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Schemes to Control FMD and Brucellosis

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Cabinet announced special scheme for control of **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)** and **Brucellosis**.

- The entire cost of the scheme is to be borne out by the **Central Government**.
- The scheme includes **vaccination coverage** to 30 crore bovines, 20 crore sheep or goat, and 10 million pigs.
- **Brucellosis control programme** shall extend to cover **100% vaccination** coverage of 3.6 crore female calves.

About Foot and Mouth Disease and Brucellosis

Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is a severe, highly **contagious viral disease of livestock** that has a significant **economic impact**.

- The disease affects **cattle, swine, sheep, goats and other cloven-hoofed ruminants**.
- FMD virus belongs to (risk group 4 as per World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Aphthovirus genus of the **picornaviridae family**.
- FMD can spread when infected animals bring the virus into **physical contact** with susceptible animals.
Virus contaminated facilities, contaminated vehicles, raw or improperly cooked garbage containing infected meat or animal products can also spread the virus of FMD.
- In rare cases, humans are also susceptible.

Brucellosis

- Brucellosis is a **bacterial disease** caused by various Brucella species, which mainly infect cattle, swine, goats, sheep and dogs.
- **Humans** generally acquire the disease through **direct contact** with **infected animals**, by **eating or drinking contaminated** animal products, or by **inhaling**

airborne agents.

- The majority of cases are caused by ingesting **unpasteurized milk** or cheese from infected goats or sheep.
- Person to person transmission is rare.
- The disease causes flu like symptoms, including fever, weakness, malaise and weight loss.

Threats of FMD and Brucellosis

- **National FMD serosurveillance** has estimated that **21%** of cattle and buffalo did experience in recent past FMD virus infection.
- Brucellosis is an **uncontrolled serious public health problem** in many developing countries including India.
- Brucellosis in India is yet a very common but often **neglected disease**.

Economic Impact of Foot and Mouth disease and Brucellosis: Both the diseases have a direct negative impact on the trade of milk and other livestock products.

As per the estimates by the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**,

- **Direct loss** due to milk and meat could amount to Rs 20,000 crore per annum due to FMD.
- **Indirect losses** due to reduced work capacity, abortions, subsequent infertility and sterility (that account for the reduced milk production subsequently).

India's Livestock Sector

- India's livestock sector is one of the largest in the world.
- Livestock contributed to **4% of the GDP and 26%** of the agricultural GDP during 2010-11.
- India **ranks first** among the world's milk producing Nations.
- **Largest contributor** to the **National GDP** among agricultural commodities.

Government Initiatives

- **FMD control programme (FMDCP)**, initiated in 10th plan period and was extended to 11th and 12th plan period. Presently, it covers 351 districts in 13 states and 6 UTs.
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Department (of Animal and Husbandry) had initiated '**FMD Mukt Bharat**' under **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)** during 2016-17, a programme to cover all the states which were not covered under the six monthly vaccination scheme.