

Another Clone of Adult Murrah Buffalo Lalima born at NDRI

2nd June, 2014, Karnal

Dr. A. K. Srivastava, Director, National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal, informed that another female cloned calf named '**Lalima**' produced through the 'Hand-guided Cloning Technique' was born on May 2, 2014. The calf was born by normal parturition, and its weight at the time of birth was around 36 kg. The newborn calf is keeping in good health and present weight is 42 kg. The new born calf is clone of an elite Murrah buffalo (MU-5345) of NDRI Livestock Farm



The team of the scientists involved in the production of this cloned calf includes Dr. S.K. Singla, Dr. M.S. Chauhan, Dr. R.S. Manik, Dr. P. Palta, Dr. Shiv Parsad and Dr. Basanti Jyotsana. It is to inform that practically there are two windows in which cloning technique will be very useful to dairy sector for faster multiplication of superior germplasm i.e. (i) through males by producing clone of progeny tested bulls and (ii) through females by producing clone of high yielding lactating females. In the case of Lalima, the donor cell was taken from the ear of an elite Murrah buffalo, which produced 2713 kg milk in standard lactation period of 305 days and 3494 kg in total lactation period of 471 days, during her 3rd lactation. It is also interesting to note that the calf was produced after standard gestation period, born through normal parturition without any assistance and had normal birth weight.

Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi congratulated the team and said that this new achievement of producing cloned calf from adult lactating animal by "Hand-guided Cloning" technique will facilitate faster multiplication of elite germplasm and help us to face the challenges of increasing demand of milk.

Dr. A. K. Srivastava, Director, NDRI, further emphasized that this technology could go a long way in multiplying the number of best milch buffaloes in India. He said that although, the world's largest population of buffaloes is in India contributing about 55 per cent of the total milk production in the country, the number of elite buffaloes is not loudable and there is an urgent need to enhance the population of elite buffaloes.

(Source: NDRI, Karnal)