107 Prevalence of Cattle Diseases and their Control Measures: A Study at Sherpur and Sadar Thana of Bogra District

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a) Researcher's Identity

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b) Objectives

i. To find out the prevalent cattle diseases;

ii. To determine the frequency of diseases and the number of animals affected and died in every year;

iii. To understand the types of services provided by the government, NGOs and the private practitioners to control the diseases; and

iv. To identify the problems associated with prevention and control of cattle diseases.

c) Executive summary

The study was conducted in four villages in Bogra sadar and Sherpur Thanas under Bogra district. It explores the extent of cattle diseases, their occurrence, mortality rate, control measures and implementing remedies. The respondents in each village were 100 who were selected randomly. In the villages, about half of the respondents were found below 40 years and completely illiterate. 63% of them were farmers belonging to landless and marginal groups and their income was less than Tk. 20,000.00 per annum.

Total number of livestock animals was 1832 heads, mainly buffalo, cattle, sheep and goats in the four study villages. Out of them about 60% were cattle.

In this study, as many as 91 different diseases, deformities and syndromes were identified. Out of the diseases, 48 were infectious type, 19 were non-

infectious type and the rest were mixed type of diseases. The average percentage of the population affected by various diseases, deformities and syndromes per annum was 54%, but the crude death rate was only 2.69%. This means that the diseases deplete 2.69% cattle population per year in the area.

The preventive and treatment facilities provided by the Department of Livestock Services were very poor. Production of cattle vaccines was only 8% to 10% of the total requirement. Veterinarians and field staffs were also insufficient in comparison with livestock population. Free veterinary drugs supplied by the government from the Thana Veterinary Dispensary for the period of one year could hardly fulfill its demand of 4 to 6 weeks only. In the private sector the disease control measures were found unsatisfactory.

The study revealed many constraints on cattle disease control programme. Shortage of qualified Veterinary Practitioners in the village, inadequate supply of Veterinary drugs from the Thana Veterinary Dispensary, high price of Veterinary drugs in the open market, poverty of the villagers, shortage and high price of cattle feeds, insufficient production and supply of vaccines from the Department of Livestock Services, and unawareness of the farmers about the cattle vaccination were found as the important constraints. Finally, some solutions can be suggested in report to overcome the problems and thereby help to develop the cattle resources of the country. The important suggestions are as follows:

i) Number of field staff and production of cattle vaccines should be increased;

ii) Free supply of drugs from Thana Veterinary Dispensary should be stopped;

iii) Price of veterinary drugs should be decreased with necessary subsidy;

iv) Essential veterinary drugs should be produced through established government pharmaceutical company like Essential Drug Company;

v) Field Veterinary Disease Investigation Laboratory should be established in each of the greater district;

vi) Arrangement of training should be made for the untrained Village Veterinary Practitioners;

vii) Extension facilities from the government and non-government organizations should be strengthened.

d) Conclusion

From the study on "Prevalence of Cattle Diseases and their Control Measures" it is found that the incidence of cattle diseases is high in rural areas. The frequency of attacks was found once in every three months. However, the mortality rate is very low in comparison with the incidence rate. Altogether 93 various diseases of cattle were identified. Out of them, 22 to 28 are commonly found which are mostly infectious in nature. The preventive and control measures taken by the government through the Thana level establishment of the Department of Livestock Services (DLS) are found quite inadequate in comparison with the requirements. At present total production of cattle vaccines are only 8-10% of the total requirement. DLS is the sole producer as well as occasional importer of vaccines in the country. The government Veterinarian and field staff are also insufficient compared to the number of animals in the villages. Allotment of free supply of drugs for one year can hardly fulfill the partial demand of Thana Veterinary Dispensary (TVD) for four to six weeks only. Moreover, there is an acute shortage of qualified Veterinarian or trained Veterinary Practitioners particularly at the village level. In the private sector, production of vaccines or its importation were not found. Moreover, due to non-availability of cattle vaccines or its importation were not found. Moreover, due to non-availability of cattle vaccines both in the TVD and open market, private vaccinators of different NGOs as well as Village Veterinary Practitioners can not contribute in the cattle vaccination. There are many other problems of cattle disease control, which are identified and discussed in this report. In addition a few pragmatic solutions are given to overcome those problems. Especially, the suggestions given by the Village Veterinary Practitioners and Veterinarians are more realistic and can be thought over. Considering the importance and contribution of cattle, particularly in the human nutrition, draught power for cultivation, employment generation as well as earning of foreign exchange, both the government and the private sectors should come forward to minimize the problems already mentioned. Otherwise, in the course of time, the incidence of cattle disease will be a great constraint on the development of the valuable resource in the country.