

## Improving the Productivity in Kangayam Cattle by using local knowledge and innovations by Natarajan



Mr.Natarajan (50) studied upto 7<sup>th</sup> standard . He is owning about 10 acres of garden land and also grazing land . He is elected Panchayat president of Karuppanvalasu Puthur . His father has been maintaining a huge herd of cattle and expert healer of animals . Mr.Natarajan has learned few practices from his father . By nature he is showing love and care for animals . He is maintaining local breeds of **kangeyam** cattle (5 cows) , dogs , chicken rearing for cock fighting . He is also maintaining *Karampasu* ( complete black colour of Kangayam cattle which is said to be very rare ) .

### **Selection of Bulls for breeding :**

Nataraj of Karuppanvalasu Puthur surveyed best kangayam bulls or male calves in the area and adopt them for improving the productivity in Kangayam cattle. He also helped breeders like Smt Soundram in acquiring quality bulls . While selecting male calves for breeding bulls he observes the characters such as small or shortness of horn, thin tail ( sannam ) , face short ( kuttai ) and legs short ( kaal sannam ) ; prominent eyes, larger hooves(kulambu ) , wider shoulder bone ( vila elumbu ) ,larger hump ( thimil ) ;they choose such calves usually from 2<sup>nd</sup> lactation animals. The animal should not have whorls or body markings except *raja suli* and *thamini suli* .

### **Increasing the milk yield upto 8 litres /day in draught animal**

He is an expert animal breeder. His knowledge in characterization of animal breeds of cattle, dog and chicken is laudable. He is maintaining 'kangayam' cattle breed for many years. It is a draught animal with milk yield of less than 2 litres of milk per day. In order to increase the milk yield he went to many farms and brought a kangayam breed heifer from Mr. Thirumoorthy, Singampatti village near Ayyalur, Dindigul District. He crossed this heifer with a bull of kangayam breed with good pedigree record of milk yield. He then obtained F1 generation heifer. Now the heifer was again crossed with the kangayam bull and obtained F2 generation heifer which now became lactating. The milk yield recorded was for 8 litres per day. The secret is breeding, feeding and management are important aspects for enhancing the productivity in animals. He is telling that he follows good feeding practice given below. Feed ration is twice a day; in each time he is feeding the following ration:

Maize flour-1/2 kilo

Paddy flour-1/2 kilo

Cotton seeds-1/2 kilo

He mixes all together and soaks them in water and feeds to animal twice a day. It costs Rs.60 / animal / day he says. He procures maize kernels and paddy and grinds them into flour in local flour mill. Paddy is ground into powder without separating rice and bran. He avoids company sold cattle feed as it develops increase the size of udder and in turn milk yield but health of the animal is affected he says. Daily about 200 gms of common salt is included in drinking water. The animals are daily taken for grazing in **korangadu** (traditional pasture land) maintained by them. He tells that the quality of milk is superior with good taste and more fat percentage and therefore quantity of ghee is more compared to cross bred animals.

He developed many herbal practices for animals.

#### **i) Kambu vedippu (For boils in teats of udder or chelities)**

He is taking 2 handful of *vellaisaranathy* leaves (*Coldenia procumbens*) and it is ground well. Then it is mixed with 1 spoon of turmeric powder and the entire mixture is applied over the teat and udder region.

#### **ii) For Mastitis**

One handful of leaves of Kovaichedi (*Coccinia indica*) are ground well and mixed with 1 spoon of lime (lime stone paste usually taken for betelvine chewing) and applied over the udder region for 3 days continuously. Before application the milk in the teat has to be sucked out and washed with hot water.

### **iii) Panchagavya for Animals Health**

He developed a formula of mixing 5 products of cow (milk, ghee, curd, urine, dung) together . He is taking 5 kilos of cow dung , 5 lit of milk , 5 lit of curd , 5 lit cow urine , 2 kilo of ghee together . In addition he adds 10 banana (poovan variety ) , sugarcane juice , tender coconut 2 litres and allows for 1 week. He is administering 200 ml-300 ml of panchagavya monthly once for general upkeep of cattle or 100 ml for sheep or goat on monthly basis . For dog affected with skin disease (oozing of body fluid from the skin and death was certain as told by doctor which was unable to treat by him ) he treated by administering 100 ml of Panchagavya for 3 days continuously. Now the dog is alive and healthy .

For poultry birds he mixes about 50 ml of Panchagavya along with feed for feeding a dozen birds. Panchagavya fed chicken lays eggs of bigger size and also the growth of the bird is quick and faster he says.

### **Social Work**

He is now elected President of his village . He organized people and mobilized peoples contribution in constructing 3 km road for Anthaman village , constructed school compound wall and toilet worth of Rs.3.5 lakhs, palnted 300 tree seedlings in the vicinity of village primary hospital .He has revived the Village Agricultural Primary Cooperative credit Society which has defunct for more than 15 years and settled the local politics among the members . He renovated the Cooperative society building . He received 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for his increased milk yield in local kangayam cattle in the cattle show organized by Government during 2009.

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