

N-05/7/2024-DADF-Dept
Government of India
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying


Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
Dated: 22nd July 2024

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Guidelines for Export/Import of Bovine Germplasm (Revised January- 2024)

The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith Guidelines for Export and Import of Bovine Germplasm (Revised January 2024). It is requested that the guidelines may be given wide publicity.

This issues with the approval of competent authority.


(Dr. Bhushan Tyagi)
Joint Commissioner

Distribution:

1. Secretary, Animal Husbandry Department, All States as per list
2. Managing Directors, Milk Federation, All States as per list
3. Director, Animal Husbandry Department, All States as per list
4. General Manager, Animal Breeding, NDDB, Anand, Gujarat
5. Chief Executive Officer, Livestock Development Board/Agency. All States as per list
6. Deputy Commissioner, Dairy Development Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
7. Assistant Commissioner, Trade Unit, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi

Copy for kind information:

1. Managing Director, NDDB, Anand, Gujarat- 388001
2. Sr PPS to Secretary (AHD)/PPS to AS/ PPS to AHC /PPS to DDG (AS), DARE/ PPS to JS (C&DD)/ PPS to JS (Trade)
3. Director, NIC, DAHD – with a request for uploading Guidelines on the Website of this Department.

GUIDELINES FOR EXPORT /IMPORT OF BOVINE GERMLASM (Revised July 2024)

The import and export of the cattle/ buffalo germplasm is under the restricted list and is allowed against license(s) issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce on the recommendation of the Department of Animal Husbandry dairying & Fisheries.

Introduction of temperate dairy breeds in the country for crossbreeding indigenous non - descript cattle has been accepted for quite some time now. In pursuance to this need has been felt by a number of State Governments/ Organisations to import exotic germplasm to produce quality cross-bred animals. With the extension of the breeding programme and the artificial breeding network, a surge in demand for exotic germplasm is also expected. Accordingly, import of germplasm must be from the sires, which have been progeny tested or genomically tested and are in active use in cattle breeding.

There is a definite demand for the germplasm of Indian breeds of cattle and buffaloes in South America, South Asia and other countries. Keeping in view our responsibility towards conservation of the rich diversity, of indigenous breeds it is important to broadly identify germplasm of cattle and buffalo meant for breeding purposes and for the export.

Accordingly, it is essential to have guidelines in place for processing such applications for import and export of bovine germplasm, in order to streamline procedures and ensure efficient and transparent processing.

GUIDELINES FOR EXPORT /IMPORT OF BOVINE GERMLASM

GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPORT OF BOVINE GERMLASM:

1 Import of bovine germplasm will be permitted for breeding purpose only.

2 Eligibility of Importers

2.1 Following shall be eligible for import of germplasm:

- (a) State Animal Husbandry Departments;
- (b) State Livestock Development Boards/Agencies/ Veterinary Universities/ Milk Federations/ National Dairy Development Board/ Central Cattle Breeding Farms/ ICAR Institutes
- (c) Private Institutes/Organizations/ Registered Breeders Associations;
- (d) Individual farmers.

