

## Introduction to Holistic understanding of cow care

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27/12/2017

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## Dr Sreekumar S and Dr Sreekala v

- We both worked in TRCMPU ltd (Milma) from 1992 to 2009
- Resigned from job to do a Heifer farm project based on our finding that only 14% of the calves born survived.
- We wanted to procure Female calves ,grow them by grazing in our own land and when fully grown impregnate them and sell to dairy farmers

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- We didn't have an answer as to the fate of the cows once we sold them.
- We then stalled the heifer project to do research on why the cows and bulls are sold for slaughter or abandoned.

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## The bitter expression of Kali on the cows are cited in SB 1.17.3

Although the cow is beneficial because one can draw religious principles from her, she was now rendered **poor and calf less**. Her legs were being beaten by a śūdra. There were tears in her eyes, and she was distressed and weak. She was **hankering after some grass in the field**.

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## Not addressed yet

- Calves are separated from the mother
- Stall fed/ Zero grazing /Reduction in grazing land
- Only when these two abuses are addressed can we expect the cows to be happy and any project with cows to be sustainable

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## Consequence of separating calf

- विषं गवां यातुधानाः पिबन्त्वा  
वृश्च्यन्तामदितये दुरेवाः ।  
परैर्नान् देवो सविता ददातु परा  
भागमोषधीनां जयन्ताम्  
|| RV10.87.18 AV8.3.16
- Milk derived forcibly from cows is poisonous and leads to innumerable incurable diseases

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## Consequence of craving for grass

Pastures should have free access गोचर महत्व  
महदेषाव तपति चरन्ति गोषु गौरपि ।  
अथो ह गोपतये वशाददुषे विषं दुहे ॥  
अथर्व 12-4-39

Barriers in pastures angers the cows, the milk  
from such cows is likened to poison.  
(महदेषाव - Big barriers)

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## Among the audience

- How many of you are keeping cows for dairy ?
- How many of you are just consumers of milk and milk products ?
- How many of you have land and is planning to start a dairy ?
- How many of you are planning to purchase land to start a dairy ?
- How many of you are keeping cows or propose to keep cows for the purpose of farming only ?

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## To those who have a dairy or want to start a dairy

- What is your inspiration to do so ?
- Is it a profitable business ?
- What is the major disease of cows you are encountering ?
- Is there any one in the audience who is not against culling of cows ?

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## Vishnu Purana

In Kali yuga, Cows will be honored as long as she delivers milk



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## Starved dry (Non milking) cows



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## To Whomsoever it may concern



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### A burden



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### A burden



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### Flooded cow shelters



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### Over crowding



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## A change from reductionist to Holistic management - the need of the hour

- Such culling of cattle is just because the management of cattle is on Reductionist principle
- By just changing to Holistic management such culling shall never ever take place.

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## Holistic Management

It is a decision making process wherein

- Social
- Economic
- Environmental
- Spiritual

Unexpected consequences are addressed

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## Function Vs Utility of a cow.

### Function

- The purpose of something or someone or an activity that is natural
- Primary Function of cow is its inborn quality of grazing
- Primary function of udder is to feed the calf

### Utility

- The state of being useful, profitable or beneficial
- Primary utility fixed on the cow is for milk and bull for traction

Utility should come only after function ---- Cow protection

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## Holistic Veterinarian aims at

- Managing the animals to perform its functions so that it is good for the land and all life forms.
- The function of the cows is that it feeds the soil by its quality of grazing(Which is the integral process in an ecosystem)
- The animals are well cared for until ending their lives as humanely as possible, just as you and I would wish to be treated.
- Cows are our resources and common sense tells that resources do not cause problems. **It is how we manage them that results in problems.**
- Micro organisms are present at the site of disease but they are not the cause of the disease
- The main causative factor for all diseases of cows is not a microorganism but a macro organism-Man

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## Conventional Vs Holistic Management

Conventional	Holistic
Category of unproductive arises	Seeing the whole herd as productive
Culling of unproductive is practiced to sustain.	No culling. Donating (Godhan) is practiced to sustain
Goal is profit, Money	Goal is Health, his own, his family, his community's, his nation's
Animal performance only is the priority	Animal performance, Grazing and soil
How much and how quickly it can be made to produce	How much can be taken without diminishing it. What can it produce decently for an infinite period of time.

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## Nature functions in wholes

- Complexity of nature-The basic principle is that we cannot manage nature by its parts
- We cannot / should not manage plants
  - in isolation from the soil they grow in
  - or from the animals that graze them

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## Habitat and distribution of lion and tiger in india

- Tigers-found practically throughout the country, except in Punjab, Kutch and the deserts of Rajasthan. Tigers occupy a variety of habitats including tropical evergreen forests, deciduous forests, mangrove swamps, thorn forests and grass
- Asiatic lions live in tropical grasslands, tropical dry forests, semi-deserts, and deserts.jungles. - Gujarat,Rajasthan,Uttar pradesh

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## Mistake no 1-Trying to manage cows from natural habitat



For what?

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- Like a fish is removed from its habitat(Water)
- Fish dies and is consumed by humans
- We removed the cow from grasslands to do factory farming
- The grasslands are becoming deserts,fruits and vegetables have gone low in nutrients.....
- The cows are being culled,.....

