

Livestock Health & Disease Control Programme



The overall aim of the Scheme is to improve the animal health sector by way of implementation of prophylactic vaccination programmes against various diseases of livestock and poultry, capacity building, disease surveillance and strengthening of the veterinary infrastructure.

It is envisaged that implementation of the Scheme will ultimately lead to prevention & control, subsequently eradicating the diseases, increased access to veterinary services, higher productivity from animals, boosting trade in livestock, poultry, livestock and poultry products and improving the socio-economic status of farmers.



Objectives

1. To vaccinate 53.5 crore Livestock including cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats and pigs biannually against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD).
2. To vaccinate 3.9 crore Female Bovine Calves (4-8 months old) annually against Brucellosis.
3. To implement a Critical Animal Disease Control programme to eradicate PPR by 2030 by vaccinating all sheep and goats and to control Classical Swine Fever (CSF) by vaccinating the entire pig population.
4. To provide veterinary services at the farmers' doorstep through Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs).
5. To assist States/UTs for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD) by prevention & control of important livestock and poultry diseases prevalent in different States / UTs as per their priorities.

Diseases covered

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is a highly contagious viral vesicular disease of cloven-hoofed animals such as cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats and pigs etc. FMD leads to reduction in milk yield, decreased growth rate, infertility, reduced working capacity in bullocks and trade embargo in the international market. Control of FMD can be achieved by mass vaccination of susceptible livestock repeatedly at regular intervals till the incidence of the disease comes down. This will pave the way to gradual eradication of the disease from the country.

Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), also known as sheep and goat plague, is a highly contagious animal disease affecting domestic and wild small ruminants. It is caused by a virus belonging to the genus Morbillivirus, family Paramixoviridae. In case of an outbreak, the virus can infect up to 90 percent of the animal herd, and the disease kills anywhere up to 70 percent of infected animals. This component will cover the entire sheep and goat population in the country under carpet vaccination against Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), for 100% effective coverage of the entire eligible small ruminant population.

Brucellosis is a reproductive disease of cattle and buffaloes caused by bacterium *Brucella abortus*. The disease is characterized by fever, induces abortion at the last stage of pregnancy, infertility, delayed heat, interrupted lactation resulting in loss of calves, loss in production of meat and milk. Bovine brucellosis is endemic in India and appears to be on the increase in recent times, perhaps due to increased trade and rapid movement of livestock. In the absence of any treatment for Brucellosis in bovine animals, the disease can be prevented by vaccination. Control of Brucellosis can be achieved by a once-in-a-lifetime vaccination of female bovine calves (4-8 months old).

Classical Swine Fever (CSF) is a highly contagious and economically significant viral disease of pigs. The severity of the illness varies with the strain of the virus, the age of the pig, and the immune status of the herd. Acute infections, which are caused by highly virulent isolates and have a high mortality rate in native herds, are more likely to be diagnosed rapidly. CSF- CP will be implemented in the whole country with the target being 100% eligible pig population.

Mobile Veterinary Units (MVU)

- In order to increase accessibility of veterinary services at the farmers' doorstep, funds for Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs) will be provided to the States/UTs under this scheme for @ 1 MVU approximately for one lakh livestock population. These MVUs will be custom fabricated vehicles for veterinary healthcare with equipment for diagnosis, treatment & minor surgery, audio visual aids and other basic requirements for treatment of animals.
- These MVUs will provide veterinary services at the farmers' doorstep on the basis of phone calls received at the Call Centre from farmers of the respective State/UT. The MVUs need to be positioned at strategic locations in order to minimize travel time and to provide service within targeted time.

Call Centers for Farmers

A State/UT level Call Centre should also be set up / aligned with the existing Call Centre in each State/UT. The Call Centre would function as the pivot for rendering mobile veterinary services. It should receive calls from livestock rearers / animal owners and transmit them to the Veterinary Doctor at the Call Centre. The decision of directing the MVU would be based on the emergent nature of the

veterinary case as decided by the Veterinary Doctor at the Call Centre. The Call Centre should also be responsible for monitoring the movement and use of MVUs. The Call Centre should also confirm actual services rendered through the UID and mobile number of the animal owner and share the data with the State concerned.

Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases

It will have activities for vaccination against economically important diseases of livestock and backyard poultry duly prioritized by the State/UT as per the disease(s) prevalence and losses to the farmers. Due importance shall also be given to vaccination against zoonotic diseases like anthrax and rabies for which assistance shall be given to the States/UTs as per proposals received from them.

Another activity that has been prioritized is 'Control of Emergent and Exotic Diseases'. This activity includes surveillance and related activities to check ingress of exotic diseases as well as emergent / re-emergent livestock / poultry diseases. Assistance shall also be given for ring vaccination to inhibit spread of the diseases (in cases of disease outbreaks) as well as towards

payment of compensation to farmers for culling of poultry birds, elimination of infected animals, destruction of poultry feed / eggs, including operational costs.



A third activity under the ASCAD component is 'Research & Innovation, Publicity & Awareness and Training & allied activities.

While Publicity & Awareness and Training, etc. are existing activities under the extant ASCAD component, 'Research & Innovation' is a newly proposed activity. Under this it is envisaged that funds may be released to recognized private / public Institutions, other Ministries / Departments, etc. for collaborations in research & innovations / training / capacity building / crisis management and mock drills, etc.

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