- 2.2 Application for Import of germplasm shall be accompanied with the following documents:
- (i) Importer shall abide with State legislation & policies for bovine breeding in letter and spirit. **Importer shall submit affidavit to DAHD.**
 - (ii) Complete genetic and production data /information, including genetic marker report with respect to the germplasm proposed to be imported.
 - (iii) The justifications for import.
 - (iv) The future roadmap for utilization of imported germplasm and AI network.
 - (v) Information on feeding ingredients and feeding schedule of the animals.
- 2.3 The import shall be based on the standard lactation yield or projected standard lactation yield based on a minimum of first six months lactation, milk fat, protein, somatic cell count (SCC) and other milk component character standards. The type evaluation shall form the integrated component of selection. Breeding value for production and type traits shall be estimated on the basis of the daughters' born in the exporting country.
- 2.4 Imported Germplasm shall have legible printed information on: Breeding Value (BV) or **Predicted Transmitting Ability (PTA)** or **Genomic Expected Breeding Value (GEBV)** or Dam's Lactation yield in case of Semen Straws and Standard Lactation yield of donor cows or GEBV of Donor Heifers or Donor Heifer's Dam's lactation yield in case of embryos.
- 2.5 Information on the germplasm proposed to be imported shall be authenticated by agencies recognised by the Government of the country (for example , USDA in case of US, CDN for Canada, INRA for France, etc.) from which the germplasm is proposed to be imported.
- 2.6 The importer permitted to import bovine germplasm must maintain records to ensure traceability of imported germplasm. Post import information from the date of import to the date of disposal shall be submitted by the importer in prescribed formats to DAHD (Annexure-I to IX). Importer should provide all the information as mentioned in the Traceability Guidelines notified by the department.
- 2.7 The guidelines formulated by **WOAH**, Codex Alimentarius and IETS shall be strictly adhered to while importing the genetic material.
- 2.8 The pre and post import quarantine measures for live animals and germplasm shall be strictly adhered in accordance with Government of India health protocols.
- 2.9 Only those agencies shall be allowed to import live bulls who are maintaining A or B graded semen stations and have a network of AI technicians in the country.

- 2.10 States/ State Livestock Development Boards, Dairy cooperatives, Veterinary Universities, National Dairy Development Board, ICAR Institutes, private institutes/ organizations/ Registered Breeders Associations, commercial dairy farms and individual farmers shall be allowed to import live dairy cows/buffaloes for the purpose of breeding.
- 2.11 Only State Livestock Development Boards/ NDDDB/ Milk Federations/ recognized IVF labs/ Registered Breeders Associations will be allowed to import embryos.
3. Traceability of imported Germplasm
- 3.1 Importer shall obtain ID and password of Bharat Pashudhan / any other platform as prescribed by Government of India before undertaking import of bovine germplasm.
- 3.2 Importer shall maintain information of imported germplasm as per annexure enclosed herewith.
- 3.3 Importer shall maintain individual animal wise traceability of imported germplasm and upload data on Bharat Pashudhan system / any other platform as prescribed by Government of India. In case of germplasm imported by NDDDB / Central Government agencies for Dairy Cooperatives/State Animal Husbandry Departments / Livestock Development Boards, in that case NDDDB / Central Government agencies shall ensure traceability of imported germplasm is maintained by Dairy Cooperatives, Livestock Development Boards /State Animal Husbandry Departments.
- 3.4 Importer shall register or ensure registration of male and female calves born, using imported germplasm.
- 3.4.1 In case of import of semen, importer shall submit request to NDDDB/ any other agency as prescribed by Government of India for obtaining bull master. Semen doses shall be supplied or sold only after obtaining bull master.
- 3.4.2 Importer shall upload data on artificial insemination performed using imported semen or upload data on artificial insemination performed through his/her AI network on Bharat Pashudhan system/ any other platform as prescribed by Government of India.
- 3.4.3 Next application for import of germplasm shall accompany with all details of semen doses used in artificial insemination and importer shall be eligible to take up next import only after submission of complete traceability report of at least 30% of the imported semen doses of last import and 80% of previous imports.
- 3.5.1 In case of semen doses supplied to IVF lab for embryo production, importer shall maintain all information as per Annexure IX

- 3.5.2 Importer shall ensure that IVF lab uploads data on Bharat Pashudhan system/ any other platform as prescribed by Government of India.
- 3.5.3 Next application for import shall accompany with all details of semen doses used in embryos production.
- 3.6.1 Importer shall maintain data on imported bulls and supply bulls to semen stations only after obtaining bull master (bull ID) from NDDDB/ any other agency as prescribed by Government of India.
- 3.6.2 Importer shall ensure that data on artificial inseminations performed using semen doses of imported bulls uploaded on Bharat Pashudhan System/ any other platform as prescribed by Government of India.
- 3.7.1 In case of import of embryos, importer shall maintain traceability as per Annexure-IX enclosed herewith.
- 3.7.2 Importer shall ensure that data on imported embryos uploaded on Bharat Pashudhan system/ any other platform as prescribed by Government of India.

