

## Preventing Sheep Mortality :

### Herbal treatment for Blue Tongue Disease developed by Mr. Ponnusamy



Mr.N.Ponnusamy is 70 years old livestock keeper. He studied upto 5th standard. For the last 40 years he is pursuing Siddha tradition of herbal treatment by contacting Siddha practitioners. When he was 10 years old boy he suffered acute pain in his legs due to wounds. He suffered for 20 days. When he was 15 years old he thought of finding a simple cure so that no person suffers due to pain caused by wounds / swellings. He was owning about 15 acres of lands which he sold for pursuing his research . At present he is owning few acres of lands and 40 sheep which is grazed by himself . Occasionally he disposes one or two sheep to meet his family expenses and to meet expenses related to his herbal research. His spirit of research in his old age is exemplary.

During rainy season, sheep farmers in Tamil Nadu face economic loss due to sudden death of sheep by a new disease called as blue tongue disease. So far no vaccination has been developed for this disease. If disease occurs to one sheep it spreads to other animals in the flock. Therefore it is a serious disease and sheep herders are unable to do anything.

Mr. Ponnuchamy is maintaining about 40 sheep in Odaipatti village near Oddanchathiram , Dindigul district. He is keeping Meichery breed of sheep . Three years before he found a sheep in his herd has been infected with blue tongue disease. The symptoms of the disease are : ulcer in the mouth, oozing of fuzz like substance from the mouth and limping while walking and sometimes in the lying position. If the animal is lifted the hairs in the body will fall off. Animals will not take feed but drink little water. In the severity of the disease the animal will die on 15th day or so. This disease is caused by a virus and mosquitoes or insects acts as vectors.

**Treatment for the diseased animal :**

Since the animal is not taking any feed the starvation may lead to death. So the animal has to administered orally the following food. Banana fruits smeared with gingelly oil for 2 to 3 times. Half a litre of oil with 20 bananas are sufficient to treat 20 sheep . By this animal will recover little. However this will not control the disease fully. Next the leaf pulp of Aloe vera has to be administered daily. Administering of Aloe vera has to be continued for more days till the animal fully recovers from this disease.

By this treatment the infected animal will recover from the disease. The disease will not spread to other animals if all animals are administered with Aloe vera as a preventive treatment. Administering Aloe vera also increases the body weight of animals as it is against all intestinal parasites. This practice is also being followed by his two neighbors and claim that no incidence of BT disease in their flocks and they administer as preventive treatment on monthly interval especially during rainy season.

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