

## **Mass estrus synchronization and insemination of dairy cattle with sexed semen at Ramnagara District, Karnataka - An initiation towards mass production of elite female calves**

Southern Regional Station of ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute, Adugodi, Bengaluru in collaboration with milk co-operative societies of Ramnagara taluk organized a mass estrus synchronization and insemination of dairy cattle with sexed semen at Ramnagara district of Karnataka State on 04.03.2018 with the aim to have birth of large number of elite female calves so that the milk production can substantially be increased. The programme aims for mass estrus synchronization to inseminate 1000 cows with sexed semen to produce elite female calves at farmer's field. As an initiation, a total of healthy 155 heifers and cows in 1<sup>st</sup> lactation were selected based on body condition score were dewormed, supplemented with minerals and subjected to CIDR-GnRH estrus synchronization protocol so that all the animals are in estrus on 04.03.2018. The launching of insemination with sexed semen was done at Ramnagar on 04.03.2018 in the august presence of Sri Sri Sri Nirmalananda Swamiji; Dr. Suresh Honnappagol, Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Govt of India; Mr. Nagaraju, President, Karnataka Milk Federation; Dr. K. P. Ramesha, Head, SRS of ICAR-NDRI; Dr. P. K. Uppal and many other dignitaries. On this day a total of 125 number of animals were inseminated with sexed semen at farmer's door. The programme will be continued this year at field conditions till 1000 animals are inseminated with sexed semen.

His Holiness Sri Sri Sri Nirmalananda Swamiji stressed the need for technological intervention to improve the income of dairy farmers and complemented the organisers for bringing the modern technology of sexed semen to farmers doorstep. He also emphasised the need for proper market strategies for agricultural goods. During the inaugural address Dr. Honnapagol stressed the importance of using sexed semen at field conditions to produce elite female calves. Further, he also reiterated that in view of shrinking natural resources we need to switch over to "Technology driven dairying" from "Animal population driven dairying", in which the sexed semen can play a pivotal role in producing elite females.

Dr. K. P. Ramesha appraised the farmers about the usefulness of sexed semen particularly under the constraints of feed and fodder shortage. He further emphasised the need of production and usage of sexed semen in indigenous cattle and buffaloes to gear up and increase substantially the number of the elite females, which can be achieved by shifting the sex ratio towards female using sex sorted semen. Mr. Nagaraju while addressing the farmers indicated that this programme is an outcome of the deliberations held during the seminar on "Present Status and Future Prospects of Sexed Semen in India", which was jointly organized by Alumni Association of NDRI, Bengaluru and Karnataka Milk Federation on 24.01.2015 at Bengaluru. He said that Karnataka Milk Co-operative Societies will extend continuous support for this kind of technology transfer at farmer's

field. He thanked the SRS of ICAR-NDRI for its proactive role in dissemination of frontier technologies such as sexed semen to dairy farmers.

Dr K.P. Ramesha, Head, SRS of ICAR-NDRI, Dr. S. Jeyakumar and Dr. A. Kumaresan, Principal Scientist of Animal Reproduction from SRS of ICAR-NDRI planned the activity and were actively involved in animal selection, synchronization and insemination along with Dr. Shivashankar, Dr. Srinivas and their team from BAMUL. The programme was attended by about 8000 dairy farmers. All the farmers were supplied with printed information on sexed semen in Kannada and its advantages for wider reach of the technology.