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## Breeding against the whole

**Meat purpose**



**Milk purpose**



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## When we bred the cows for more milk their

- HEALTHY LIFE SPAN GOT REDUCED
- UDDER COULDN'T PRODUCE MORE MILK BECAUSE OF MASTITIS
- THEY GOT INFECTED WITH INCURABLE DISEASES LIKE TB,BRUCellosIS AND JOHNE'S DISEASE
- DAIRYING BECAME UNPROFITABLE FOR THE PRODUCER
- MEAT TRADE FLOURISHED

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## We should breed for a Healthy herd which will

- INCREASE THEIR LIFE SPAN
- PROFITABLE DAIRYING
- DISEASE FREE HERD
- COW PROTECTION WILL MANIFEST

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## It is by the virtue of the whole that we are surviving

- Without agriculture it is not possible to have a city,stock market,banks,university,places of worship or army. Agriculture is the foundation of civilization and stable economy
- Cow is an integral part of Agriculture.
- By the inbuilt function of grazing and animal impact they help in farming
- Grass is a crop in agriculture

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## For economic viability in a dairy enterprise

- Timely Culling of unproductive (Not in milk)cows is the key factor to the economic viability of dairying
- If not culled 70-75% of the herd shall be non producers (Calves,Bulls,old cows)
- Hence dairy and slaughter are complimentary

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## Culled cows



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## Slaughtered



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## Pillars for sustainability in cow care

- Animal performance
- Grazing
- Soil

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- “The nation that destroys its soil, destroys itself.” - *Franklin Delano Roosevelt*

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- **Four basic processes at work in all ecosystems** allow us to quickly gauge the health of the land:
- Only when these four processes are functioning in a farm are we getting real milk, real grains, real vegetables , fruits and real water .

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## Water cycle



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## Effective rainfall

- It is the rain that falls on the surface of the soil, soaks in and then leaves the soil only by two ways
  - By flowing through the soil to perennial flows, underground water reservoirs
  - By transpiration through green growing plants

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## Bare soil Vs Covered soil



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### Muddy water



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### Surface ponding



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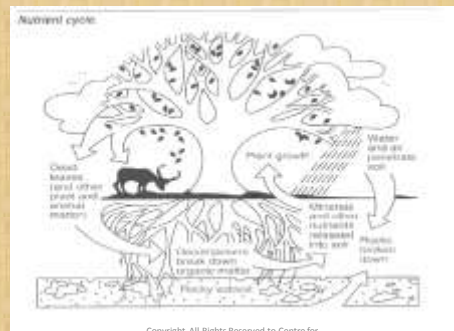
### Capped soil



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### Mineral cycle



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## Trees shed leaves to bring minerals on top



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## Mineral depletion in vegetables 1940 - 1991

- Copper reduced by 76%
  - Calcium reduced by 46%
  - Iron reduced by 27%
  - Magnesium reduced by 24%
  - Potassium reduced by 16%
- Source: UK Ministry of Agriculture

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## Vitamin and mineral deficiency leads to

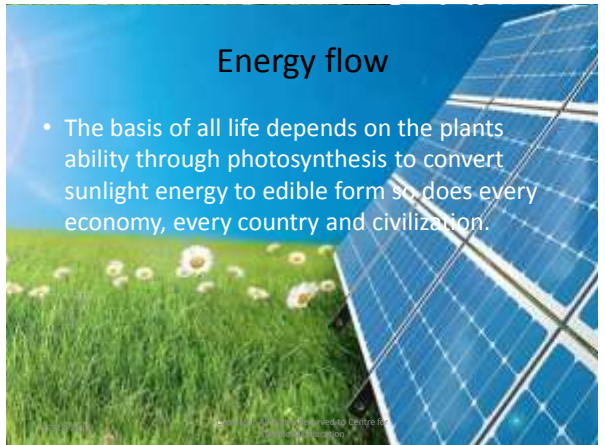
- Overactive endocrine glands and Thyroid
- Loss of calcium, Iron, iodine
- Goitre, Anaemia, Diabetes, Paralysis, Gastric ulcers
- Accumulation of sterols leading to
- Gall stones, Cataracts, Heart blocks, Cancers

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## Energy flow

- The basis of all life depends on the plants ability through photosynthesis to convert sunlight energy to edible form so does every economy, every country and civilization.



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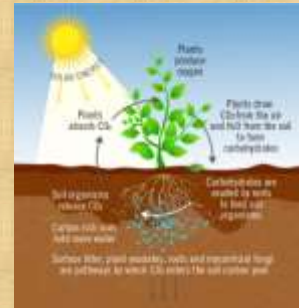
## Bare soil does not harvest sunlight



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## Energy cycle and carbon cycle



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## Community dynamics

- Biodiversity
- Community Dynamics is the process of change and development in communities of all living organisms—including plants, microorganisms, and small and large creatures of every sort.
- A species will move into an environment when the conditions are suitable for its establishment, and will move out of that environment when the conditions become unsuitable for its reproduction

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## Biodiverse vs mono cropping



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## The real capital for sustainable farming

- An advance in Community Dynamics, an increase in Energy Flow, or an improvement in the Water Cycle or Mineral Cycle, is a replenishment of capital.
- A bank cannot or even inherited property maynot provide this capital

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## Nature works as a whole

- In order to have an effective water or mineral cycle, or adequate energy flow, an ecosystem must have communities of living organisms. For living things to thrive, they need effective energy flow to feed them, a water cycle that supplies adequate moisture, and a mineral cycle that supplies vital nutrients. **All four processes work together to create a healthy or unhealthy ecosystem.**

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## Bare soil- Enemy No 1



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## Characteristics of natures farming

Mother earth never attempts to farm without live stock

- Raises mixed crops-Biodiversity
- Preserves the soil-no soil erosion
- Process of growth and decay balance one another-mixed animal and vegetable converted to humus-no waste
- Greatest care is taken to store the rainfall-Effective rainfall

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- **To forget how to dig the earth and to tend the soil is to forget ourselves.**
- *- Mohandas K. Gandhi*

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