

## Measures to protect Dairy Animals Health during Floods

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- India is at number one in terms of cattle. Milk, meat and eggs etc. are produced on a large scale through many animals in India.
- Due to geographical reasons, farmers in many areas of the country have to face natural calamities every year, due to which there is a loss of crores in livestock production. Flood, earthquake, storm and drought are special in natural calamities.
- Due to different rains in the country, there is drought in many areas and flood water is filled in many places.
- Like the loss of human life due to floods, there is also loss of animals.
- Due to floods, cows, buffaloes, goats, sheep, pigs and humans have to face many problems.
- But animals are naturally good swimmers. But on being displaced, the biggest crisis they face is fodder. When the cattle owners themselves are troubled, they are not able to provide sufficient nutrition and fodder to the animals. During this time, insects like mosquitoes and flies increase, which give tension to the animals. The third animal is anxious when the place is changed.
- In such a situation, a person is busy in protecting himself and does not take care of his cattle, due to which there is a lot of damage, whereas during floods, full care should be taken of his animals.

## **Following points are the things to focus on:**

### **Before a flood**

- The local administration should create an emergency squad of intelligent and quick response team who can do good work for the welfare of animals in order to reduce the loss of animals during floods.
- At the time of flood disaster, the local administration should make arrangements for vehicles, medicines, vaccines and clean water, so that the problems arising after the flood can be solved.
- Knowing evacuation route and warning signals, and identifying areas prone to flooding or landslides.

### **After a Flood**

- Waste water purification
- Disposal of spoiled animal feed material.
- Provision of proper animal feed.
- Disposal of dead animals.
- Mosquito and fly prevention.
- Prevention of diseases caused by floods.
- Repairing broken electrical wires.
- Repair of broken cattle houses.

### **Role of Veterinarians in Flood Management**

- During Flood, the role of veterinarians is to ensure high standards of animal health and reduce animal mortality.
- Veterinarians can play a major role in promoting local pre-flood planning at the community level, placing a high priority on facilitating livestock and pet evacuation.
- Veterinarians have a role to play in all phases of flood mitigation and management, especially during relief efforts as they can play a vital role in increasing the survival of victim animals and the survival of people deployed in rescue teams.
- Veterinarians along with para-veterinary staff and support staff should help set up temporary rescue camps in flood affected areas to reach sick, injured animals. Control rooms are set up to exchange and coordinate veterinary aid. Control rooms link and coordinate with agencies for supplies such as analgesics, sedatives, antibiotics, fracture equipment, etc.
- Veterinarians can play a major role to ensure availability of feed and water.



## **Accurate estimation of animal feed demand**

First of all, it is necessary to estimate the number of animals that are vulnerable to floods in the flood-prone area, so that the demand for their food can be met properly.

## **Health and safety arrangements**

- If the habitat of animals has also been destroyed by the flood, then measures to prevent the spread of infectious diseases should be taken at a fast pace.
- In case of flood, animals should be tied at a high place. Apart from this, milk should be extracted daily from milch animals so that Mastitis can be avoided.

## **Arrangement of water:**

- The lack of clean water at the time of flood forces the animals to drink dirty water, which increases the chances of spreading many types of diseases. That's why it is very important to arrange clean water for the animals. Contaminated water can be given to animals to drink by treating it with calcium carbonate.

## **Conclusion**

In developing countries like India, Flood are a common occurrence every year. The worst affected are the poor and marginalized communities in India, who suffer the most in terms of human and property losses when a flood occurs. Recently, biporjoy strike Gujarat, Rajasthan, Mumbai leads flood. Everyone should be involved in forming a disaster management group through the Animal Husbandry Department. Essential sector employees should be kept in constant readiness especially in the leaner months of the year. Preparedness with mitigation strategies is the best method to educate people for any unexpected disaster. Governments department are responsible for making arrangements for both humans and animals under the State Disaster Fund (SDRF) when floods occur. There is also a provision for compensation in in case of loss of the animal.

