

# 14. Animal Husbandry

## Animal Husbandry

- It deals with the scientific management of livestock.
- It includes various aspects such as feeding, breeding and disease control.
- It includes cattle, goat, sheep, poultry and fish farming.

### ■ of farms and farm animals

- **Dairy farm management –**

- It is done usually for the production of milk and draught labour for agricultural work.
- The management of dairy farm animals involves regular maintenance and cleansing of animal shelters. Animals should be kept in well-ventilated roofs.

- **Poultry farm management –**

- It is done to meet the demands for egg and chicken. It involves the management of domestic fowls to improve the quality and productivity of egg and chicken.
  - For good production of poultry, regular cleansing of farm is of the utmost importance. Maintenance of temperature, and prevention and cure of diseases and pests are also required.

- **Breeding**

- It increases the yield of animals, improves the quality of animal produce and produces disease-resistant varieties of animals.

- **Methods of breeding –**

- **Inbreeding:** It is the method of mating closely related individuals of the same breed for four to six generations. It increases homozygosity and can lead to the evolution of a pure line.
  - **Outbreeding:** It is the method of mating animals of different breeds. It brings heterozygosity.
  - **Outbreeding involves three types of breeding –**
  - **Outcrossing:** It involves the mating of animals within the same breed, but they do not have any common ancestors for the last four to five generations.
  - **Cross-breeding:** It involves breeding between the superior individuals of two separate breeds; for example, *Hissardale* is a variety of sheep produced by crossing between Bikaneri ewes and Marino rams.
  - **Inter-specific hybridisation:** It involves the breeding between the individuals of two different related species; for example, mule.

- Other breeding experiments **include artificial insemination and multiple ovulations embryo transfer technology (MOET)**. These are the best methods to perform animal breeding.
- **Artificial insemination:** Process of introducing the semen collected from the male into the oviduct of the female by the breeder
- **Multiple ovulation embryo transfer technology:** It is a technique in which super-ovulation is induced by hormone injection.
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- **Apiculture:** Practice of bee-keeping for the production of various products such as honey, bee wax
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- It is an industry which deals with the catching, processing and marketing of fishes and other aquatic animals that are of high economic value.
- Examples of freshwater fishes are *Catla*, *Rohu*, while examples of marine fishes are *Hilsa*, Mackerel.