

# Effect of Housing Management on the Performance of Lactating Buffaloes during Summer in Konkan Region

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**Abstract**—An investigation was carried out on nine lactating buffaloes. These buffaloes were allotted randomly into three comparable shelters in switch over design. Three different types of shelters were, 1- Thatched asbestos roof shed. 2- Green shed net below the asbestos roofing. 3- ‘Khanawata’ made from naturally available wooden logs, bamboo, straw and tree leaves. From the results of the present investigation it was observed that water consumption and physiological responses of buffaloes were significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) higher in the buffaloes under khanawata. The average milk yield was observed as  $4.95 \pm 0.114$  in  $T_1$ ,  $4.58 \pm 0.114$  in  $T_2$  and  $4.23 \pm 0.114$  in  $T_3$  group. The average total solids per cent and fat per cent in milk of buffaloes housed in different housing conditions during the experimental period is significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) higher in thatched roof shed ( $16.23 \pm 0.063$  and  $7.38 \pm 0.026$  per cent) than green shed net ( $15.97 \pm 0.063$  and  $7.31 \pm 0.026$  per cent) and khanawata ( $15.71 \pm 0.063$  and  $7.13 \pm 0.026$  per cent). Paddy straw thatched roof shed had incremental effect on the dry matter intake, milk production and milk composition of buffaloes than the buffaloes in khanawata and green shed net during experimental period. The overall average temperature humidity index at evening in macro-environment, thatched roof shed, green shed net and khanawata were  $83.43 \pm 0.29$ ,  $81.13 \pm 0.23$ ,  $81.30 \pm 0.23$ ,  $81.54 \pm 0.23$ , respectively. Overall paddy straw thatched asbestos roofed shed is the most effective to ameliorate temperature, humidity and THI than green shed net and khanawata during summer season in the Konkan region.