sustainable animal husbandry practices for kerala

Helping farmers/sustaining lives/ensuring food security/enriching animal resource and ...

......moving AHEAD
Animal husbandry sector in Kerala

- The sector contributes to 5% of State’s GDP
- Sector was perceived as livelihood support for income generation but now venturing into commercialization
- Most of dairy farmers owned one or two cows until recently
- 93% of cattle are crossbreds with average milk production of 9.03 litres
- Well organized cooperative network for milk marketing
- Egg, meat and milk production increasing since last few years
- Veterinary institutions in all panchayats
Sector - constraints

- Cattle population has been declining over time until few years back
- Land holdings of farmers are limited
- Growing demand supply gap in milk, meat and egg
- Decline in fodder and pasture land.
- High cost and inadequacy of feed and fodder.
Animal population- a matter of concern

![Graph showing animal population over years](image)
Production - a sigh of relief

- Milk production increased from 21.19 lakh metric tonne in 2006 to 27.77 in 2011
- Egg production increased from 119.39 crore in 2006 to 170.48 crore 2011
- Meat production increased from 1.9 lakh metric tonne in 2006 to 5.43 in 2011
Sustainable practices for Kerala

- The demand for food of animal origin increases exponentially each year.
- The constraints in AH sector increase at par with demand.
- AH practices have to be sustainable, eco friendly, more productive, farmer friendly and self reliant.
- Sustainability can be ensured by adopting technology, agro climatic zone based farming, proper bio waste disposal, integrating farming systems, backyard production etc.
Technology for sustainability

- Conventional methods of animal production does not yield much and are not sustainable.
- Technology has to be brought into different aspects of animal production.
- Cross breeding technology could replace 93% of local low producing cows with high producing cross bred cows.
- Artificial fertilization was introduced in goats of late to improve goat production.
- Locally adapted poultry breeds were introduced in Kerala for egg and meat production.
Feed technology was adopted recently like fodder pellets, densified fodder blocks etc.

Special livestock breeding programme (SLBP) a successful calf rearing programme incorporates all aspects of technology from scientific feeding to scientific breeding to reduce age at first calving and make calves mature early.

Cross breeding also increased disease occurrence but preventive technology like vaccination checks outbreaks (animal disease control project, institute of animal health & biologicals palode.)
Milk processing technology for value addition of milk like ghee, curd, paneer, ice cream etc increases returns and also sustains dairy industry.

Meat processing technology has captured urban market and Meat Products of India and Kerala State poultry development corporation produces a variety of processed meat products.
Agro climatic zone based approach

- The ecology of Kerala is varied and includes mountains, plains, sea coast, forests etc.
- The geo spatial pattern demands different systems of animal production based on the agro climatic status of the region.
- Special packages like Kuttanad and Idukki packages are tailor made to address geo specific issues to sustain animal husbandry in the region.
- Kole land development scheme is region specific.
- All departmental schemes are now region specific (state schemes, RKVY etc).
Commercialization of dairying

- To sustain dairying, commercialization has to be brought in and of late many entrepreneurs come forward with medium and large scale ventures.
- Many departmental schemes now support medium to large scale dairy farms.
- Automation and mechanization of commercial dairy ventures also increase production, maximize productivity and returns making dairy more lucrative.
Strengthening of dairy cooperatives

- Kerala has a strong network of dairy cooperatives with 3512 societies and milk collection and marketing is more organized.
- Dairy cooperatives have to be provided more infrastructure and automation of milk collection and marketing has to be encouraged.
- Incentive based dairying has to be promoted to encourage farmers and augment production.
- More farmers have to be brought under the cover of this strong network to make milk production more organized.
Bio waste disposal

- Waste disposal is major concern in Kerala and bio waste is a matter of concern.
- Bio waste from animal systems can be used as non-conventional energy and hence bio gas plants has to be encouraged.
- This will also check greenhouse gases.
- Proper bio waste disposal will prevent zoonotic diseases (diseases spreading from animals to man.)
Scientific slaughtering practice

- Food safety is a growing and serious concern now a days and this issue requires prompt attention.
- Kerala lacks scientific modern abattoirs and animal slaughtering practises employed now lacks proper check mechanisms.
- There should be stringent food safety laws which will ensure animals are slaughtered under scientific and clean conditions that the food we eat is safe.
- Kerala needs authorized slaughter houses in all corporations, municipalities and selected panchayats as the case may be where animals will be slaughtered.
Backyard poultry production

- To sustain egg production, household poultry rearing or backyard poultry rearing is widely practised in Kerala.
- Backyard rearing does not require any inputs and birds thrive in existing conditions.
- Now many novel schemes are available like “nagara priya” “grama priya” etc.
- Many successful models like “Vattankulam model” now flourish.
Small ruminant production

- Goat is most suited to Kerala conditions and the population of goats is increasing inspite of a decline in animal population.
- Goats are more prolific and require less inputs and are household milk and meat producers.
- Large scale goat production will now be popularized in the years to come.
- A new goat farm in government sector will be set up this year in Kasarkode.
Integrated farming systems

- The shrinking land and fodder availability has pushed animal production to its limits and concentrated the efforts in integrating farming systems in Kerala.
- The geographical diversity of the state also calls for integrated farming systems for sustainability and maximising production.
- Kerala has unique ecosystems like Kuttanad where integration of duck and livestock farming alongside paddy cultivation is now being practised.
- Integrated farming systems will also minimise environmental concerns whilst increasing productivity and proper bio mass utilization.
Target for 12\textsuperscript{th} year plan

- Increase production of milk and meat by 50%