



HBCA

HUMAN BEHAVIOUR CHANGE FOR ANIMALS



CASE STUDY

Understanding traditional cattle rearing in Bangladesh

ORGANISATION DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK SERVICES, BANGLADESH

COUNTRY BANGLADESH

DATE SUBMITTED 8 MARCH 2017

CONTACT Dr. MD. ABDUS SABUR

KEYWORDS CATTLE; TRADITIONAL REARING; BANGLADESH; DISASTER MANAGEMENT; WELFARE; LIVESTOCK

Project Background

After attending some regional seminars and workshops on animal welfare during my tasks with OIE, I understood the way to assess health, welfare and behaviour of animals and link of human touch and attitude to rearing animals. I took Bathan as a subject of case study. Principle considerations were:

- Affordability to conduct this study from own expenditure.
- Cooperative attitude of the public sector veterinarians posted alongside the Bathan.
- Cooperation of the farmers to work on the subject.
- Good number of animals that live in a single study plot.

The project aimed to find and improve animal welfare for cattle in the Bathan. For centuries, Bathan was untouched and unable to assess health, housing, rearing and feeding cattle and the productive outcome. Thus, this hub was taken as a case study for a HBC project, which researched relevant matters linked to cattle caring, health status, production potentials, mindset of farmers and cowherds etc. The project travelled accordingly to find the links through questionnaires and documented summaries. This project enabled to make a bridge among stakeholders firmly linked to cattle husbandry and it is sensitizing concern persons towards a comfortable and healthy environment to live cattle in the project area.

Welfare Concerns

- Human Behaviour that is the attitude towards animal husbandry.
- Housing.
- Water pumps at herds end for husbandry of milking animals, where water is most important to supply plenty.
- Balance animal feeds along with vitamin and mineral supplements to ensure better health and production.
- Quality Vaccines.

Overview of Intervention

A case study was conducted in a Bathan in Bangladesh to assess animal health status, where 20,000 cattle reared in traditional system. The study was conducted in three phases: first was observation of cattle rearing and milk collection system, second was disease assessment and third was impact analysis and dialogue. First phase shown that, cattle in the Bathan reared in free atmosphere under the ownership of some big farmers in some 35 cattle herds, each herd consist of 500 to 700 cattle, cattle are basically live on grazing, herds are located beside the river Goala, farmers use this river for bathing, watering, feeding cattle with cereals. Calf caring is unique here, newborn calves are fed mother's milk up to 45 to 50 days, and then they are served by cereals and then taken to pastures for grazing. About 70% cattle in the Bathan stay in milk production round the year and daily milk production comes about 150,000 to 200,000 liters, milking capacity ranges from 10 to 15 liters per cattle per day, milk is collected manually twice a day. Good numbers of cowherds are employed for cattle caring in the Bathan.

Second phase was assessing disease. It found that, the Bathan is epidemic with FMD and Anthrax as the country is too. Despite routine vaccination, 30 to 40% cattle become infected with FMD and death toll comes 5 to 6%. It is thought that, post vaccination FMD might cause for vaccine quality, preservation and emergence of new strains of virus from neighboring countries through cattle influx. No outbreak of Anthrax in post vaccinated animals. Routine deworming is practiced here. Among other diseases, Mastitis is frequent in 10% cattle and udder damage comes 5%, occurrence of Milk Fever is about 5 to 7% in early lactating cattle and death toll 2 to 3%. Calf health is good here. Other reproductive diseases are reported as well.

Third was impact analysis and dialogue with farmers to improve traditional rearing system to ensure better health of the cattle, because study resembled that traditional rearing negatively impact on the health and production of the cattle in the Bathan. Total rearing system needs more scientific intervention and needs more attentive veterinary services to improve health of cattle, reduce diseases, mortality due to diseases and management skills.

Achievements

Cattle owners and cowherds are impressed in knowing new horizons of animal husbandry that is Change of Human Behaviour.

Challenges

Changing traditional beliefs towards a new system is most challenging. This is linked to mindset, money, management and technology. Training and finance are also a challenge.



HUMAN BEHAVIOUR CHANGE FOR ANIMALS

Valuable information is not easily accessible to those planning and involved with projects aiming to apply HBC theories and principles. Hence, HBCA is developing a resource that provides an overview of interventions and the lessons we can learn from them. If you have a case study to submit or any enquiries about this case study, please get in touch.