

# ORGANIC ANIMAL PRODUCTION : CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES, QUALITY CONTROL & PROSPECTS

Dinesh K. Menon  
ICO, INDOCERT, Aluva

Whenever we talk about Animal Husbandry at first we will be thinking of Dairy and then come s the poultry Milk which is supposed to be the complete food is now no way safe as the pesticide, antibiotic and other adulterants in it is alarmingly high and can lead to deadly diseases like Tuberculosis, Brucellosis, Anthrax, Salmonellosis, Hepatitis, E.coli infections etc. An alternative to this is Organic milk.

In Poultry every one is very much aware of the danger involved in the hormones fed to the birds for gaining weight as well as laying more eggs.

In India 70 million family are engaged in milk production out of that 65% in rural areas

With a turn over of Rs 78000 crore with growth rate 4.5% and 23% income of rural area is from milk.

In Kerala 28 lakh ton of milk is produced and per capita is 250g and the demand increases by 6%

The four keys of Organic Quality control are Accreditation, Standards, Inspection and Certification.

Accreditation takes care that an accredited certification body is capable of carrying out the specified task.

Standards/Regulations define how the production has to be carried out it is not regarding the product quality and is the minimum requirement and not the best practice.

Inspection is the on site verification of the operation where it is carried out according to the specified standards/ Regulation

Certification access the inspection report in relation to the requirement of Standards and the issue of certificates, condition letters etc... And also take care of the market misuse of Organic labels.

## ANIMAL HUSBANDRY MANAGEMENT

Should provide for free movement, fresh air, natural daylight, in tune with behavioral needs Access to fresh water, feeding, resting and bedding facilities according to the needs of animals

Access to open air & grazing to be ensured

Poultry & rabbits shall not be kept in cages

Landless Animal Husbandry systems not allowed

Herd animals not to be kept individually except in allowed cases

## AH conversion period

Animal products to be sold as organic only after the farm or relevant part of it has been under conversion for at least 12 months

For dairy and egg production the animal production standard should have been met for not less than 30 days

Organic meat may be sold when the organic standards for the animals on the farm have been met for 12 months

## Brought – in Animals

Non-availability of organic livestock to be substituted by brought in animals as per given age limits:

- 2 day old chickens for meat production
- 18 weeks old hens for egg production
- 2 weeks old for any other poultry
- Piglets-6 weeks and after weaning
- Calves upto 4 weeks which have received colostrum
- Breeding Stock brought in from conventional farms with a yearly maximum of 10%of adult animals of the same species on the farm

## Animal nutrition

Certification programme shall draw up standards for feed and feed ingredients

At least 50% of the feed shall come from the farm itself or produced in co-operation with other farms in the region

Feed produced on the farm unit during first year of organic management may be considered as Organic

Synthetic chemicals, farm animal by-products, all types of excreta, pure amino acids, GMO not to be

used in conventional and organic feeds

### Veterinary Medicines

Use of conventional medicines when no other alternative is available but the withholding period to be twice the legal period

Use of synthetic growth promoters, suppressors not to be use& Hormones for heat induction synchronization for reproductive disorders justified by veterinary indications

Vaccinations only when diseases are a problem in the region and cannot be controlled by other means as defined by certification agency

Legally required vaccines are allowed

Genetically engineered vaccines prohibited

### Breeds & Breeding system

Local breeds suited to the eco-climatic condition of the region are preferred.

Breeding System should ensure natural breeding

Artificial insemination is allowed but embryo transfer not allowed

Hormonal heat treatment and induced birth not allowed unless for medical reasons

Genetically Engineered species or breeds not allowed

### A Living Proof

The result of using organic feed for feeding the animals from 2003 onwards are amazing and below are the results of dairy farm managed with organic feed at Nasik (Nasik Panchavati Panjrapole)

The Average numbers of animal are 900 of which 250 are stray animals 100 calves and 550 cows.

Year	Cost of Medicine	No of animals	Remarks
2002 May	42800	858	
2003 May	43246	825	
2004 May	28421	861	
2005 May	37462	911	

\*Major share of medicine consumed for the treatment of stray animals.

And the cost of medicine has gone higher.

- Pregnancy rate increased
- ROP reduced from 5% to 2%
- Abortion incidence reduced from 5% to 1%
- Milk production increased to 2.5 L to 3 L per cow in three years.
- General health of animal improved

- Luster improved
- Response to drug improved

So it is clear that the organic Animal Husbandry not only a requirement of the future but also economically viable as the input costs are reduced and can gain a better price for the produce. Let's all swear to go for Organic for better Wealthy & Healthy India

### CANINE INFLUENZA VIRUS SURFACES



An emerging canine respiratory tract disease, known as canine influenza or canine flu, was found in dogs in shelters, boarding facilities, and veterinary clinics in several areas of Florida, including the southwest counties of Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach, and in the northeast county of Duval. Cases have also been confirmed in New York and in a dog that resided in Massachusetts. Although all dogs, regardless of breed or age, are susceptible to infection, the canine influenza virus was first identified in Greyhounds.

The disease caused by the highly contagious virus can mimic signs of kennel cough. All dogs, regardless of breed or age, are susceptible to infection and do not have naturally acquired or vaccine-induced immunity, according to the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine. The virus can spread by aerosolized respiratory secretions, contaminated inanimate objects, and by people moving between infected and uninfected dogs.

While most dogs that become infected experience a mild form of influenza, some develop a more acute disease with clinical signs of pneumonia. Among the latter group, the fatality rate is 1 percent to 5 percent, the University of Florida reported.

"... Despite the rumors that are out on the Internet and other such sources, this disease is not as deadly as people want to make it," said Dr. Cynda Crawford, a veterinary immunologist at the University of Florida. "Only a minority of dogs, a small number of dogs, experience complications such as pneumonia."

Dr. Crawford was among the group of researchers who identified the virus. The group included staff from the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine.