



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Agriculture (AH) Department – State Breeding Policy 2018 – approved – Orders issued

AGRICULTURE (AHF) DEPARTMENT

G.O (Rt) No.459/2018/AHD

Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 29.10.2018

Read: 1. G.O (MS)No.98/08/AD dated 13/06/2008
2. G.O (Rt) No.806/09/AD dated 27/05/2009
3. Letter No.GM/1645/2003/Vol.2/1141 dated 19.04.2018 from the Managing Director,
Kerala Livestock Development Board.

ORDER

Cattle Breeding Policy of the State of Kerala was last modified in 2008 as per G.O read as 1st paper above. The dynamics of cattle population indicates that the number of cattle had decreased from 21,22,000 in 2003 to 17,40,000 in 2007 and to 13,29,000 in 2012. In the same period, the total female population had declined from 16,00,000 to 14,79,000 and to 11,15,000 during 2012. The buffalo population, though declined from 65,000 in 2003 to 58,000 in 2007, has shown an increasing trend to 1,02,000 in 2012. The successive quinquennial livestock census and periodical sample surveys in Kerala have revealed a decline in the total number of bovines and this decline has also been registered in the number of cross bred cows since 2003 – 07.

Associated with the decline in bovine population the total milk production has also declined. The total milk production decreased from 27.91 lakh MT in the year 2012 – 13 to 25.20 lakh MT in the year 2016 – 17. The sample survey estimates and the results of the Field Performance Recording carried out as part of the Progeny Testing Scheme in Kerala indicate a continued increase in the lactation yield of cows. However, the declining profitability from dairying due to the increasing cost of feed and low availability of fodder are the major reasons for the declining population resulting in a reduction of milk production in the State. The cost of agricultural labour is increasing and is presently higher than that of a dairy household keeping even up to 5

crossbred cows yielding around 10 – 15 litres of milk. This might disassociate many marginal farmers from dairying because of better earning from alternate employment opportunities at reduced risk. Hence the productivity enhancement at a faster pace is inevitable for checking the dwindling bovine population of the State and resultant decline in milk production.

A National Level Review Workshop was arranged during May 2017, in which breeding experts from various institutions in the country also participated. The recommendations that emanated from the discussions on the first day were presented to a group comprising of the leaders of the farmers' associations, farmers' organizations, milk society representatives, progressive farmers in the State etc., and their views were also heard and considered before finalization of the recommendations. Based on the recommendations of the workshop, it was felt necessary to modify the Cattle Breeding Policy of the State for meeting the current challenges in dairy sector.

The recommendations were further examined by the State Level Regulatory Authority constituted vide G.O. read as 2nd paper above to review the existing Breeding Policy in the State with the following members.

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| 1. Secretary (AH) | - | Chairman |
| 2. Director of Animal Husbandry | - | Member |
| 3. Director of Dairy Development Department | - | Member |
| 4. Managing Director, Kerala Livestock Development Board | - | Member |
| 5. A Geneticist from Kerala Agricultural University | - | Member |

After studying the recommendation of the National Seminar, the State Level Regulatory Authority finalized the revised Breeding Policy after making some technical changes in the existing Breeding Policy.

Government after having examined and discussed the draft Breeding Policy in detail with the members of the State Level Regulatory Authority, are pleased to approve the same as the Cattle Breeding Policy of the State 2018 which is appended.

APPENDIX-1

BREEDING POLICY AND PROGRAMMES – 2018

SUMMARY

The Breeding policy approved by the Government of Kerala is summarized below:

1. Only foreign breeds of Jersey and Holstein Friesian shall be continued to be used as exotic donor.
2. The level of exotic inheritance shall be limited to around 50% in the small holding population. If required, the farmers with good resources and those involved in commercial/semi commercial dairying could be provided with semen from bulls with exotic inheritance up to 75%. In all the cases, germplasm provided by Kerala Livestock Development Board alone may be used in the State and it should be under the supervision of the Director of Animal Husbandry.
3. The present Progeny Testing Programmes shall continue and more parameters like milk constituents and type characters (udder, legs, body type traits) are to be included in the bull selection process.
4. F₁ Crossbred Jersey and HF bulls have to be included in the Progeny Testing Programme. Also recommended to continue the comparative study of the milk production potentials of the bulls selected from bull mother farm and PT area along with this.
5. For next generation bull calf production, Embryo Transfer Technology, In vitro fertilization and sexed sorted semen technology shall also be used. Top 10 % of cows with respect to production, reproduction and milk constituent yield shall only be selected as donor cows for embryo production.
6. Female sex sorted semen shall be provided for the production of female calves as per the need of the farmers, without subsidy.
7. a) Semen of proven bulls with known breeding value shall be used in Premium Bull Scheme to the maximum.

b) Awareness programme for Veterinary Doctors, AI Technicians, Farmers and other technical personnel shall be organized in order to enlighten them upon the accuracy of breeding value of bulls obtained by Progeny Testing in comparison with the other methods of selection.

8. The conservation programme for indigenous breeds of the State (like Vechur) shall be undertaken. Interested farmers may also take up development and dissemination of Indian dairy breeds.
9. The existing selection and breeding programme for Malabari breed goat shall continue. It is recommended to expand the Artificial Insemination facility of Malabari goat to the entire state.
10. The conservation of Attappady goat shall continue and efforts should be taken for disseminating them in their natural habitat.
11. All AI technicians in the existing AI centers of the State shall register with the concerned licensing authority
12. New AI centers recommended jointly by the milk unions, Animal husbandry Department and Kerala Livestock Development Board after conducting feasibility study in this regard, may be given approval in accordance with the conditions of the State Cattle Breeding Policy.
13. State Government should formulate a "Feed and Fodder policy". An expert technical committee may be constituted for this purpose immediately.
14. Legislation shall be done for the testing and controlling the quality of compounded cattle feed distributed in the state.
15. For the protection of livestock health an insurance policy may be started in "Mediclaim" model throughout the State.
16. For Mastitis control, Animal Husbandry Department shall formulate and implement a "Mission Mode Project" immediately
17. A minimum of 50% calves born in the state shall be covered compulsorily under SLBP programme.
18. As a part of disease control, Animal Husbandry Department shall initiate vaccination programme against "Brucellosis", throughout the state.
19. Molecular Biotechnology shall be used in the selection of breeding bulls
20. With the cooperation of Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University the Field level applied research activities shall be formulated and implemented with respect to cattle breeding, breeding bull selection, etc.