



New Medicine for Bovine Mastitis

Why in News

Recently, the [National Innovation Foundation](#) (NIF) has developed a **poly-herbal medicine called Mastirak Gel to treat Mastitis in Dairy Cattle.**

- NIF is an autonomous institute of the [Department of Science and Technology \(DST\)](#), 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.](#)

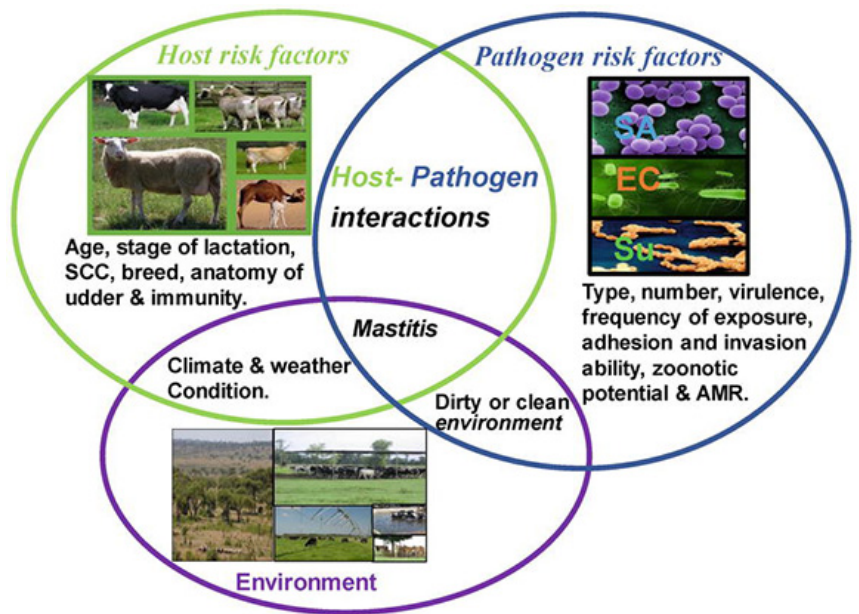
▪ Mastitis

◦ 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 ([fungi](#), [yeasts](#) 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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