

Shri Heeralal Sagar -A Hope of the Livestock Owners for Improving Livestock Health and Production in Bareilly District: A Success Story

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Shri. Heeralal Sagar a 47 years old para-vet, resident of Etawwa Sharifnagar village, Shergarh block, Bareilly district, Uttar Pradesh, Mobile No. 8650588127. After the matriculation from his own village he undergone training at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)- Bareilly to chose the para-vet as a profession to provide livestock health and A.I. services to the livestock owners and as an income generating activity. Key informants (Rakesh Kumar S/o Jayprakash, Shankar Lal S/o Madhai Lal, Mohan Lal S/o Sukhlal, Jitendra Singh S/o Dharam Singh Surjeet Singh S/o Veer Singh, Mustaq Ahmed S/o Basheer, and Premshankar S/o Ramcharan) of Etawwa Sharifnagar village reported the Heeralal Sagar a very successful para-vet, who had started his career as a para-vet since 1994.



Shri. Heeralal Sagar use bicycle to provide Artificial Insemination and First aid services

EARLY LIFE OF SHRI HEERALAL SAGAR

Heeralal Sagar was born in a poor joint family, all the member of his joint family had to survive in a meagre land of 3.75 bighas and 2 bullocks, 1 buffalo and 1cow. Due to lack of employment opportunity, he was in utter depression about his future endeavours. Never the late, destiny took a steep turn when he came across Sh.Vijay Singh Choudary, secretary of a Milk Producers' Cooperative Society, who was searching for a reliable and dedicated person to run the milk cooperative society. Because of reliability, epitome of hard work and dedication of Heeralal Sagar, he was chosen by Sh. Vijay Singh Choudary to work in milk cooperative society with mutually agreed terms of payment i.e. 4 % of the milk collected on monthly basis.

TRAINING AND INITIAL DAYS AS A PARA-VET

Heeralal Sagar had been very able to navigate the milk cooperative society in a right direction with his dedicated work style. Everything started falling into place for him slowly. Watershed movement of his life arrived when he was selected to undergo training in a mini dairy scheme in order to provide livestock service at the doorstep of the farmers. It was a small reward to Heeralal's attitude and positive inclination towards the service to be provided to the livestock owners. He was given training in Agra, U.P. for three months in A.I. and veterinary First-Aid without post-training support/follow-up. In 1995, he again got the opportunity to go under the training in Meerut (U.P.) for 45 days with post-training support viz. cryocan of 20lts and 3lts capacity, bicycle filled with cryocan and A.I. gun with the accessories. After getting the training, while working with milk producers' society, he had started to provide the livestock services viz. A.I. and Veterinary First-Aid to the non-member of cooperative society on payment basis (Rs. 20/A.I.). The input such as LN₂ was given by Parag dairy on a regular basis. Gradually, his service was extended to the 30 livestock owners of the cluster of villages (*Etawwa Sharifnagar, Rohilli, Doparia, Purainataal, Gopalpur, Milak and Kanman*). While working with milk producers' cooperative society, his remuneration was Rs. 500 for first 25 A.I. and an additional Rs 5.00/A.I. for extra A.I. beyond the target of 25 A.I. per month. His life took the turn in 1997 when he attended the 22 days training at KVK-IVRI, Bareilly. This training built his confidence and upgraded his skill in A.I. and Veterinary First-Aid.



High yielding cross bred cows and up-graded buffaloes contributing towards farm women empowerment

The training at KVK- IVRI, had overcome all incompetence, lacunae he had earlier. He never misses the opportunity to attend the training at KVK to upgrade his skill. He is in regular contact with the SMS of KVK and the scientists of IVRI which has provided him a good platform where he could clarify all his doubts and master the skills of hands-on-training. He seeks advice whenever encounter the field problem. Now, he is a para-vet who could easily diagnose pregnancy even at 45 days and that to with 70% accuracy as we observed in the field and also the key-informants responded.

CONTRIBUTION AS A PARA-VET IN VILLAGE

After he started to work as para-vet in his own village i.e. Etawwa Sharifnagar, the face of the livestock sector in the village has completely changed. Now a day, none of the villagers go to Tehsil, district Bareilly to get A.I. and basic veterinary services, since they get it in their own village itself from Shri. Heeralal Sagar. Without any constraints, he is providing A.I. services to the farmers of a cluster six villages. A veterinary hospital serving over 8 to 10 thousand livestock (including 20 to 30% of crossbreeds) and he covers entire gram panchayat by his services like first aid, assisting the veterinary doctor in emergency cases, such as rumenotomy, providing help in relieving dystocia, caring for newborn calves, giving information to the livestock owners regarding vaccination, livestock insurance etc as he and the key-informants responded to the team of researchers. He attends on an average 6-7 cases/day including 2-3 cases for A.I. and 3 - 4 cases for veterinary First-Aid. He procures semen straw from IVRI and State Veterinary Dispensary, Devaria- Bareilly 8- 25 Km away, respectively from his village. He charges the fee @Rs. 150 per A.I. and Rs. 50-100/case for veterinary First-Aid from the

livestock owners. Thus, he is earning on an average of Rs. 25,000 per month, which is feels sufficient enough to run his family.