4 Screening Committee:

- 4.1 A Technical screening committee constituted by DAHD will critically evaluate data submitted by the importer and breeding companies duly authenticated by the recognised Government Agency in country of export.
- 4.2 All the applications for the import of germplasm will be examined by 'Trade and Investment Matter Committee' of the Department of Animal Husbandry, and Dairying (DAHD).

5 Veterinary Certificates:

- 5.1 The imports shall be regulated as per the provision of Livestock Importation (amended) Act, 2001, and as per the health protocols/ veterinary certificates for import of cattle and buffaloes, gonads/ embryos/ semen as prescribed by DAHD and as amended from time to time.

6: Order of import:

- 6.1 Import of germplasm shall be permitted in the form of frozen semen, frozen embryos and live animals in special circumstances.

7 Standards for Import of Exotic Germplasm:

7.1 Semen:

7.1.1 Unsexed semen:

- 7.1.1.1 Semen shall be from progeny tested sires with positive sire indices/breeding values for conception rate (DPR/SCR), volume of milk and total fat and total protein.
- 7.1.1.2 Sire's daughters' average standard lactation yield shall be above 10000 kg in the case of HF and 7000 kg in the case of Jersey.
- 7.1.1.3 Sire's daughters' average milk fat shall be above 3.5% or above 350 kg for standard lactation yield in the case of HF; and above 4.5% or above 315 kg in the case of Jersey.
- 7.1.1.4 Sire's daughters' average protein % or total protein per lactation shall be above the average of the concerned breed in the exporting country
- 7.1.1.5 Sire's daughters' average somatic cell count (SCC) shall be below the prescribed limit average of the concerned breed in the exporting country or its appropriate breeding value or somatic cell score (SCS) may be considered if SCC is not available.
- 7.1.1.6 Reliability of breeding value for production characters shall be more than 80% for both HF and Jersey.
- 7.1.1.7 Sires shall have good type characters like udder and feet conformation.
- 7.1.1.8 Sire shall be free from all known **breed specific** genetic disorders including Bovine Leukocyte Adhesion Disease (BLAD), Deficiency of Uridine Monophosphate Synthase (DUMPS), Citrulinemia (Deficiency of Argininosuccinate Synthetase), Factor XI Deficiency, Complex Vertebral Malformation (CVM) and Brachyspina. Importer shall submit certificates indicating that animal from which germplasm is proposed to be imported is free from all known genetic disorders.

7.1.2: Sexed Semen

- 7.1.2.1 Sexed semen shall be from credible sources and shall meet the standards of sires given under item No. 6.1.1 or
- 7.1.2.2 Sexed semen could be from genomically tested sires meeting the following criteria:
 - (a) The sire should have positive GEBVs (Genomic Estimated Breeding Values) for total milk yield, total milk fat, total milk protein and daughters pregnancy rate/sires conception rate.
 - (b) The reliability of GEBVs for milk, fat and protein yield should be above 50% for Jersey and above 65% for HF.
 - (c) The sire should have positive GEBV for type characters like udder and feet and leg conformation.

7.1.2.3 Sire shall be free from all known **breed specific** genetic disorders as mentioned at clause No. 6.1.1.8

7.1.2.4 The percentage of error of sex shall not be more than 10% and reduction in fertility shall not be more than 10% of normal semen use.

7.2 Embryos (*in-vivo* and *in-vitro* produced):

7.2.1 Embryos from a donor cows or heifers not genomically tested, the donor cow/heifers' dam should meet the following criteria:

(a) Donor cows or heifer's dam should have the standard 1st lactation yield above 10000 kg in the case of HF and above 7000 kg in the case of Jersey.

