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Animal Aadhar Card : Paradigm shift in dairy development

Dairy horizon is changing and it looks like that whole of India has been put into a time machine (at least in dairy sector) and we have entered into Dwapar yuga. Its all about Desi cows and cow milk and panchamrita with a pinch of A2. Lord Krishna must have been very much sure of cow safety on this part of the earth under current scenario.

Amidst all this the news of Animal Aadhar card for animal identification, came as a great initiative for dairy development in India. I used to wonder for last so many years on, how does milk output in India is computed every year without any visible system of Animal, farm and above all cattle identification. Identification of these three entities is the foundation of any kind of dairy data generation in any country. I feel that this decision has power to bring paradigm shift in the way government schemes and subsidies are being implemented for animal welfare. A couple of long term benefits of this card could be :

- a. Assessment of actual population of dairy cattles (breedwise/cattle wise) in the country.
- b. Assessing the actual production of milk (breedwise/cattle wise) in the country.
- c. Assessing the actual money earned by each cow on its milk by linking cattle aadhar card with the farmer's aadhar card with the bank account.
- d. Passing on any government subsidy, health insurance, medicines, balanced ration, cattle feed, vaccination facility or others directly to animal card through farmer's aadhar card.
- e. Assessing the actual farmer's income versus agricultural income at various time of the year and under flood/drought situations.

Other interesting areas might be for some serious policy making and advocacy.

- a. Assessing actual number of animals in milk .
- b. Assessing actual feed and fodder requirements of the animals in milk.
- c. Assessing actual feed and fodder requirements of dry animals.
- d. Assessing population of sick/old/dry animals.
- e. Assessing the actual cost of maintaining sick/old/unproductive dry animals by the poor farmers.
- f. Assessing the actual population of male calves and cost of their feeding.

By doing this we can also compute

- a. The cost of keeping unproductive animals in the country.
- b. The Income generated by keeping milking and its contribution to the GDP.

The list is unending and the opportunity which I clearly see is that the government could very well be in a situation to decide on how to make animals more healthy, productive as well as how to compensate poor farmers to maintain dry, unproductive and old animals directly through financial inclusion.

This matter is of utmost important and I really do not know why the industry is silent and also wonder on what government is planning about it.

I have full faith in system and I believe that the government is really planning to do something for poor farmers so that they could have freedom to cull their unwanted animals. We need over 100000 dry cow hostel to begin with where such kind of animals could be kept (if we do not wish them to be slaughtered). I also recommend that the government must involve premier institutions like NDRI, IIT, IISc, Vet universities, Ministry of renewable energies along with some global donor agencies to create a model wherein these dry animals hostel could become sustainable making use of their manure and Urine as well as we could make use of physical power of male heifers and unproductive bulls to run floor mills, oil crusher, water pump etc and save energy as well as convert local agri produce into value added products.

I will not be surprised if someday 100 such bulls would be generating some 10-20 KW power by running some turbine or so using their bull power and Aadhar would also help in assessing the productivity of each animal separately.

Kuldeep Sharma
Chief Thinking Officer