
4. DANIDA assisted Livestock Development Project.

Dairying

04. Dairy development programmes are being implemented through a network of milk producers co-operatives designed on the Anand model of Cooperatives. The institutional frame has a three tier structure with the Primary Milk Co-operative Producers' Societies at the base (village) level, Union of Milk Producers' Co-operative Societies at the (District) Middle level and Federation of District Co-operative Milk Producers' Union at the Apex (State) level. The major activities undertaken by the Dairy Development Department through the dairy cooperatives are as follows:-

Provision of Veterinary health cover to animals owned by the members of milk co-operatives, implementation of Artificial Insemination Programme, supply of balanced cattle feed and induction of farmers to modern animal husbandry practices. Provision of necessary infrastructure for undertaking on a large scale procurement, processing and marketing of milk. The commercial activities of procurement, processing and marketing of milk, and milk products are handled by the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation (AAVIN). This Federation is also implementing the dairy development activities in 17 districts under Operation Flood Programme with funds provided by National Dairy Development Board. As on 31.3.96, there are 10554 Primary Milk Producers' Co-operative Societies in 17 district level Milk Unions with 27.30 lakhs of members. In 1995-96, societies procured 18.25 lakh litres of milk per day. 19 dairies, with 42 chilling centres provide basic milk processing facilities.

05. Some special programmes such as Western Ghats Development Programme, Hill Area Development Programme, Integrated Rural Development Programme, Drought Prone Area Programme, Adi Dravidar Welfare Schemes, etc., are also implemented by the Dairy Development Department from the funds received through respective financing agencies.

06. Another function of the Dairy Development Department is the organisation and registration of co-operative societies, supervision and control of all Milk Co-operatives, District Milk Producers' Co-operative Unions and Tamil Nadu Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation. The co-operative Milk Producers' Societies are being formed at village level. In these societies, only milk producers are enrolled as members. Milk produced by these members is collected and payments are made to them on quality basis, after testing the milk supplied by each member individually and payments made as per approved rates. The animals owned by the producers members are provided with animal health cover at the door steps of the members of the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons of the Veterinary Units/ Procurement teams and input wings. Artificial Insemination facilities are also being provided on a nominal rate. Secretaries of the societies are trained in artificial insemination and first aid and each society maintains first aid box. The milk produced by the village level societies is supplied to the District Milk Producers' Unions after retaining certain quantity to meet the local demand.

Poultry Development

07. The Animal Husbandry Department is maintaining 26 Poultry Extension Centres and 2 Chick hatcheries for production and rearing of pure white leghorn birds. The Poultry Extension Centres also function as demonstration centres for the benefit of farmers. The birds reared at these centres are sold to local farmers. To conserve the native breed of poultry, breeding of this breed is undertaken at Poultry Farm, Kattupakkam and District Livestock Farm, Hosur. Two Poultry Disease Diagnostic Laboratories at Erode and Andalurgate in Salem District are functioning to monitor and Control the incidence of poultry diseases in the area to help farmers.

Veterinary Infrastructures:

08. There are large number of veterinary institutions in the State. Those are:-

i) Veterinary Sub-Centres	:	2147
ii) Veterinary Dispensaries	:	765
iii) Veterinary Hospitals	:	94
iv) Clinician Centres	:	21
v) Polyclinics	:	8
vi) Animal disease intelligence units	:	14
vii) Mobile Veterinary Units (Panchayat Union level - 382)	:	436

This may be noted that 382 mobile veterinary dispensaries are functioning at the rate of one in each Panchayat Union utilising the services of Extension Officer (Animal Husbandry). There are 183 registered slaughter houses, which are functioning under the control of local bodies. The Animal Husbandry Department, however, conducts meat inspection in these slaughter houses.

Legal provisions:

09. The Tamil Nadu Panchayat Act, 1994 has the following sections pertaining to Animal Husbandry activities:-

Section 111 (e) & (f) permits the Village Panchayats to make such provisions for carrying out the requirements of the Panchayat Village in respect of "The opening and maintenance of public landing places, halting places and cart stands and of public cattle shed." "The opening and maintenance of public slaughter houses."

It is the duty of the Panchayat Union Council to make reasonable provision for carrying out requirements of the Panchayat Union in respect of veterinary relief (Section 112(h). Further section 113 empowers the Panchayat Union Council for the execution of National Extension service Scheme (N.E.S.S.) for Animal Husbandry as may be specified by the Government. Section 156 and 157 deal with slaughter houses. Village Panchayat may provide places for use as public slaughter houses and charge rents and fees for their use (Section 156). Government shall have powers to make rules for (a) prohibiting or regulating slaughter, cutting up or skinning of animals at places other than public slaughter house, (b) licensing persons to slaughter animals for sale to public, (c) inspection of slaughter house and payment of remuneration to officers (Section 157).

Under Section 245 (1) Schedule II Penalties provisions have been spelt out. Section 157 (a) Slaughtering, cutting or skinning of animals outside public slaughter house in contravention of rules (Penalty may be imposed at Rs.200/-, b) Slaughtering animals for sales without licence or contrary to license (Penalty may be imposed Rs.20/-).

