



## Newsletter of the PDDC Model Farm Programme

### Welcome

Welcome to our first newsletter for PDDC Model Farmers. This newsletter will share with you the progress being made and provide you with information to assist you as you develop your dairy farm. In each issue we will profile one of our established farmers to highlight what improvements have been made under the MF Programme and what results have been achieved. We hope this will motivate you and give you some new ideas to think about. We will also provide you with some practical dairying information and the contact details of PDDC staff.

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### Model farms operational in all areas

The Model farm Programme is accelerating and we now have farms in all 4 provinces of Pakistan says **Bill Stevenson**, GM Farm Production, PDDC. Now that we are working in all dairying areas we can identify and promote regionally appropriate farm management solutions for fodder cropping, cow nutrition and preventative animal health. With our focus on production and profit we aim to provide practical, tailored solutions to all our model farmers. This technical assistance will be provided by Farm Production Advisors (FPAs) working

with a number of farms in a local area. FPAs are university qualified and are trained and supported by staff from Australia and New Zealand all of whom are specialists in modern farming methods. Model farmers benefit from this advice and are able to implement new practices and increase production from 30% to 100% Mr. Stevenson says.

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### More water gives you more milk

The cheapest, easiest way to increase milk production is to provide animals with free access to clean, cool water all the time.

#### Why?

- Water is essential for normal bodily functions
- Water aids digestion
- Milk is almost all water

If cows don't get enough water they will not produce milk to their potential. Increasing water to meet the needs of the animal will give you at least an extra litre of milk a day.

### ***How much water do my buffaloes/cows need?***

Buffaloes and cows will drink 70-100 litres of water a day. They need an extra 5 litres for every litre of milk produced. So if she is producing 10 litres she will need 50 litres of water a day plus her requirement to live.

### ***How do I increase the amount of water I give?***

Keep buckets full and close to the animal.  
Replace water that has become too warm.  
Stop bucket tipping over by standing in an old tyre or using stones.

If you have a large number of animals it will be more efficient to provide water troughs. Untethering and using a fence to contain the animals is the best option.

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### **More milk, more money**

Randhawa Farm is situated near Ghotki, Sindh. The farm is owned by Mr. Shabeer Ahmed Rhandhawa. The farm is 10 acres running 9 milking buffalo. Mr. Shabeer joined the model farm programme in January 2007 because he wanted to improve the profitability of the family farm.

Mr. Shabeer talks about his experiences so far;

“The changes we have made have increased production almost 100% and the changes have not been difficult to put in place. We now give

the buffalo fresh water all the time and have increased the amount of green feed in their diet. All our buffaloes are untied so are able to get feed and water when they please. A shed cooling system is very much enjoyed by the buffaloes. We are endeavoring to treat sicknesses before they become a problem by vaccination and deworming programmes and identifying mastitis early. We are focusing on rearing good young stock and growing a consistent supply of quality feed to further increase production”. When asked about profitability, Mr Shabeer says “We are making more than enough money from the extra milk to pay the loan back. Our profit has doubled from Rs 20,000 to Rs 40,000 a month and our loan repayment is only Rs 2500. We are selling more milk and are spending less per litre. Our Farm Production Advisor from PDDC comes regularly to the farm to help us with these new ideas. The future is very bright for us.”

Abdul Kareem Chachar, FPA, says he enjoys working with the Rhandawa family because they are willing to try new ideas. Kareem has been with PDDC since December 2006 and was working as a farm manager prior to this so he has a good understanding of dairy farming as well as a University degree in Agronomy. He now has ten model farmers in his area, all of whom are going well. He encourages any interested farmers to contact PDDC about joining the programme. “In a short time you will see the benefits” he says.

For further information contact Mr.  
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Mr. Abdul Kareem Chachar (FPA) and  
farm owner Mr. Randhawa



Buffalo enjoying the newly installed  
cooling system



Dr. Abdul Khalique Soomro (FPA)  
demonstrating a test to identify mastitis



Mr. Abdul Kareem Chachar (FPA)  
presenting to interested farmers at a field  
day held at Randhawa farm