



sustainable animal husbandry practices for kerala



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

Animal Husbandry Department

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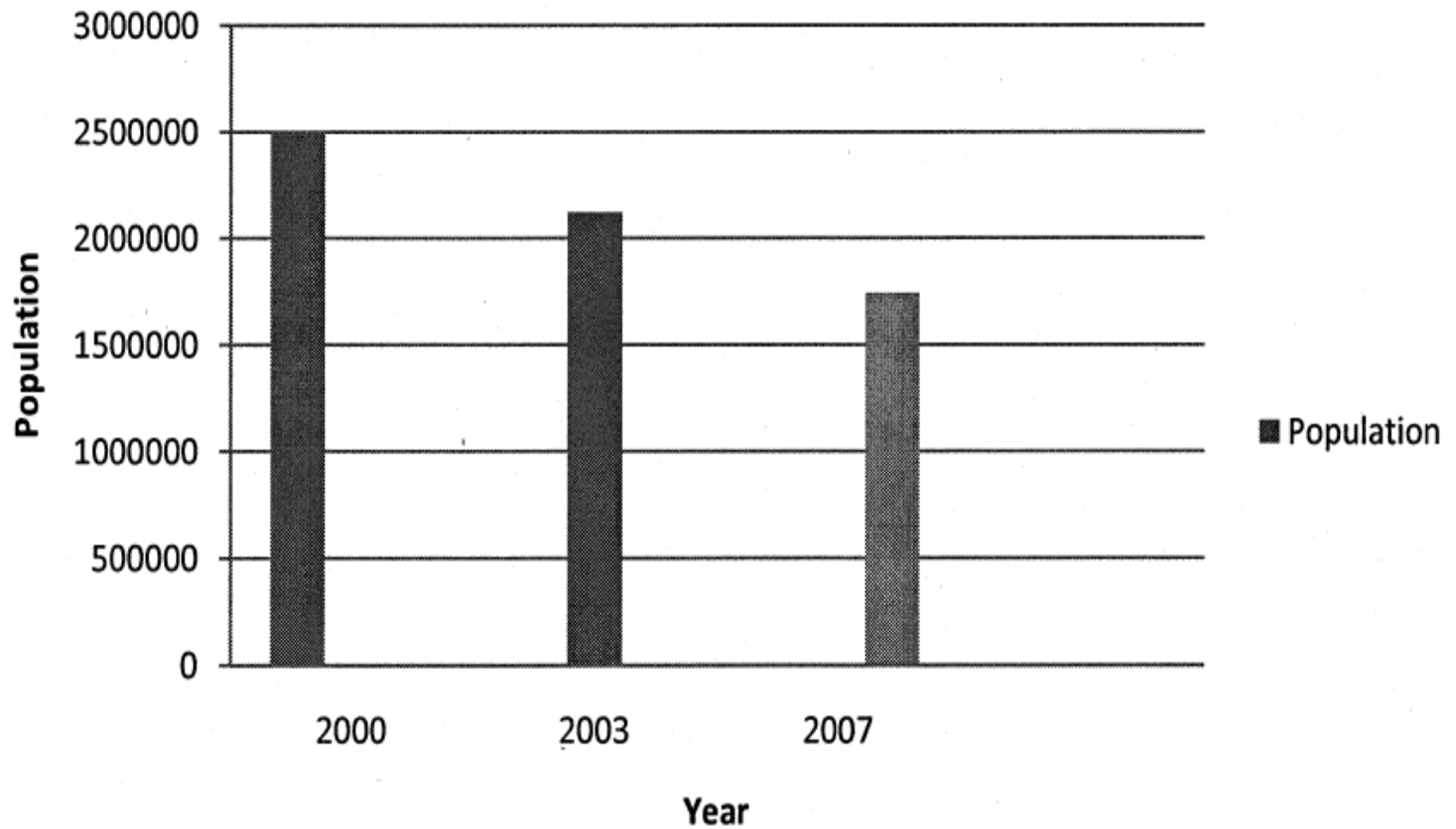
Animal husbandry sector in Kerala

- 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

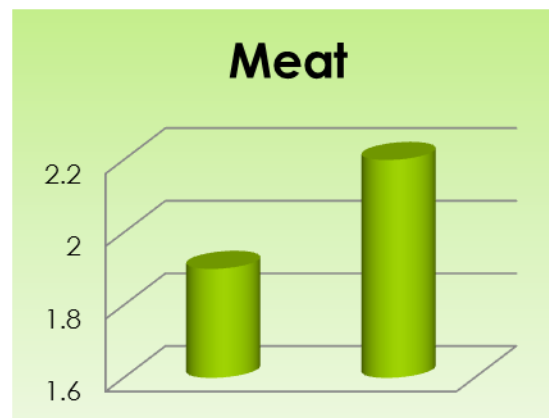
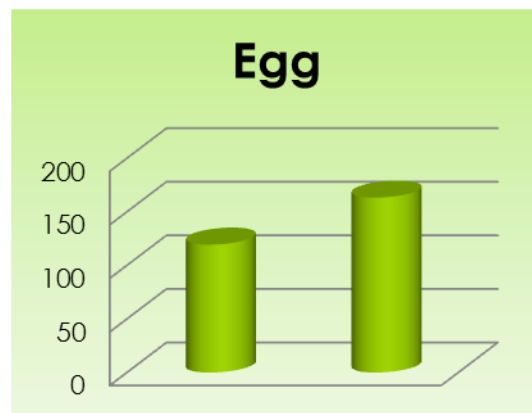
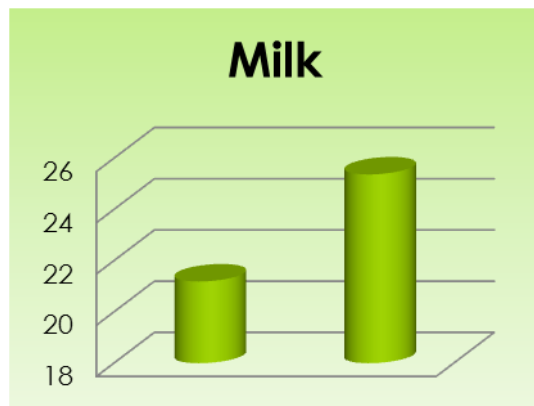
- Cattle population has been declining over time until few years back
- Land holdings of farmers are limited
- Growing demand supply gap in milk, meat and egg
- Decline in fodder and pasture land.
- High cost and inadequacy of feed and fodder.

Animal population- a matter of concern



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 green house 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 12th year plan

- Increase production of milk meat and production by 50 %