

INTAS POLIVET

Half Yearly Journal Dedicated to
Veterinary Profession and Animal Health Care

Vol. 23 (2022) No. I

Patron

H.K. Chudgar
Chairman
Intas Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Founder Editor

Dr. A.P. Mamtani

Executive Head

Vijay Teng

Chief Editor

Dr. Nitin Bhatia

Editorial Board

Dr. D.B. Patil
Dr. Gayathri Thevi Selvarajah
Dr. Harish Kumar Verma
Dr. K. Nalini Kumari
Dr. K. Vijaykumar
Dr. Kushal Konwar Sarma
Dr. Lionel James Dawson
Dr. N.M. Markendeya
Dr. Raghavendra Bhatta
Dr. Tushar Kumar Mohanty

Archiving Associate

Haridas K. Menon

Editorial Office

Intas Corporate House
Near Sola Bridge
Sarkhej Gandhinagar Road
Thaltej, Ahmedabad - 380054
Gujarat, India.
Tel. +91-79-61577464, 61577808
e-mail: editorpolivet@intaspharma.com
intaspolivet@intaspharma.com

Our Website

www.intaspolivet.com

The Vanishing Heritage

Livestock is an important source of income for the farming community, playing a significant role in Indian economy and growing continuously at compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.93 percent. Though unfortunately, in today's scenario attention towards our indigenous breeds are missing. As we all are aware, India with its repository of one-ninth of the germplasm of world's cattle breeds and all breeds of riverine buffalo is a rich resource of genetic diversity. Our share of world genetic wealth in sheep, goat, cattle and buffalo is around 7, 18, 15 and 57.83 percent respectively. But, the importance and economical value of our native breeds has not been understood properly and so, these breeds are declining at an alarming rate and a few are on the verge of extinction in their home country. On the other hand, other developing countries like Brazil have realised the true potential of our animals viz. Gir and Kankrej, taken them and are now selling our germplasm at a premium price.



A few of our major indigenous breeds are declining due to increase in agricultural mechanization and commercialization and push for increase in milk production and farmers' income. One of the example of great concern, is decline of an important dual purpose breed '**Hariana**' cattle from 6.27 million to 2.75 million (as per census). A large number of farmers were dependent on this dual breed for carrying out agriculture operations and also these breeds was extensively used for grading up the non-descript cattle mainly to improve their draught ability. Hariana is famous for its remarkable power of endurance for hot climate of tropics, resistance to tropical diseases and has low maintenance cost besides providing A₂ milk. But mechanization of agriculture, marketing problem, low milk yield, less milk fat percentage as compared to buffalo milk resulted in significant decline in population of this breed.

A key fact is that our indigenous breed can withstand environmental and climate inconsistencies. The '**Nili Ravi**' breed population has declined to 0.24 million from 0.67 million in spite of Punjab Livestock Development Board (PLDB) project to preserve them. The main reason is non-availability of typical Nili Ravi bulls and non-marketability of Nili Ravi type animals. The State Animal Husbandry Department and GADVASU is making attempts but the population is on a massive decline.

The dwindling of '**Deccani**' sheep breed due to introduction of non-wool hairy mutton sheep breeds and indiscriminate crossbreeding and intermixing among goat breeds with locals, we are losing '**Ganjam**' whose population has decline from 0.1 million to 0.06 million.

Mechanisation has deeply affected '**Zanskari**' horses which are known for their sturdiness, stamina, speed on hilly and difficult terrains, high disease resistance and surefooted animals. Similarly indigenous camel population is declining and contributing only 0.05 percent of the total livestock population.

A heart-warming case of disillusionment in the production of the '**Kadakhnath**' breed of chicken and launching of Kadakhnath App to market black chicken breed is an example of Indian poultry breeds having some desirable traits which can't be fulfilled by high egg-laying, fast-growing European and North American broiler breeds. As like this, "Save the Rajapalayam Project" and postage stamp from Indian Postal department has successfully brought the '**Rajapalayam**' breed back from the brink of extinction.

There is an urgent need to conserve and preserve our native breeds. We all as professionals need to join hands to save them from getting extinct from our motherland. We need to learn from '**Vechur Amma**' and '**Mission Punganur**', how we can preserve our prestigious germplasm from extinction.

Dr. Nitin Bhatia
Chief Editor