



**Tamilnadu Agricultural University- Coimbatore- 641 003**

**RAWE- Rural Agricultural Work Experience (0+6)**

**Pongalur block**

**“A Novel approach to conserve a Native breed”**

Kangeyam is one of the internationally recognized draught breeds of Tamil Nadu known for its nutrition milk and hardiness in the field. The breed is a native of kangeyam tracts and is predominantly found in the districts of Erode, Karur, Namakkal, Coimbatore, Tirupur and Dindigul. The breed is considered as pride of Tamil Nadu.

But in the recent past, the population of this breed has been drastically decreasing, slowly pushing it towards its extinction. The prime reasons for the dwindling population are shrinking agricultural land, increasing farm mechanization, lack of awareness about the importance of conserving native breeds. The trend is highly alarming and if appropriate conservation measures are not undertaken, there is a chance of losing the breed forever. We need active initiatives both from the government and the people for conserving the pride of Tamil Nadu.

One such notable effort is being undertaken by Mr. Uthamaraj of Kondaripalayam village (Pongalur block). Currently he is involved in conserving 40 Kangeyam breeds which includes 24 Cows, 3 Bulls and 13 Calves. Basically a businessman by profession, Mr. Uthamaraj dreamt of conserving the Kangeyam breed right from his school days. This dream urged him to buy 24 cattle in 2009 from kannavaram cattle market. With his continuous effort, he took the number to 40 cattle by the year 2014. His strategy includes implementing the indigenous

techniques of conservation. He avoids artificial insemination and goes for natural service by the bulls, which he maintains. He feeds them the fodder, which he grows on his own farm. The fodder includes a mixture of Bajra Napier grass, Desmanthus and Hay made from the stalks of Sorghum and Maize grown as intercrop with coconut in an area of 35 acres using sprinkler irrigation. He maintains the cattle with the help of 16 permanent labours.

When enquired about the purpose he replied that the main purpose of his efforts is conservation. But in order to make the plan economically viable he is trying a novel technique. He collects urine by directing the cattle shed drain to a tank. He then adds a mixture containing 100 kg jaggery, 25 kg cowdung and 4 kg of groundnut flour to a tank full of cattle urine. He allows the suspension to ferment for a period of 4 days. After fermentation, he uses the solution for fertigation. He fills ¼th of the fertilizer tank with this solution and using drippers, he applies it to 2200 coconut trees. As for the cowdung, he puts it for composting and applying composted manure to the coconut trees. Doing these he has turned his farm self sustainable as he need not buy any manures and fertilizers from outside. Mr. Uthamaraj says that only the Kangeyam breed is suitable for this purpose and not the exotic and cross breeds which are popular among the farming community. Apart from providing the micro and macro nutrients, this method also gives the plant a certain degree of disease tolerance. At present, this method is practiced only by him in the area and wishes to popularize it among other farmers also for which he is seeking government's support. He hopes that gradually more and more farmers would come forward to assist him in the conservation programme and restore the former glory of the breed once again.

Farmer's mobile number: 9842215015

The cows







The bulls



Suspension tank



Fertilizer tank



