

New Medicine for Bovine Mastitis

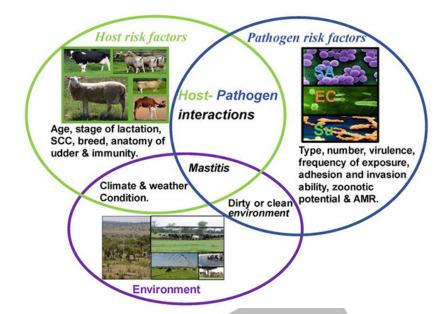
Why in News

Recently, the <u>National Innovation Foundation</u> (NIF) has developed a poly-herbal medicine called Mastirak Gel to treat Mastitis in Dairy Cattle.

 NIF is an autonomous institute of the <u>Department of Science and Technology (DST)</u>, which renovates indigenous technologies based on farmer's wisdom.

Key Points

- Significance of Mastirak Gel:
 - It can improve the udder (Milk producing part) health.
 - It reduces inflammation which is detrimental to the udder.
 - It also reduces the use of antibiotics and helps in the cost-effective management of the disease.
 - Treatment of infected animals with antibiotics poses a public health hazard.
- Mastitis
 - About:
 - Mastitis, or **inflammation of the mammary gland,** is the most common and the most expensive disease of dairy cattle throughout most of the world.
 - Several types of bacteria cause distinctly different mastitis infections.
 - Antibiotic infusions into the udder nearly always cure the clinical disease but may not eliminate the bacterial infection.
 - Cause:
 - Although stress and physical injuries may cause inflammation of the gland, infection by invading bacteria or other microorganisms (<u>fungi</u>, <u>yeasts</u> and possibly viruses) is the primary cause of mastitis.
 - Infections begin when microorganisms penetrate the teat canal and multiply in the mammary gland.



• Prevention:

- New infections are prevented by focusing management efforts on reducing the presence of pathogens on the teat end.
- The single most important management practice to prevent transmission of new infections is the use of an effective germicide as a post milking teat dip.

• Impact:

- It can affect farm productivity due to fall in milk quality, thus impacting income-generating activities.
- It reduces milk yields, increases the cost of production and makes milk less valuable for liquid consumption and manufacture.

Source: PIB

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