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POPULAR ARTICLE



Impact of Good Dairy Farm Practices on Environment

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Dairy enterprise should run in such a way that it will be economically viable and at the same time it should be taken care of by the farmers that profitability of the farm should not be at the cost of environment. It is imperative to keep the environment clean so that it will be congenial to the human being as well as to the animals also. Dairy production should be obtained in sustainable manner and the natural resources should be used very efficiently so that any adverse impact of dairy farming on the environment is kept minimum. For good dairy farming practices, the following points should be kept in mind to maintain good environment in and around the farm:

1. Implementation of environmentally sustainable dairy farming system.
2. Implementation of appropriate waste management system.
3. To ensure that dairy farming practices do not have any adverse impact on the local environment.

1. Implementation of environmentally sustainable dairy farming system

Large dairy farming systems heavily depends on external inputs such as irrigation water, fertilizer and feed. Selective green fodders are to be cultivated throughout the year in a systematic manner so that it reduces number of irrigation, use of fertilizer should be kept minimum. To reduce the use of fertilizer, environmentally congenial bio-fertilizers or farm manures should be used as far as possible. Dairy farm animals emit environmental pollutants pure methane and nitrous oxide gas if fed large amount of green fodder. Hence, efforts should be made to cultivate the type of green fodders which are highly digestible. In large dairy farming system where cooling systems are in use for

chilling the milk, the cooling machines are run by non-renewable sources of energy such as electricity, diesel, petrol etc. Efforts should be made to use renewable sources of energy such as solar energy, biofuels and wind derived energy etc. so that environmental pollution maybe minimised. Non-productive land of the farm should be planted with trees Babul, Sobabul, Neem and other useful plants which will keep the environment pollution at check, at the same time may be used for feeding sheep and goats.

2. Implementation of appropriate waste management system

It will be better to reduce the farm waste as much as possible. Biodegradable farm waste alongwith farm manure for its decomposition. Practice of reusing and refiling of farm waste is a good practice to control the environment pollution from plastic drums and gunny bags should be disposed of or sold. The site of waste storage areas such as manure pits, slurry stores and farm dumps should be treated properly to keep the environment free from pollution and vermin, vermin may transmit diseases to the farm animals. Other waste such as waste milk, dead livestock, farm chemicals and fertilizers should be disposed of properly to keep the environment pollution free.

3. Dairy farming practices do not have any adverse impact on local environment

- Only approved chemicals and veterinary drugs should be kept in the farm. All the chemicals and drugs should be kept away from milk storage area to avoid contamination. Practice of biological pest control will minimize the environmental pollution. Use of chemical fertilizer may be avoided or reduced. If chemical fertilizers are used, one should ensure that fertilizers are free from heavy metals and toxic materials. Care should also be taken to ensure that the dairy operation does not have impact to the local people by controlling dust, smells, lights, noise, flies or other nuisances.