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No to foreign breeds, Haryana to focus on 'desi' cows

Suhkbir Siwach, TNN | Jun 4, 2015, 04:34AM IST

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CHANDIGARH: To promote 'desi' (native) cows, Haryana's BJP government has decided not to inseminate indigenous breeds of the cattle with semen of foreign breeds under the programme which has continued for the past four decades. Now, the programme will only be restricted to nondescript low yielding cattle in the state.

Animal husbandry officials admit that the farmers' craze for cross breeding was increasing due to high yield of milk, but it has created a major problem of stray cattle mainly male calves. Calves of crossbred cows are not considered good for ploughing and pulling carts and are left on the roads.

About 60% of the total 18 lakh cows have been impregnated with semen of crossbred bulls since 1970.

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The government would provide semen of Haryana's native bulls of breeds like Hariana and Sahiwal to the farmers to improve state's recognized indigenous cows. The government would also provide quality bulls of these breeds to the farmers at highly subsidized rates.

Director general of the state animal husbandry department GS Jakhar told the TOI on Wednesday that no cow of recognized indigenous breed would be inseminated with exotic/crossbred semen from now on.

A pure breed Holstein Friesian (HF) cow can yield up to 50 litres of milk a day, but the Haryana animal husbandry department has promoting cross HF and local variety of cows to check the spread of diseases. "On an average, the crossbred cows in Haryana yields about 8.9 litres milk daily in comparison to 5.6 litres of 'desi' cows. But the local cows can also have high yield if these are given balanced diet," Jakhar said.

"Deshi cow's milk is much better than of crossbred cattle as it is heart friendly and controls diabetes," he added.

A Hariana breed cow in Jassawas village of Mahendergarh district had recently yielded 19.39 litres of milk in a day. This is the highest milk yield for Hariana breed of cows so far in the state. "We bathed our cows twice a day apart from giving them nutrient-rich fodder," says Balwant Singh, owner of a Hariana breed cow.

The government has already started identifying 'desi' cows of Hariana and Sahiwal breeds which yield 6 to 8 litres of milk per day to offer cash incentives ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000 to

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