

**EVALUATION STUDY OF INTENSIVE
CATTLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS - 1972**

1. The Study

The first systematic attempt in India to improve the quality of cattle was the 'Key Village Scheme' initiated during the First Five Year Plan. The programme was invigorated with the introduction of the Intensive Cattle Development Projects (ICDPs) in 1965. Intensive Cattle Development Projects were designed to provide cattle owners a package of improved practices and envisaged intensive coverage of 1 lakh cows and buffaloes of breedable-age for achieving marked impact on milk production. The ICDPs were located in selected areas which had good potential and conditions to respond to cattle development programmes. The ICDP had a three-tier structure in which Projects, Regional Cattle Development (RCD) Blocks, (4 per project) and Stockmen Centres (25 per RCD block, each looking after 1000 cattle) were placed in the descending order of the pyramid.

The programme of ICDP had been in operation for over five years when the Evaluation Study was taken up. As the ICDPs were not expected to yield spectacular results within a short span, this study provided a picture of the working of the ICDPs in different areas in their initial phase. The study was taken up by the Programme Evaluation Organisation at the instance of the Agriculture Division of the Planning Commission in 1970-1971 with a view to suggest the required corrective actions in their strategy.

2. Objectives

- i) To study the organisational and administrative problems in the implementation of the Programme;
- ii) To examine the problems in feeding, breeding, management, disease control and extension;
- iii) To ascertain the reactions and attitudes of the livestock owners towards the Programme and to see how far this had been successful in creating confidence in cattle industry;
- iv) To assess in general the impact on the growth of animal husbandry and creation of income opportunities.

3. **Sample Size/Criteria for Selection of Sample**

It was decided to select only those projects which had completed about 2 years. Out of the total of 40 ICDPs operative at the end of March, 1970, 27 projects spread over 15 States had completed a life of two years or more. 16 of them (one from each State plus another in the Central Sector at Meerut) were selected for the Survey. The final Sample consisting of 16 Projects, 32 RCD blocks, 160 stockmen centres and 1600 cattle owners was taken by selecting 2 RCD blocks from each selected project, 5 Stockmen Centres from each chosen RCD block and 10 cattle owners from each chosen Stockmen Centre. Stockmen Centres and Cattle Owners were selected through Simple random sampling.

4. **Reference Period**

The study was conducted in two phases. The first phase was launched in August 1970 and completed in September, 1970. The field work in the second phase was started in December, 1970 and completed in May 1971. Most of the data collected under the study related to the period between 1964 and 1969.

5. **Main Findings**

1. When the Programme was taken up, a detailed model plan which delineated the required organisational structure, contents, financial requirements, etc. of the Programme was prepared. Despite this, there were wide differences in the above parameters across projects at different levels. Preliminary Surveys which were to precede the implementation of the projects were either not conducted or conducted in a haphazard way. In a few cases, the number of breedable bovines covered by a project was greater than one lakh, the upper limit prescribed under the model scheme. In some cases, the specialists, as had been visualised by the model Scheme to assist the project officers, were appointed, while, in some other cases these posts were abolished later. Only in some States, the stockmen were assisted by bull-attendants. In a few cases, it was also noted that the Project Staff had a lukewarm approach to the Programme.

2. The dilution of the programme with the abolition of certain posts, the stoppage of some schemes and cuts in central assistance after the transfer of the programme from Central Sector to State Sector substantially reduced its tempo.

3. The milk aspect seized prominence in the cross breeding programme. A good number of cattle owners in various states pointed out that the male progeny of the exotic breed was comparatively less suitable for various farm operations.

4. In majority of the selected areas, it was found that artificial insemination (A.I) had been receiving increasing appreciation, but the follow-up action in this respect was not satisfactory. In a few selected areas, it was observed that the stockmen had not been provided all the necessary equipments and ancillary requisites for A.I.work. The prevalent system for preservation and storage of semen was not of a quality one. Erratic demand for semen was another problem.

5. Under the ICDP Programme, feeding and fodder development were assigned top priority. Despite the built-in limitations like small holdings and inadequate irrigation facilities, the Programme of feeding and fodder development yielded satisfactory results. In some cases, the programme of feed mixtures performed well.

6. Regular vaccination attenuated the incidence of contagious diseases and epidemics. However, the vaccination programme in respect of foot and mouth diseases was somewhat weak because of inadequate availability of requisite vaccine.. Lack of equipments and inadequate supply of medicine was the area of concern in this regard.

7. Reliable data regarding milk production and marketing, on which an authentic assessment of the Programme would have been based, was not forthcoming.

8. For marketing, milk co-operative societies were formed in many projects but some of them were ineffective.

9. Co-ordination Committees at the State level and at the Project level were constituted in most of the areas.

6. Major Suggestions

1. For a programme like ICDP, repeated studies are useful to identify problems and to take suitable corrective action. The repeat studies should be made after every five years.

2. When the number of cattle covered by a Project exceeds one lakh, there should be a proportionate increase in staff and other inputs.

3. Necessary steps should be taken to appoint bull-attendants in states where these have not been appointed so far.

4. To encourage breeding, cattle owners should be educated about the breed and quality of the cattle.

5. Regular pregnancy and sterility camps should be organised in all the ICDP areas which should be attended by functionaries at all levels. Good quality of draught cattle needs to be ensured in abundance to meet the requirements of cattle for farm operators.

6. With the active involvement of the Agricultural Departments in the States, the fodder development programme may be integrated with the general agricultural programme.

7. Stockmen should be properly trained and adequately assisted. Sufficiency of machines and equipments would have to be ensured.

8. The base of co-ordination committees should be broadened by providing due representation to the Forest Department, Land Development Banks and producer members of Milk co-operative Societies.

8. A Publicity-cum-Information Unit may be constituted in each Project to increase the contact between the project staff and cattle owners. Also, training programmes for cattle owners should be organised on regular basis.