



**REPORT**  
**OF**  
**THE COMMITTEE ON KEY VILLAGES**

**MINISTRY OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE**  
**(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE)**  
**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**No. 520/61-AHC**  
**KEY VILLAGE EXPERT COMMITTEE**  
**MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**  
**(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE)**  
**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.**

*New Delhi, February 21, 1961*  
*Phalguna 2, 1882 Saka*

To

The Secretary to the Government of India,  
Ministry of Food & Agriculture,  
(Department of Agriculture),  
New Delhi.

Dear Sir,

The report of the Key Village Expert Committee, appointed by the Government of India in Department of Agriculture letter No. 13-155/59-LD, dated the 8th December, 1959, is submitted herewith.

One of our colleagues, Shri N. Sri Rama Reddy, who has been unable to come to Delhi has not signed the report.

Yours sincerely,

L. SAHAI—*Chairman*

Y.M. PARNARKER—*Member*

A.C. MATHUR—*Member Secretary*

S. KRISHNAMURTHY—*Jt. Secy.*

## PREFACE

A suggestion was made to the Government of India to set up an Expert Committee to review and evaluate the work done under the All-India Key Village Scheme and to utilize the findings and recommendations of such a Committee both for the purpose of framing proposals for the Third Plan and also for the successful implementation of other cattle development programmes during the Third Five Year Plan. The Government of India accepted this suggestion and constituted an Expert Committee with the following terms of reference, vide their letter No. 13-155/59-LD, dated the 5th December, 1959—(Appendix I)—

- I. (a) To review the working of the Key Village Scheme and to evaluate the progress made thereunder ;
  - (b) to examine the progress made in regard to the adoption of artificial insemination technique for breeding cattle and its economics and usefulness in relation to natural breeding;
  - (c) to examine the programme and progress under the calf subsidy scheme and its achievements;
  - (d) to examine the programme for development of feed and fodder resources in Key village blocks and suggest suitable measures and modifications for implementation of the scheme;
  - (e) to suggest a suitable programme for the organisation of marketing facilities for livestock and livestock products in the Key village areas; and
  - (f) to make suitable recommendations for formulating future programme of work under the Key Village scheme.
- II. (a) to study the importance of cows and buffaloes in the farmers' economy in the different regions of the country;
  - (b) to demarcate—
    - (i) areas and tracts where the cow has been quite popular with the villagers and has served as an economic and useful animal;
    - (ii) areas where only cows are being maintained, for example, Eastern States like Orissa, West Bengal, etc.;
    - (iii) areas where both cows and buffaloes are maintained by villagers, eg., Punjab, Western U.P.;

(ii)

- (c) to evolve a policy for development of cows and buffaloes in the different areas detailed above and examine the advisability or otherwise of introducing buffalo breeding indiscriminately in areas where cows have been kept mainly so far by the farmer.

According to the Government notification, the Committee was to decide its own working procedure and programme of visits to the states. The Committee held its first meeting at Delhi on 21st December 1959 to consider the procedure to be adopted for obtaining information on the various points included in its terms of reference. It was decided by the Committee that notes on the various terms of reference should be got prepared and also that a questionnaire should be drawn up and circulated to the States for eliciting information on the various points included in its terms of reference. In accordance with this decision a questionnaire (Appendix II) was drawn up and circulated to the States on 16th January, 1960.

The Committee met again on 25th January, 1960 and it was decided that in order to study the working of the Key village centres which were located under a variety of conditions prevailing in this country, it was necessary to visit some of the selected ones so as to obtain first-hand knowledge about the progress made in these centres on the various items of work included in the technical programme as well as for studying local problems and difficulties experienced by the workers in the implementation of the programme of work. The States visited by the Committee were Assam, Bihar, Bengal, Orissa, Madras, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Mysore, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

In the course of its visits to the States the Committee took the opportunity of not only visiting the key village centres to examine their working and evaluate their progress, but it also met the staff employed at all levels in the Animal Husbandry Departments, particularly those connected with key village and other cattle development work. In certain States the Committee also met the Secretaries to the Departments of Animal Husbandry and certain prominent private cattle breeders in order to know their viewpoint in regard to the key village programme and any suggestions that they might have to make with reference to the work assigned to the Committee. At all places free and frank discussions were held, as a result of which the Committee was able to collect much valuable information in regard to the working of the scheme.

As the Committee consisted of members who had to attend to multifarious duties in addition to the work assigned to the Committee, it was not possible for the Committee to visit all the States in the country nor all the key villages located within the States visited.

The Committee had to remain content with visiting only a few selected key village blocks in the various States, but, as far as possible, it was assured that the group of key village blocks visited in the States included apparently all types, good, bad and indifferent. As a result of that the committee has been able to get a fairly good idea of the working of the scheme as a whole, on which to base its recommendations.

However, it may be mentioned that the Committee could not visit States like the Punjab and the U.P., in which some important breeding tracts are located. Nor could the Committee visit certain hilly areas like the States of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh.

Originally, the Committee was required by the Government of India to submit its report by the end of March, 1960. However, due to the pre-occupation of the members with other work, the Committee had to ask for extension of time limit for submission of its report until the end of January, 1961.

The Committee would like to record its deep appreciation of the co-operation received by it from the State Directors of Animal Husbandry, who were co-opted as members by the Committee during its visits to the States, the Deputy Directors incharge of the key village scheme and other staff employed under the key village scheme. The information and facilities provided by these officers helped the committee considerably in making an on the spot study of the problem and evaluating the progress of key village work. All States, except two, sent replies to the questionnaire. The Committee is also grateful to those non-officials who participated in the discussions and placed their points of view before the Committee in regard to its various terms of reference.

The report has been divided into seven chapters. The first chapter introduces the problem. In chapters II and III the working of the key village scheme together with the shortcomings observed have been discussed. As items I (a), I (c), I (d) and I (e) of the terms of reference of the Committee deal with the Key Village scheme as a whole, they have been examined and discussed together in these chapters. Chapter IV deals exclusively with artificial insemination. Recommendations regarding the future programme of work under the Key Village Scheme have been dealt with in Chapter V. Items II(a), (b), and (c) of the terms of reference have been dealt with together in Chapter VI. In Chapter VII a summary of the main recommendations has been given. The numbers shown against the recommendations in parenthesis refer to the relevant paragraphs in which the respective recommendations have been dealt with.

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