(b) The average milk fat of the Donor cow's or heifers' dam shall be above 3.5% or 350 kg for standard 1st lactation yield in the case of HF and above 4.5% or above 315 kg in the case of Jersey.

(c) The average protein % or total protein for standard 1st lactation yield of Donor cow's or heifers' dam shall be above the average of the concerned breed in the exporting country.

(d) The average somatic cell count (SCC) of Donor cow's or heifers' dam shall be below the prescribed limit average of the concerned breed in the exporting country or its appropriate breeding value or somatic cell score (SCS) may be considered if SCC is not available.

7.2.2 Embryos from genomically tested heifers, the heifers should meet following criteria:

a) The Heifer should have positive GEBVs (Genomic Estimated Breeding Values) for total milk yield, total milk fat, total milk protein.

b) The reliability of GEBVs for milk, fat and protein yield should be above 50% for Jersey and above 65% for HF.

c) The heifer should have positive GEBV for type characters like udder and feet and leg conformation.

7.2.3 Semen of sire used for inseminating donor cow or heifer (genomically tested or non-tested) for embryo production shall meet the specifications for semen given under item 7.1.

7.2.4 The donor (cow/heifer) or genomically tested heifer shall be free from all known **breed specific** genetic disorders as mentioned at clause No.7.1.1.8

7.3 Young bulls

7.3.1 The Genomically tested young bull should meet the criteria mentioned at clause No. 7.1.2.2.

7.3.2 The young bull not having genomic breeding value should meet the following criteria:

- (a) The dam of the young bull should meet the criteria mentioned at clause No. 7.2
- (b) The sire of the young bull should meet the criteria mentioned at clause No. 7.1.1 or 7.1.2

7.3.3 The young bulls or genomically tested young bulls shall be free from all known **breed** specific genetic disorders as mentioned at clause No.7.1.1.8

7.4 Young Heifers

7.4.1 Early pregnant heifers with pregnancy not more than 4 to 5 months at shipping;

A. Donors Cows

7.4.2 Only young heifers born to dams or produced using embryos from donor cows meeting criteria mentioned at under 7.2 and by using semen of the sire meeting criteria mentioned at 6.1 shall be imported.

B: Donor Heifers

7.4.3 The heifers' dam shall meet the standards specified under 7.2 and sire shall meet the standards specified under 7.1

8 Import of germplasm of breeds of Indian origin

8.1 Donor/animal shall be true to the breed type. The purity of breed shall be tested by using appropriate techniques.

8.3. Performance of the donor/animal shall be above the elite animals of the concerned breed available in India.

8.4 Standards for Import of Frozen semen, embryos and Live Animals

8.4.1 Unsexed/sexed Semen

8.4.1.1 Semen shall be from progeny tested sires with positive sire indices/breeding values for volume of milk, fat yield and protein yield.

8.4.1.2 Sire's daughters' average standard lactation yield shall be above 5000 kgs or Sire's dam's standard lactation yield shall be above 6000 kgs.

8.4.1.3 Sire's daughters' average milk fat shall be above 4.0% or above 200 kg. or Sire's dam's milk fat shall be above 4.0% or above 240 kgs.

- 8.4.1.4 Sire's daughters' or Sire's dam's average protein % or total protein per lactation shall be above the average of the breed in the exporting country
- 8.4.1.5 Reliability of breeding value for production characters shall be more than 70%.
- 8.4.1.6 Sires shall have good type characters like udder and feet conformation.
- 8.4.1.7 Sire shall be free from all known **breed specific** genetic disorders including Bovine Leukocyte Adhesion Disease (BLAD), Deficiency of Uridine Mono-phosphate Synthase (DUMPS), Citrulinemia (Deficiency of Arginino succinate Synthetase), Factor XI Deficiency, Complex Vertebral Malformation (CVM) and Brachyspina. Importer shall submit certificates indicating that animal from which germplasm is proposed to be imported is free from all known genetic disorders.
- 8.4.1.8 The percentage of error of sex shall not be more than 10% and reduction in fertility shall not be less than 10% of normal semen used.

