

Project Update: December 2008

After the completion of workshop with NARC and NARSI, the following outcomes were extracted.

Status of the cattle

1. Population declining rapidly due to following empirical facts
 - a. Cross breeding
Grazing with other species of cattle together create the chance of cross breeding
 - b. Out-migration/export
Illegal trading towards Tibet for slaughtering from Brahmin's house
 - c. Socio religious
The empirical causes of illegal trading is to Tibet is due to conventional culture. Local have to donate at least one cattle to Brahmin (Priest) to purify the house impure by the death of the family member. The number of the priest in the local area is very less. Due to this phenomenon a large number of cattle will be gathered in priest cowshed. He can not rear the whole cattle obtained through the donation from the local people. The conventional culture is that other people should not buy that donated cattle. So the Brahmin compels to sell the cattle towards Tibet. Even the old cattle are imported by the Tibetan as per the local people. Urine is used to purify the person impured during menstruation cycle.
 - d. Economic return
Due to very low output obtained from the cattle, local farmer do not like to rear a large number of cattle.
2. Variation in milk production performance
3. Positive attributes- resistance to diseases (HS, BQ)
4. Registered as world smallest breed through FAO
5. Can thrive on diverse environment (5-40°C)

Issues

1. Population status not properly known (pure breed)
According to the report of DLSO Achham, the total number of cattle is only 863
2. Lack of breeding strategies
There is no proper strategies for breeding. Due to this reason the cross breeding with other bullock is prevails.

3. Neglected breed in its own habitat

The cattle are neglected in its own habitat due to low output with compare to other milch breed.

Way Forward

1. Proper population estimation

When the number of females is less than 500 and the number of males is less than 20. The present number of the female cattle is 378. So it is categorized as rare animal. In this regard, Animal Breeding Division (ABD) convinced to survey the cattle in support of DLSO Achham.

2. In situ conservation through group (focusing on few VDCs in the natural habitat) through the following way.

- a. Awareness workshop including local farmer.
- b. Identification of project partners (local, national)
- c. Conservation pocket (Khaptad buffer zone in Achham district)
The pocket area lies near to the Khaptad national Park. NARC decided to consult with buffer zone of Khaptad National Park
- d. Achhami cattle rearing group formation in pocket area.
- e. Incentive for conservation
Incentive will be provided the cattle rearing group.
- f. To make strategy for Achhami cattle improvement and conservation

3. Priority will be given to Achham district for Achhami cattle

4. Exploration of resources (external except NARC, DLS)

5. Stakeholder interaction for further programme formulation (HIEFER, IUCN, LI_BIRD, NARC, DLS, WWF, NAST, Department of Wild Life Conservation – Buffer Zone, Biodiversity Focal Point, NGO Federation Achham)

6. Explore possibility of ex-situ conservation

7. Support (technical and materials from DLS/NARC/NGOs- coordinated programme)

8. Conservation tied up with improvement -selective breeding, feeding improvement

9. Evaluation for (positive attributes)

- a. Disease resistance
- b. Quality parameters (milk, urine, dung, hair, skin)
- c. Breed valuation study (social, economic)

10. Breed to be taken as national heritage from the national perspective

Summary

Development of Breed Focused Mega Project on Achhami Cattle (NARC/DLS/NGO)

The above-mentioned agenda will be included in the meeting of the NARC and NARSI for the sake of the conservation.

The following Scholars were present on the workshop.

Name	Institution
1. Dr.Neena Gorkhali	ABD NARC
2. Netra Prasad Osti	AMD NARC
3. Dr.Subarnaman Pradhan	BRP NARC
4. Dr.Krishna Prasad Poudyal	CPDD
5. Megha Bahadur Nepali	SOEPOD
6. Prenil K.C	PFD
7. Nanda Prasad Shrestha	DLIP
8. Raju Kandel	ABD
9. Bhola Shrestha	ABD
10. Bhojraj Pokharel	ABD
11. R.B Rana	ABD
12. R.U.Mahato	ABD
13. B.H Wagle	MCAP
14. R Bajracharya	CPDD
15. S.B.Pandey	NARSI
16. Mani Kumar Shrestha	DoLP
17. Dr.P.K Pokharel	ABD
18. Dr.S.P Neupane	ABD
19. Sujan Khanal	Reporter
20. Achut Parajuli	
21. Sudip Neupane	
22. Sanot Adhikari	
23. Surendra Wagle	Team leader (ACCAP), Nepal

