

## **KVK Anjaw developed, Salt & Mineral Licking Block (SMLB) Technology for Mithun**

Salt and mineral licking block (SMLB) technology for mithun is developed by SMS Animal Science, to attract mithun and assemble them in particular location/spot. Technology is based on drudgery reduction in traditional method of Mithun production system, thereby mitigating the time spent by mithun owner in spotting their mithun in jungle.

Mithun being the most important livestock amongst Mishmi tribes because of multifaceted uses such as payment of bridal price, as a sacred animal for rituals, scarification, dispute settlement, last rite animal to honour the departed soul to rest in peace and highest face value in traditional barter table (Rs 60,000 – 70,000/= per adult mithun). Mithun are reared under semi-domesticated systems; they let loose to roam in jungle freely. However, owner has to visit in jungle frequently twice or thrice a month to monitor the presence of their Mithun in jungle. Monitoring mithun in jungle is one of the most tedious and tired some job in entire mithun husbandry system, due to which till date women and children cannot involve in Mithun husbandry. It has been observed that only salt is the only component used as a barter instrument to keep in touch with mithun and owner. It is normally practiced that, once mithun are spotted in jungle, owners have to feed handful of salt and mithun have very high affinity towards licking salt. Considering salts as a corner stone in the traditional method of mithun production system to attract Mithun. Salt & Mineral licking block (SMLB) concept has developed based on drudgery reduction in traditional method of mithun production system, thereby establishing a permanent structure of SMLB at certain strategic location, so that mithun could come to lick the block and monitoring workload of owners are mitigated. Because once the mithun sensitized, for the presence of salt in SMLB, they will regularly visit the spot. Therefore, Mithun owner have to visit in SMLB spot to find their mithun and even women and children can take part in mithun husbandry by regularly visiting at SMLB spot. As a result, there is drudgery reduction in tracking mithun in jungle, thereby facilitating easy method of monitoring during entire mithun production system under free-range system of domestication, without much changing their traditional system of mithun productions.

### **What is salt and mineral licking block (SMLB)?**

Salt and mineral licking block (SMLB), is a permanent concrete structure, composed of two layers, base and apex: The base part of SMLB, 2 ft above the ground level are composed of sand, cement and stone gravels in 4:1:2 ratio respectively. The apex parts of SMLB, 0.4 ft (4.8" inch) are composed of Salt, Mineral Mixture, Cement and Fine sand in 1:0.05:1:4 ratios respectively.

### **MATERIAL REQUIRED**

- A. Ingredients required
  1. Common salt (Coarse)
  2. Mineral Mixture

3. Cement
4. Sand
  - a. Fine sand
  - b. Coarse sand
5. Stone gravels
6. Cart/wood

## B. PROPORTION OF INGREDIENTS

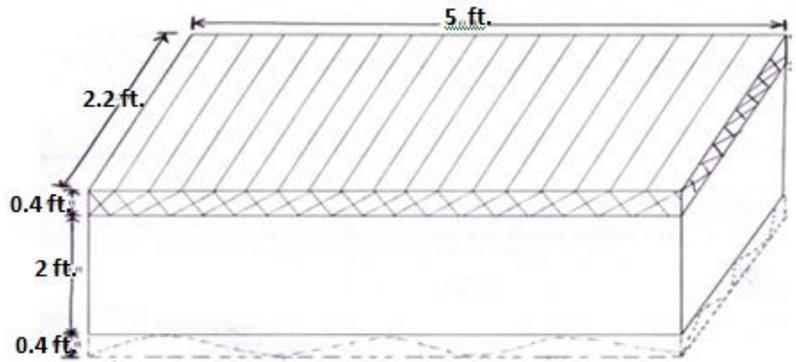
1. Top 4 inches ingredients required ratio are:  
Salt:Cement:Sand:Mineral Mixture(1:1:4:0.05)
2. Base 2.4ft ingredients required ratio are:  
Sand:Cement:Stone gravels  
(4:1:2)

## C. STANDARD SIZE

LxBxH (5x 2.2 x 2.4) ft

## D. QUANTITY REQUIRED

Cement = 6 bags  
 Salt = 60 kg  
 Mineral Mixture = 2.5 kg  
 Sand = 23 bags  
 Stone gravels = 10 bags



## E. AMOUNTS REQUIRED

Cement = @ Rs 500/bag = 6x 500 = Rs 3000.00  
 Salt = @ Rs 10/ kg = 60x 10 = Rs 600.00  
 Mineral Mixture = 2.5 kg = Rs 400.00  
 Sand & Stone gravels= 23 + 10 bags =2000.00

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**Total= 6,000.00**

## F. ADVANTAGES OF SMLB

1. It avoids the regular visit of owner in jungle for monitoring their mithun.
2. Women and children can even take part in Mithun husbandry
3. Apart from salt it also provide mineral to animal
4. Animal health can be monitored more easily
5. CCTV camera can be installed to monitor the visiting Mithun, digitally.
6. Mithun view point to boost ecotourism

## Action Photographs of Mithun licking on Salt and Mineral block



Fig.1 & 2. Mithun licking SMLB at Supliang village under MGMG adopted village



Fig.3. SMLB under FLDconstructed at Tapang village. Fig.4. Mithun licking SMLB at Tapang village

**Recommendations/Suggestions:** Salt and Mineral Licking Block (SMLB) Technology is cost effective and a farmer friendly technology. Therefore, SMLB technology for mithun can be replicate in different district and states of NEH mithun rearing belt.

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