8.4.2 Embryos (in-vivo and in-vitro produced):

- 8.4.2.1 Embryos from donor cows or heifers (not genomically tested); the donor cow/heifer's dam should meet the following criteria:
- 8.4.2.1.1 Donor cow or heifer's dam should have the standard 1st lactation yield of 5000 kg or best lactation yield of 6000 Kgs.
- 8.4.2.1.2 The average milk fat of the Donor cow's or heifer's dam shall be above 4.0% or above 200 kg (First lactation) or 240 Kgs (Best lactation).
- 8.4.2.1.3 The average protein % or total protein for standard 1st lactation or best lactation yield of Donor cow's or heifer's dam shall be above the average of the concerned breed in the exporting country.
- 8.4.2.2 Embryos from genomically tested heifers; the heifers should meet the following criteria:
- 8.4.2.2.1 The Heifer should have positive GEBVs (Genomic Estimated Breeding Values) for total milk yield, total milk fat yield, and total milk protein yield.
- 8.4.2.2.2 The reliability of GEBVs for milk, fat and protein yield should be above 50%.

8.4.2.2.3 The heifer should have positive GEBV for type characters like udder and feet and leg conformation.

8.4.2.3 Semen of sire used for inseminating donor cow or heifer for embryo production shall meet the specifications for semen given under item 7.4.1.

8.4.2.4 The donor cow or heifer shall be free from all known breed specific genetic disorders as mentioned at clause No.7.4.1.9.

8.4.3. Young bulls

8.4.3.1 The Genomically tested young bull should meet the following criteria:

- (a) The sire should have positive GEBVs (Genomic Estimated Breeding Values) for total milk yield, total milk fat, total milk protein
- (b) The reliability of GEBVs for milk, fat and protein yield should be above 50%.
- (c) The sire should have positive GEBV for type characters like udder and feet and leg conformation.

8.4.3.2 The young bull not having genomic breeding value should meet the criteria mentioned at clause No. 7.4.1 and 7.4.2

8.4.3.3 The young bulls or genomically tested young bulls shall be free from all known breed specific genetic disorders as mentioned at clause No. 7.4.1.9.

8.4.4. Young Heifers

8.4.4.1 Early pregnant heifers with pregnancy not more than 4 to 5 months at shipping;

8.4.4.2 Only young heifers born to dams or produced using embryos produced from donor cows meeting criteria mentioned at clause 7.4.2 and by using semen of the sire meeting criteria mentioned at 7.4.1 shall be imported.

8.5. For import of Germplasm of some breeds of Indigenous origin the criteria for import will be analysed separately on case to case basis.

GUIDELINES FOR EXPORT OF BOVINE GERMLASM:

- 1: Export of live animals (bovine) and bovine germplasm will be permitted for breeding purposes only.
- 2: The export of germplasm will be allowed subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions:-

- 2.1: For export of germplasm, order of preference shall be: (i) frozen semen, (ii) frozen embryos and (iii) lastly live animals.
- 2.2: Animals shall conform to breed characteristics.
- 2.3: Milk production records of breed averages will be considered during export of live animals.
- 2.4: Elite animals (top 20% of the production level) of each breed having best milk production level shall not be exported.
- 2.5: Each year not more than exceed 5% of the estimated population of the concerned breed in India shall be exported.
- 2.6: Export of live animals of some of the indigenous breeds categorised as **threatened/ endangered** shall not be allowed.
- 2.7: The health certificate requested by the importing authorities will be provided by a registered Veterinarian duly authorized by DAHD.
- 2.8: The State Government of the State from which germplasm is proposed to be exported will issue an NOC for the proposed export. The State Government shall maintain detailed data on the exported animals and shall inform DAHD on quarterly basis.
- 2.9: For export of Embryos/ and ova, the collection and processing techniques as stipulated under section 3.3 Appendix 3.3.1.1 to 3.3.1.13 and micro- manipulation of the Bovine Embryos at Appendix 3.3.3.1 to **3.3.3.5** of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health code (**2005**) as amended from time to time shall be adhered to.
- 2.10: Collection and processing procedure of semen as per section 3.2, Appendix 3.2.1.1 to 3.2.1.10 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health code (**2005**) as amended from time to time shall be complied with.
- 2.11: The exporting agency will comply with the rules and regulations of DAHD. The exporting agencies are required to provide the following documents to DAHD: (i) Import requirement of the country(s) which are interested in importing the bovine germplasm, (ii) import policy documents of the importing country and (iii) health protocols.

