

## *Congratulation to all!*

Pakistan Post has issued a commemorative postage stamp of Rs. 8/- on completion of 100 years (1914 – 2014) of Sahiwal Cattle Breed Conservation on August 05, 2014 (Tuesday) to honour the globally known breed and millions of Sahiwal farmers, breeders and lovers the world over. We being Pakistani are proud of our Sahiwal, a free gift of nature. Let us celebrate the past and embrace the future.

Humped or Zebu cattle (*Bos-Indicus*) were domesticated 7000–8000 years back in the then Indus valley, present day Pakistan. One of the best known zebu breeds is the Sahiwal in Pakistan which developed on the Indus plain especially in the Ganji bar. The introduction of a canal irrigation system during 1914 changed the ecology and agriculture of the area from pastoral livestock production to intensive crop production. British Government leased out lands to conserve the Sahiwal cattle breed. First Conservation farm of its kind was approved on 30. 6.1914 at Jehangirabad near Kachha Khu Distt. Multan (now Khanewal) by leasing out 4190 acres of land to SardarJahangir Khan Wattu.

Efforts towards conservation of the breed continued at Jehangirabad Cattle farm till today being pioneers. This farm really changed the Sahiwal breed history through its contributions in the shape of breed development by issuing pedigreed bulls to the nation and even to the world. Motivation for the Sahiwal Cattle lovers and general public by participating in national Livestock shows in the country and even in Delhi before partition. Milk and beauty competitions inspired the general public for rebreeding the Sahiwal breed. This farm was nationalized during 1977 and its contributions continued in a novel way both at Government farm as well as at private original farm. During the period from 1915 to 1976, 4638 cows and heifers, 1770 bullocks and 8608 breeding bulls were supplied for further breeding and utilization from private farm and 1972 bulls and heifers were issued for further breeding from Government farm, a real contribution towards conservation of the breed. The Sahiwal breed here improved at such a prime level that it was exported to China, Australia, Kenya, Newzeland, Malaysia, Bamgladesh, India, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iran, Sri Lanka and Kuwait etc. Animals of this farm won National beauty and dairy championships. Now it is found in more than twenty nine countries of the world. More than eight synthetic breeds have been evolved by utilizing Sahiwal breed in tropical countries.

Being the tick resistant, heat tolerant, high milk producing breed under harsh and low input farming systems, easy calver, reproductively efficient and economically sustainable, it is globally known breed. Sahiwal produce A2 type safe milk whereas Holstein Friesian (*Bos taurus*) produce A1 type milk which is associated as risk factor for fatal human diseases. Livestock is already playing its role in poverty alleviation in rural masses and its contribution in Agriculture GDP is increasing which is now 55.4 %. According to International Farming Comparison Network, Pakistan is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest milk producer (Energy corrected) in the world after India and USA. Being producer of safe milk, export of value added products can be increased to earn the foreign exchange.

According to Pakistan Livestock Census 2006, 2.75 million heads of Sahiwal cattle are available in the country. Due to its global importance and unique characteristics, efforts for its conservation on scientific lines continued and Government of the Punjab established separate Research centre (RCCSC) for its conservation during 2003-04, Breeding programme of RCCSC has been recognized by FAO. As a first effort, during 1914, inspite of great pressure of crossbreeding since 1970, its conservation continued. On realizing the importance of Sahiwal breed, Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Ministry of Communication, Pakistan Post Islamabad has issued this commemorative postage stamp to mark the centenary of the Sahiwal Cattle breed. RCCSC L&DD Punjab congratulates all of you being Sahiwal breed lovers and stakeholders on this historical moment.

With kind Regards

Director and staff of RCCSC

Jhang

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