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Dept. of Animal Production & Health,
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All Directors & Provincial Directors

Fodder & Pasture Development – Pilot Programme – 2004

Majority of the dairy farmers in Sri Lanka are either small or medium level farmers who utilize their own labour & resources. The main constraint encountered by them in dairy farming is their inability to cope up with the expenses on nutrition of the dairy animals (60 – 70% of the cost of production lies in nutrition component).

The daily diet of most of the dairy animals comprises of low quality roughage & weeds. It is a known fact that the high yielding animals do not produce to their potential and become weak if not fed to their requirements. As a remedy for this critical situation the improved pasture and fodder has been introduced. Since the yield per unit is high in this improved fodder & pasture its contribution is more in increasing milk production.

While introducing novel techniques in improving breeds for milk production parallel to that it is essential to establish high quality roughage, and made it available in abundance and to utilize them efficiently.

Therefore the Department of Animal Production and Health introduced this pilot programme as an essential component of the Dairy Development Programme for year 2004.

Under this Fodder & Pasture Development Programme, the areas where the water resource is available in Kandy, Matale, Kurunegala, Badulla, Nuwara Eliya, Kegalle and Gampaha Districts are to be identified.

- Objective
- Required roughage and fibre (pasture & fodder) to be made available in abundance throughout the year, through which milk production is increased (Daily increase in milk by 1 – 2 Litres).
 - Improve efficiency of utilization of pasture & fodder by conducting awareness programmes.
- Activities
- Rehabilitation & maintenance of two fodder nurseries in order to issue cuttings for propagation (Karandagolla & ICE Farm)
 - Establishment of CO3, Hybrid Napier nurseries (Imbulandanda & ICE Farm.).

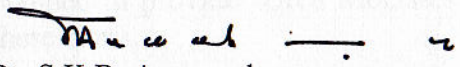
- Growing 2 lakhs of tree fodder through Farmer Managed Societies(FMS).
 - (a) Selection of FMS
 - (b) Supply inputs (seeds, fertilizer & polythene) to 200 FMSS to produced 1000 plants per FMS.
- 50 such fodder plants would be supplied to each Veterinary Office to maintain a demonstration unit in the Veterinary Office premises. Once it is established Rs.500/= would be paid to the Office to maintain it.
- Establish 400 demonstration plots (500 sq. metres) in selected FMSS. This would be done by selecting 400 farmers and furnishing inputs (barb wire) to fence the plot.
- Awareness programme on Pasture establishment and efficient utilization.
- Monitoring & follow up of the programme.

All the inputs should be supplied to Farmer Managed Societies through the Veterinary Office.

In order to facilitate co-ordination and inspection of pasture units one time payment of Rs. 5000/= fuel advance would be given to the Provincial Co-ordinator.

This programme would be implemented by the Provincial Department of Animal Production and Health in collaboration with Milco (Pvt.) Ltd. in the Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock under the guidance of National Department of Animal Production & Health.

Assistance to establishment of pasture and fodder in the areas outside the pilot project would also be given by the Animal Breeding Division of the Department of Animal Production & Health.


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