National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB)

Genetic improvement is a long term activity and Government of India has initiated a major programme from October 2000, “National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding”(NPCBB) over a period of ten years, in two phases each of five years, with an allocation of Rs 402 crore for the 1stphase. National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding envisages genetic upgradation and development of indigenous breeds on priority basis.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME:

1. to arrange delivery of vastly improved artificial insemination service at the farmers' doorstep;
2. to progressively bring under-organized breeding through artificial insemination or natural service by high quality bulls, all breedable females among cattle and buffalo within a period of 10 years;
3. to undertake breed improvement programme for indigenous cattle and buffalo breeds so as to improve their genetic qualities as well as their availability.

COMPONENTS OF THE SCHEME:

1. streamlining storage and supply of liquid nitrogen by sourcing supply from industrial gas manufacturers and setting up bulk transport and storage systems for the same;
2. introduction of quality bulls with high genetic merit;
3. promotion of private mobile A.I. service for doorstep delivery of A.I.;
4. conversion of existing stationery government centres into mobiles centres;
5. quality control and certification of bulls and services at sperm stations, semen banks and training institutions,
6. study of breeding systems in areas out of reach of A.I. and
7. institutional restructuring by way of entrusting the job of managing production and supply of genetic inputs as well as liquid nitrogen to a specialized autonomous and professional State Implementing Agency.

Progress of the Scheme:

The 1st phase of the project started in October 2000 and twenty six States are participating under the project and financial assistance the tune of Rs 233.17 crores has been released to these States till August 2005.

EXPECTED BENEFIT OF THE PROJECT:

a. Over 70% bovines are to be covered under-organised breeding programme, which means covering more than double the number covered presently.
b. Door-step delivery of AI services to improve accessibility and conception rate will be

adopted in contrast to the present system of taking the animals to stationary AI centers.
c. Some 14,000 private AI practitioners will be introduced for door step delivery of AI, over and above the existing AI workers under Government, Cooperatives and NGOs. This will generate employment and ensure wider coverage.
d. Specialised agencies will manage breeding operations on scientific lines.
e. In order to produce quality bulls to be used for breeding, large scale screening of elite animals from farmers' herds will be conducted.
f. Inferior quality bulls presently used for natural service will be phased out and replaced with pedigreed bulls.
g. Production of improved females will lead to gradual replacement of low producing animals.
h. AI network in India will be completely modernised with doubling of capacity for frozen semen production (66 million doses) and assured supply of liquid nitrogen.
i. Specific programmes will be undertaken to make available trained manpower to sustain the network.
j. Use of quality bulls and semen will result in progressive genetic improvement in the bovine population.
k. Specific action to conserve animal genetic diversity among Indian cattle and buffalo breeds and promote breeders' organisations will be undertaken in most States.
l. Although direct benefits will accrue to participating breeders only and indirect benefits of **breed improvement and higher productivity** will percolate to **resource-poor rural families at large.**