



Founder of the Farm Mr. K.N. Saminathan, MLA, Vice Chairman Live Stock Development Committee Govt. of TamilNadu. Addressing the Conference on 27-11-1968 in Tanjore.



Trustees Attending a meet in the national academy of agricultural sciences in New Delhi



Farmers from Peravarani, Thanjavur taking delivery of their registered calves



50 Nos. of Farmers from Karnataka underwent 3 day orientation program on organic farming and indigineous cattle breeding - Atma



Pongal Celebrations for children at Coimbatore - Outreach and awareness Program



Kangayam Bull - Livelihood of Kongunadu

Current Activities of the foundation

The foundation maintains a website that provides valuable information about the Kangayam Breed, the land use associated with its maintenance and its sustainable use.

At Kuttapalayam farm a herd of 40 animals are maintained, bred and continually improved through systematic selection, crossing and pedigree maintenance.

Pedigree bulls in the foundation are used as stud bulls for inseminating animals from 10 km radius of the farm.

The foundation runs a village livelihood programme called Kuttapalayam Saminathan Community Based Heifer Rearing Programme (KSCBHRP) through which heifers of good quality animals are provided to landless women and families. While providing the animals, the market cost of the animal is fixed and handed over for maintenance over a period of 8-10 months. At the end of the term, the animal is sold in the open market. The cost of the animal as fixed at the commencement of the programme plus fifty percent of the profit is returned to the foundation and the rest retained by the woman or the family involved.

The foundation is a strong advocate of organic farming and makes use of the dung, urine for preparation of Panchakavyya, Amirtha karisal, Jeevamirtham for use in the farm.

The farm is well known in the area and draws a number of local, national and international visitors every year.

The Future

The foundation plans to establish a small Kangayam Cattle Heritage Museum at Kuttapalayam. The museum would contain articles of daily use, about the Kangayam breed and its origin, Korangadu and species of plants and animals associated with them, bullocks carts, agricultural implements used by farmers in the Kongu region in the past and the present as a tribute to the rich agricultural heritage.

For raising awareness and protecting the heritage, a Kangayam Cattle Heritage Trail would be established, which would locate important sites of social, cultural and heritage value associated with the Kangayam Breed. This eco-friendly heritage trail would provide an opportunity for outsiders to gain insights into the rich heritage of the Kongu region. Hence the trail which is likely to be established shortly, will benefit the public at large.

Senaapathy Kangayam Cattle Research Foundation (SKCRF)

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Senaapathy Kangayam
Cattle Research Foundation (SKCRF)
(A In Situ Conservation and breeding centre)



LIFE Network





Visit to the Foundation by the officials of FAO & Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in 1965



Korangadu - GIAHS - Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System



Chairman of the foundation Mr. Sivasenapathy Saminathan, with Shri Anbu Sundarananda Swamigal of the Good Earth Trust



Visits Dr. Minoti & Dr. Richard



Dr. N. Kandasamy Department of Animal Genetics, Tanuvas During a TV Shoot



Mr. Perumal Manager, SKCRF explaining the organic farming concept



Research scholar from university of cambridge, Department of Biological Anthropology



Kuttapalayam Saminathan Community Based Heifer Rearing Programme



LIFE Network consultation for CBD, CoP10, Nagoya, Japan at the foundation

History

India is a repository of domesticated animal biodiversity having 30 well defined breeds of cattle, comprising 7.75 % of the total world's animal's breeds. Within India, the southern peninsular region has the largest number and breeds of draught cattle.

Kangayam is a popular and well known breed from Tamil Nadu. It is also called locally as Kongunad, Kongu or Kanganad, and is an excellent draught breed known for its sturdiness. Kangayam is a hardy breed suitable for agricultural operations and hauling. It is well adapted to drought prone areas and can thrive on unconventional feeds like neem, palmyra and several other species of low fodder value; it is disease resistant and has low body mass index, low metabolic rate and low water requiring, has capacity to withstand heat and humidity stress and resilience capacities. Some of these qualities make it a suitable candidate for adapting to climate change.

