

Ministry of Livestock Development

The government has recognised livestock as a key sector to build up the national economy. Poverty alleviation, reduction of unemployment and underemployment, attacking under nutrition, mitigating urban rural gaps, resolving gender and ethnic base economic conflicts, conservation of environment etc. are some of the areas where this sector plays an important role in resolving some of the issues. Out of the 8 MDGs identified, the livestock development programmes have direct relevance to:

1. Eradication of poverty and hunger
2. Promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment

The Ministry's programmes to promote livestock-keeping as livelihood improvement addresses the first MDG through increased incomes and farm produce for home consumption.

Also most of the operators of livestock farms are women and this has empowered women reducing gender inequalities. Livestock production has also had an indirect impact on environmental sustainability through pasture and fodder production programmes on lands subjected to soil erosion.

Pasture production is actively promoted by the DAPH through field extension programmes by the staff attached to veterinary offices spread throughout the country.

These are some of the key programmes implemented by this Ministry:

Establishment of Dairy Villages (Kirigamma)

Objectives

- Improve the socio economic status of the dairy farmers
- Increasing income generating and self employment opportunities in the dairy sector
- Promoting community and team work concept among dairy farmers
- Saving foreign exchange by reducing imports of milk products
- Promotion, and production and consumption of quality guaranteed domestically produced milk and milk products

Target: 1000 villages

Achievement: 523 (Benefiting 10,460 families)

Establishment of Breeder Farms

Objectives

Facilitate the supply of high quality dairy stock for the industry by increasing the availability of properly managed upgraded breedable animals.

Target: 1500 farms

Achievement:

174 cattle breeder farms (**Benefiting** 1740 families)

482 small scale rabbit, turkey and quail farms (**Benefiting** 482 families)

Promotion of Consumption of Liquid Milk

Objective

Save foreign exchange by reducing importation of milk products

Target: 1250 sales outlets

Achievement: 251 (Benefiting 700 families)

****All these programmes are implemented throughout the country covering all 9 provinces***