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Format for submission of post-import information on bovine germplasm

1. Name of the organisation:
2. Address with telephone/fax numbers and email:
3. Year-wise and breed-wise number of bovine germplasm imported
 - (a) Bulls:
 - (b) Heifers:
 - (c) Embryos:
 - (d) Frozen Semen (sexed / unsexed):
 - (e) Others:
4. Country of origin of the imported germplasm:
5. Cost on CIF basis:
6. Purpose of importation:
7. Identification No., date of birth and pedigree details: (preferably by RFID tags for imported animals).
8. Name and address of the Farms/Semen Stations where the germplasm were stationed:
9. Best, average and life time lactation yield (in case of milch animal), number of frozen semen doses produced (in case of male stock) during life time/after importation and average production per year :
10. Age at culling/disposal of the imported animal as well as reason and mode of disposal :
11. Report of congenital anomalies in progeny, if any :
12. No. of lactation/calf born during life time/after importation (in case of heifer/cows) :
13. Traceability of progeny of imported stock and progeny records in terms of distribution, location, production records and disposal.
14. Other relevant information, if any.

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Annexure-II

Imported frozen semen and Embryos usage bull-wise

Name of the agency

Quarter of reporting

SN	Bull No.	State and Districts	No. of imported doses used	Conception rate on first AI basis	Calves born		Any genetic defect observed	No. of female and male calves alive
					Male	Female		
Total								

Annexure-III

Performance of females born

SN	Name of the State	Name of the District	No. of daughters calved	Average age at first calving (months)	Average lactation yield of daughters (kg)
Total					

Annexure-IV

Performance of males born and used for semen production

SN	Name of the state	Name of the district	No. of males used for semen production
Total			

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Annexure-V

Use of frozen semen produced from imported bulls - bull-wise

Name of the agency

Quarter of reporting

SN	Bull No.	State and Districts	No. of imported doses used	Conception rate on first AI basis	Calves born		Any genetic defect observed	No. of female and male calves alive
					Male	Female		
Total								

Annexure-VI

Performance of females born from the use of semen produced from imported bulls

SN	Name of the State	Name of the District	No. of daughters calved	Average age at first calving (months)	Average lactation yield of daughters (kgs)
Total					

Annexure-VII

Performance of males born from the semen produced from imported bulls

SN	Name of the state	Name of the district	No. of males used for semen production
Total			



Annexure-VIII

Details of permit	Breed	Type semen / Sexed	Total No. of doses as per Permit	No. of Doses actually imported	No. of doses destroyed	Total No. Doses sold	No. of doses available in stock with importer	No of doses available with farmers	No. of doses used in A.I.	Total Data uploaded on Bharat Pashudhan	Doses supplied to IVF lab	Data uploaded by IVF lab on Bharat Pashudhan

Annexure-IX

Details of permit	Breed	No. of bulls	Total No. bulls as per Permit	No. Bulls actually imported	Name and location of semen station	No. of semen doses produced from imported bulls	Total No. Doses sold	No. of doses available in stock with importer	No. of doses available with farmers	No. of doses used in A.I.	Total Data uploaded on Bharat Pashudhan	Doses supplied to IVF lab	Data uploaded by IVF lab on Bharat Pashudhan

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