

Lactational Performance of Non-Descript Cattle in Thane District of Konkan Region of Maharashtra

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Abstract—A study was undertaken in Thane district of Konkan region of Maharashtra. The objective was to evaluate the productive performance of Non-descript cattle in the Konkan region at farmers' level. The study areas were purposively selected based on their potentiality of Non-descript cattle population. A total of 200 households were considered. A stratified random sampling survey and structured questionnaire were used for the study. The data were analyzed using the least square method to avoid non-orthogonality of the data resulting from unusual and disproportionate sub class frequencies. (Harvey, 1991). The average lactation milk yield was observed 270.38 ± 0.42 kg. The average daily milk yields (kg) were recorded as 1.62 ± 0.05 . The overall mean of lactation length of a cow were 200.96 ± 0.36 days. The reported lactation lengths of the cow were more than 6 months. The average dry period observed in non-descript cows was 174.00 ± 0.13 days. Production performance of cattle in Thane district of Konkan region is low which is due to low-input feed resources, shortage of feed, disease outbreak and shortage of water during summer/healthy water, flooding during rainy season, market and conflict by grazing land, the use of inappropriate breeds and breed combinations. Farmers did not change their management approach on the basis of the breeds (indigenous, crossbred or exotic breeds), all breeds were treated the same. There is potential for increasing milk production from the smallholder dairy schemes, if fodder production and dairy breed constraints are improved through upgradation of non-descript cattle with pure breed animal.