REPRODUCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF UMBLACHERY CATTLE

Kannadhasan, M.S.1, R. Rajendran2 and M. Kathirivelan1
Veterinary University Training and Research Centre - TANUVAS,
Dharmapuri – 636703, Tamil Nadu.

Abstract

Umblachery cattle, a draught breed which caters farmers’ need of draught power for agricultural operations and milk for household consumption in Cauvery delta districts, is considered as a valuable animal genetic resource of Tamil Nadu. Conservation of such breed requires studying its reproductive characteristics. Hence, the study was carried out in Nagapattinam and Thiruvarur districts of Tamil Nadu. Data, using a well-structured and pre-tested interview schedule, were collected from 360 respondents who were selected from the study districts applying simple random sampling technique. The analysis of collected data revealed that the mean ages at first estrous and breeding were 43.40 and 45.40 months respectively and mean calving interval was 25.23 months. The analysis, further, revealed that the mean number of services required for conception in Umblachery cattle by Artificial Insemination and natural service were 2.53 and 1.25 respectively whereas the mean longevity of bullock, bull and cow were 9.20, 10.51 and 11.11 years. The results will be helpful for the policy makers to consider the reproductive characteristics of Umblachery breed cattle for its conservation.

Keywords: Umblachery breed cattle, Reproductive characteristics

Introduction: Umblachery breed cattle, a genetic resource of Tamil Nadu, with short and swift body perform agricultural operations well even in marshy lands in Cauvery delta districts of Tamil Nadu (Nair et al., 2000). Umblachery breed cattle contributes to the rural livelihood through its utility in agricultural operations and ability to produce milk for household consumption (Kannadhasan et al., 2015 and Sivaselvan and Karthikeyan, 2011). Amid dwindling population of indigenous breed cattle, conservation of indigenous cattle became inevitable (Panneerselvam, 2011). Considering the genetic resource potential of Umblachery cattle, the study on reproductive characteristics of Umblachery cattle breed was carried out with financial support of Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University Research Corps Fund.

Methodology: In Cauvery delta region of Tamil Nadu, Nagapattinam and Thiruvarur districts were purposively selected for the study considering the highest population as per 18th Livestock census. Thirty Umblachery cattle farmers each from the selected six villages, which were selected drawing three villages each from the selected two districts, were selected using simple random sampling technique to arrive a total sample size of 360. The data collection tool utilized in the study was interview schedule, which was prepared in consultation with the Subject Matter Specialist. The interview schedule, so prepared, was finalized after making necessary corrections based on the pretesting in the non-study area. The data pertaining to the objectives set forth were collected personally by interviewing the respondents by using the finalized interview schedule. The data so collected were analysed with suitable statistical tools and the salient findings of the study are given below.

Results and discussions

Table 1 envisaged that mean ages at first estrous and breeding were 43.40 and 45.40 months respectively which were significantly more than the cross-bred animals and results in more mean age at first calving i.e., 54.40 months. Similarly, mean calving interval of Umblachery cattle calculated in the study area was 25.23 months. The mean number of services required for conception in Umblachery cattle by Artificial Insemination and natural service was reported as 2.53 and 1.25 which was better compared to cross-bred animals. The mean longevity of bullock, bull and cow were 9.20,