

AB:NDP-I:BDC: 5636

June 12, 2015

Sub: To explore possibilities of using Mehsana breed for upgrading the local non-descript buffalo population in Karnataka

Dear Sir,

Mehsana breed of buffalo, a native of Mehsana and Banaskantha districts of Gujarat, is one of the best breeds of buffaloes with average lactation yield of 2400 Kgs with around 7% fat. This breed is known for following characteristics:

1. Good milk yield with lactation extending beyond 300 days
2. Good milk production efficiency per Kg body weight
3. Good heat tolerance
4. Adapted to arid climate (North Gujarat is akin to desert)
5. Excellent disease resistance
6. Smaller size with better feed convertibility
7. Good productive and reproductive performance etc.

Mehsana breed has a small advantage over Murrah Breed as it is smaller in size, has lower feed requirement but similar milk production as Murrah (better feed convertibility), is well adapted to arid climate and is easy to manage.

We feel that such a breed would therefore be suitable for small and marginal farmers with less resources and in arid areas. It could be used for upgrading non-descript buffaloes in such areas. We suggest that the state may therefore include Mehsana as one of the breeds for upgrading of non-descript buffaloes in the state's breeding policy.

A progeny testing programme for production of High Genetic Merit (HGM) Mehsana bulls is already underway in Mehsana and Banaskantha districts and HGM bulls produced under the programme are available for distribution. Alternatively, frozen semen doses from HGM bulls are also available at Semen Stations of Mehsana and Banaskantha Milk Unions.

Under these circumstances, I request you to explore the possibility of including Mehsana breed in the Breeding Policy of the state. Let me know if you need any assistance in procuring bulls/ frozen semen of Mehsana buffalo breed.

With regards,

Yours faithfully,


Executive Director

To,
Secretary to Government,
Dept. of Animal Husbandry & Fisheries,
Karnataka Government Secretariat,
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