

ANIMAL HUSBANDARY

The main functions of the Department of AH&VS are to provide Veterinary health care to the livestock and poultry population and augmenting the production of milk, meat & eggs through breed improvement, training and extension activities. The programmes of the department are implemented through the different plan schemes. The various activities of the Department as under:

Expansion of Animal Health Programme:

The islands are free from many dreaded infections and contagious diseases of livestock such as Rabies, Anthrax, Rindpest and Foot & Mouth Disease. Govt. Of India and O.I.E Paris have also recognized the continuous disease free status of this territory by declaring it free from Rindepest from May 1994. The department provides veterinary health care through a network of Veterinary Hospitals, Veterinary Dispensaries & Sub Dispensaries spread over the entire territory which has increased from 57 institutions at the end of the 8th Plan period to 68 as on date. During the 9th plan a Veterinary Polyclinic and a Disease Diagnostic facility for Disease monitoring, forecasting and control were introduced. During the 10th Plan period a modern Veterinary Hospital Building has been inaugurated at Port Blair for providing specialized Veterinary treatment.

The other important programmes under the scheme are:

- Expansion of Mobile Veterinary Dispensaries to remote areas.
- Strengthening and expanding the Veterinary health care facilities through Veterinary Institutions and maintenance of A&N Islands as Disease free zone.
- Providing regular Swine fever vaccination in the Nicobar District.

Expansion for Livestock Development Programme: -

Under this programme the local nondescript cattle are upgraded through artificial insemination using frozen semen of exotic bulls, to augment the milk production. During the 9th Plan a liquid Nitrogen Plant was established for ensuring uninterrupted supply of LN2 for maintaining cold chains. The Artificial Insemination which were only about 1200 Per annum in 1997 rose to 5500 per annum by 2001 and the number of crossbred calves born increased to 3000 per annum. During 2002-2003 the Artificial Insemination figures exceeded 6500. Milk production has increased from 17.65 thousand tons per annum in 1992 to 25.62 thousand tons in 2002-2003 and the average per capita consumption of milk per day is 167 gms per day. During the 10th plan new motivational programmes have been taken up such as calf rearing scheme, Elite cow insurance programme apart from inducting part-time volunteers for Artificial Insemination and castration in remote areas by providing them stipend and incentives.

Expansion of Animal Husbandry Programme:-

a) Poultry Development Programme:-

Under this programme the department is providing practical training through the departmental poultry demonstration farms, free vaccination & health care to the poultry farmers, apart from supplying day old chicks of Broiler & larger varieties to the interested poultry farmers. By 2001 about 200 private commercial poultry farms have come up and the islands have become self sufficient in poultry meat production. The total egg production was 560.8 lakhs in 2002 and the per capita consumption per year came to 135 eggs . During the 10th plan the department has taken up a major programme of supplying and popularizing high yielding varieties of Backyard poultry egg and meat production especially in rural areas. Apart from this quail, turkey and ducks will also be popularized in these islands.

b) Piggery Development Programme: -

Piggery is the most popular Animal Husbandry Venture in the tribal areas and the department is maintaining 5 pig demonstration farms to provide large white Yorkshire pigs for upgrading the indigenous pigs. A piggery farm has been established in the North Andaman area and with this pig keeping has become popular among the non-tribal population also. During the 10th plan the programme of supplying exotic pigs to farmers is being continued and a new scheme of insurance of pigs belonging to tribals has been taken up apart from providing practical training in pig keeping.

c) Goat Development Programme:

During the 9th Plan Malabari goats were popularized among farmers and tribals by supplying Malabari goats and bucks. Breeding facilities were provided through Malabari bucks maintained at the departmental institutions. The department plans to select evaluate and propagate for breeding of native terresa boats at the departmental farms.

Expansion of Fodder Development Programme:

During the 9th plan the department had taken up the programme of developing fodder land in panchayats and fodder land has been developed in 39 panchayats. During the 10th plan, besides extending the programme to other panchayats, fodder seed production farm, developing grazing land, establishing Silvi Pastural System and fodder training cum extension programme as well as free supply of fodder seeds and cutting will be taken up.

Apart from the above programmes the department is also taking up extension and continuous training programmes in the different villages to popularize Animal Husbandry as a venture for augmenting milk, meat and egg production and to increase the rural employment potential in these islands.