Abstract by M. A. Samad Khan - Recording System of Breeding and Production Performance of Dairy Animal in Bangladesh

There are 160 million people in Bangladesh, of which roughly 50% are literate. There are 23.5 million cattle of which 90% of them are reared by smallholder farmers under village condition, and 10% of them possessed by organized modern dairy farming system. In village condition, there is no organized identification or recording system has yet been developed. In the village condition, farmers usually identify their animal by different color, breed, size and finally by giving them different name of the renowned persons. Farmers keep their breeding records (date of estrus, date of service, expected date of delivery and date of calving) by memorizing the Bengali calendar month or lunar calendar, and some farmers keep breeding record in a pocket hand book. In organized farms, animals are usually identified either by metallic or plastic tag. Individual daily milk yield is recorded by hanging weighing balance and recorded in a herd book. For the improvement of animal recording and genetic evaluation system the following actions are being taken in a limited area of Bangladesh (i) A National project on "Breed Up-Gradation through Progeny Testing" is being taken by the Department of Livestock Services (DLS), the Government of Bangladesh. The main objectives of the project are: (a) Production of superior proven bulls and (b) Conservation and improvement of native cattle genetic resources (ii) For genetic improvement of our indigenous cattle in existing situation, Open Nucleus Breeding Scheme (ONBS, proposed by Cunningham-1981) is being taken which is most suitable system of country like Bangladesh. The following actions are needed to be taken (i) Animal identification and registration (ii) The existing data base system of above project of DLS should be extended and strengthened (iii) Enlisting production traits either on full record or on partial record basis. It can be concluded that keeping proper records/information are the keys for good management and profitable dairying.