The number of high yielding cross bred cows are increasing in the cluster of villages

SERVICE TO LIVESTOCK OWNERS

Since 1994, Heeralal Sagar is providing 24x7 veterinary First-Aid and extension services to rural mass and completely changed the livestock scenario not only in his own village but also in neighbouring villages. He bridged a large gap in livestock health and extension services and enabled remote livestock owners to access vital information for the welfare of farmers through livestock health services. He has all essential instruments viz. A.I. container, A.I. kit, thawing unit, tooth cutter, castrator and other general instruments along with primary medicine required for the field. He travels nearly 50 kilometers/day by bicycle and train to attend the different cases of livestock health. He also attends all the relevant training, *kisan gosthi*, Farmers Fair, conducted by KVK-IVRI, to update himself about the scientific animal husbandry practices.



Veterinary First-Aid services to goat farmers



Interaction with expert of KVK-IVRI, Izatnagar

He is playing the major role in achieving the nationwide drive of the crossbreeding programme, for which he is providing regular A.I. service by procuring the semen from IVRI as well as from state veterinary hospitals. Also, he is periodically doing vaccination, on the request of the farmers on payment basis against HS, BQ, and FMD the contagious and dreadful diseases of livestock. He plays a greater role in improving livestock health in villages by providing them information about sanitation, deworming & vaccination schedule, clean milk production. With his continuous and sustain efforts since 1994, livestock owners are adopting vaccination, deworming, mineral mixture feeding and other scientific practices in rearing of livestock. The farmers, who had earlier rejected to rear crossbred cows, are now rearing high yielding cross bred and Sahiwal cow and Murrah buffaloes, because of his intervention. In villages of *Etawwa Sharifnagar, Rohilli, Devrania, Purainataal, Gopalpur, Milak and Kanman* i.e. service area of Heeralal, the population of high yielding cross bred HF cows, Sahiwal cow and upgraded Murrah buffaloes has increased up to 850, 100 and 1250, respectively, as he has reported. However, the milk producers' cooperative has become dysfunctional in the village, but dairy farmers are selling their milk to local vendors and earning substantial income from dairy ventures and for this credit goes to Shri. Heeralal Sagar who is providing A.I. and health services to them.



Shri. Heeralal Sagar introduced Sahiwal germplasm in the village through Artificial Insemination

His workaholic attitude, honesty, simplicity, timeliness and devotion towards livestock owners for the welfare of livestock, his efforts has been appreciated by all the fellow villagers which have ushered his social status in society. He personally says that he wants to see the smile on the face of farmers and the healthy and productive animals. His untiring efforts and

the contribution in providing livestock health services to the farmers, the KVK-IVRI has felicitated and rewarded him many times.



Felicitation of Shri. Heeralal Sagar at the auspicious hands of Shri. Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Hon'ble MoS for Textile, GOI in a function at IVRI, Izatnagar

CONCLUSION

India has vast livestock resources which play a vital role in the improvement of socio-economic conditions of the rural poor. There are many constraints in animal husbandry sector which have many reasons *viz.* poor livestock health services in the rural area, lack of required infrastructure including manpower, veterinary dispensary, and A.I. unit are at the distant location. The problems could be overcome by launching capacity development programme, entrepreneurship development programme, skill development training so that the para-vets like Shri. Heeralal Sagar can be prepared who could be the harbinger of basic livestock health services in rural area. There are 63,000 registered veterinarians in India, whereas the requirement is between 1.1-1.2 lakh” (VCI). The norm is one veterinary doctor for every 5000 animals (1:5000). India’s total cattle and buffalo population was 30 crore (2012 Livestock Census) and it is translating into a requirement of 60,000 vets catering to bovines alone which would further go up if poultry, sheep, goats, pigs and other animals are added. For the solution of this problem, Shri. T. Nanda Kumar, Chairman, National Dairy Development Board has advocated that “Probably, we need to have more para-veterinarians and diploma holders capable of rendering minor veterinary services under the direction and supervision of registered vets”. ([http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/30-crore-cattle-and-rising-but-where-are-the-countrys-vets/.](http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/30-crore-cattle-and-rising-but-where-are-the-countrys-vets/))