10. In the above background, the following entrustment of powers are recommended for the rural local bodies.

I. VILLAGE PANCHAYAT

<i>ACTIVITY</i> (1)	<i>ENTRUSTMENT OF POWERS</i> (2)
1. Development of Livestock.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote steps for better care of Livestock and Poultry. 2. Conduct of Livestock and Poultry Show in Panchayat Village. 3. Assist in supervising the functioning of RLU and AI Centres and report deficiencies to Panchayat Union. 4. Report the out break of disease and epidemics to AD (AH) and PUC AD (AH). 5. Supervise and monitor the functioning of slaughter houses in its area; register those and maintain proper sanitary conditions. 6. Check the functioning of mobile veterinary clinics, veterinary sub centres and dispensaries in its area and report problems to Panchayat Union Council.
2. Fodder Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish and maintain village fodder farm in the community grazing area, and allocate the Community land for fodder production, in association with dairy co-operatives. 2. Control regulate and charge in the community grazing and pasture lands. 3. Build a local fodder bank and organise the distribution of fodder during droughts and scarcity situation. 4. Undertake the distribution of fodder seeds and slips in the villages.

<i>(1)</i>	<i>(2)</i>
3. Dairy Development	1. Facilitate in organising and functioning of producers' co-operative societies and milk collection centres.
4. Poultry Development.	1. Facilitate in the development of poultry in the village.

II. PANCHAYAT UNION

<i>ACTIVITY</i> <i>(1)</i>	<i>ENTRUSTMENT OF POWERS</i> <i>(2)</i>
1. Development of Livestock and Veterinary services	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set up new Veterinary Sub-Centres and maintain existing sub centres for veterinary services and livestock development as per the norms prescribed by National Commission for Agriculture besides the local requirement. 2. Distribution of quality livestock seed material to beneficiaries under various programmes and propagating improved breed of livestock among farmers. 3. Assess the need and formulate projects for the establishment, improvement and maintenance of breeding farms for cattle. 4. Granting licence for private breeding centres and hatcheries. 5. Maintenance of slaughter houses through the Village Panchayats. 6. Supervising the functioning of veterinary services in the Panchayat Union Council, and review of Veterinary Care and control of diseases and epidemics in Panchayat Union area.
2. Fodder Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organise training programmes for fodder production and provide financial assistance and undertake supply of improved variety of fodder seeds. 2. Supply of fodder during droughts, and scarcity periods.
3. Dairy Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assist in the development/opening of new milk routes for milk collection. 2. Encouraging milk producers to set up milk chilling centres, cattle feed plants and dairy factory.
4. Poultry Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organise training to the Poultry farmers, the supply of poultry feed.

III. DISTRICT PANCHAYAT

<i>ACTIVITY</i> <i>(1)</i>	<i>ENTRUSTMENT OF POWERS</i> <i>(2)</i>
1. Planning and Development of Livestock Veterinary	1. Planning, Organising an annual conference of farmers, research and extension personnel to take stock of livestock development problems and prospects in the districts - Draw up Perspective Plan for Livestock development.

<i>(1)</i>	<i>(2)</i>
	2. Conduct periodic (once in 3 months) review of livestock development schemes/programmes implemented in the district through the Standing Committee on Agriculture. Joint/Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry will attend such review.
2. Dairy Development.	1. To monitor the programmes relating to veterinary health cover to animals.
3. Poultry Development.	1. To facilitate and review the Poultry breeding activities undertaken at the District level. 2. To review the functioning of Tamil Nadu Poultry Development Corporation Units and schemes in the District.

Administrative Implication

10. The District Administration of the Animal Husbandry Department is looked after by the Regional Joint Directors. Consequent on the proposed entrustment of powers to rural local bodies, the staff attached to the respective mobile veterinary clinics and veterinary sub-centre will be under the control of Panchayat Unions. The staff may continue as Government Servants and may be deputed to Panchayat Unions. Extension Officer (AH) and Block Development Officer will have technical and administrative control powers over the staff. Various scheme implementation activities may be transferred to Panchayat Union. Thus, some of the staff involved in the implementation of beneficiary oriented schemes should be transferred on deputation to Panchayat Union Council. The Directorate of Animal Husbandry will mainly provide technical guidance to the District Panchayat Unions, besides drawing up perspective plan and strategy for livestock upgradation for the State.

Financial Implications

11. Funds needed for the beneficiary oriented schemes may be transferred to Panchayat Unions. Necessary administrative costs for operating such schemes, Government grants to meet the establishment charges, operational and other expenses of Veterinary Sub-Centres be released to Panchayat Union Council as grants by the State Government. Under Integrated Rural Development Programme, Government have provided subsidy to the individuals for getting milch animals. In 1995-96, the budget provision for implementation of such scheme was as follows: (a) Special Central Assistance for Adi Dravidas Rs. 150 lakhs and (b) Integrated Tribal Development Plan for tribals Rs. 24.13 lakhs.

Legal Implications:

12. Tamil Nadu Public Health Act and Tamil Nadu Panchayat Act may be amended and necessary notifications issued to empower the Village Panchayats to register all public and private slaughter houses and veterinary diagnostic centres and collect appropriate fees.