The credit for evolving the breed over a period of four centuries goes to the Mandradiar family. The breed was evolved by then Pattakarar of Palayakottai Shri. Rao Bhadrur Nallathambi Sarkarai Manradiar, whose descendants once maintained over 4000 animals in their farm.

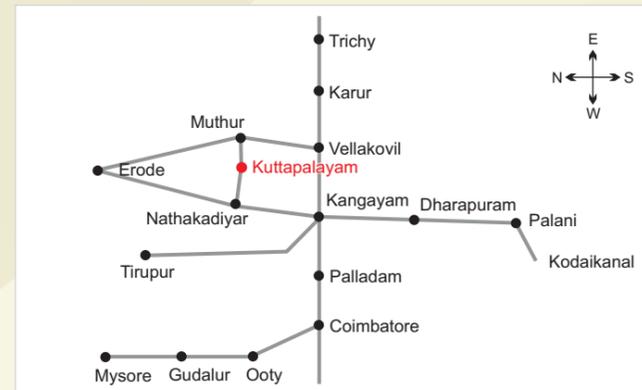
In the past many farmers in the breeding tract owned 10-20 heads, while a recent survey in the 2000 indicate only 0-3 animals. A general decline in the Kangayam population from the breeding tract is reported and in many places is on the verge of local extinction. The chief reasons for decline: 1) Reduction in the need for draught-animal in agricultural operations notably farming, ii) Electrification and use of tractors, iii) Diversification of agriculture and shift to milk production and sheep rearing, iv) Absence of breeders society for promoting the breed.

A lesser known but significant factor associated with the Kangayam Breed is the Korangadu, a form of land-use by which tracts of rainfed lands are enclosed and maintained exclusively for grazing purposes and occasionally used for dry crops like Bajra, Sorghum, pulses like Naripayaru. It is a predominantly a livestock based economy. Changes in the economic pattern towards increased industrialisation has brought about significant change in the land-use and society. The area under Korangadu - pasturelands has also seen a drastic reduction.

Against this backdrop the Senapathy Kangayam Cattle Research Foundation was established recently with the vision of being an in-situ conservation and research centre for the Kangayam Breed. The founders of this organisation share the Mandradiar heritage and legacy with a keen interest in upkeep and maintenance of a viable herd of Kangayam breed under in-situ conditions, notably within the Korangadu grazing system. The korangadu is an extensive form of land use suited to the low rainfall conditions by which land is productively used for grazing under controlled conditions. One of the chief objectives of the foundation is to raise awareness about the Kangayam Breed and the social, cultural and heritage value of Korangadu.

Location

The foundation is located in the village of Kuttapalayam, 5 km from Muthur on the Kangayam – Kodumudi Road and about 80 km east of Coimbatore. Some animals of the foundation are also maintained in Valliarachal farm, located in the south of Muthur (See Map).



Rao Bahadur Nallathambi Sarkarai Mandradiar Chief Architect & Breeder



Founder of the Farm K.N. Saminathan Ex. MLA, Director - Life stock development committee Chairman - Central Warehousing corporation & a great kangayam cattle breeder

Objectives of the trust

- ❖ Raise Awareness among the public about the breed and its uniqueness.
- ❖ Issue pedigree and stud Animals to needy individuals and association / groups and pastoralists.
- ❖ Contribute to debate on Animal Genetic Resources (AGR) and influence state policies.
- ❖ Explore ways and means to protect and use Korangadu Silvi Pastoral System for Conservation of Kangayam Breed.
- ❖ Undertake studies / associate or enable individuals and institutions to work on Kangayam Breed and Korangadu.
- ❖ Associate with individuals and organizations involved in Conservation and Sustainable Use of Agro biodiversity and strengthen its cause.
- ❖ Explore pathways to use the Kangayam Breed in the modern context.



Horns being trimmed by the chief care taker Mr. Samiappan whose family has been with us from 1850 onwards



Animal Husbandry Minister Mr. Pongalur Palanisamy, Highways Minister Mr. Swaminathan at SKCRF



Kavadi to Lord Muruga's Temple in the month of March - A bio-cultural event