

STANDARDS OF CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF DESIGNATED FARM

1. Location of the farm

Livestock farms should be constructed in a way that permits perfect isolation of animals and birds and shall operate under a regime of strict quarantine, including the following:

- 1.1. Due to potential bio-hazard risks, the farm shall be located on the outskirts of the town avoiding congested residential areas.
- 1.2. The farm location must be at least 100 meters away from national high way and public access feeder road along with a boundary wall to prevent transmission of diseases.
- 1.3. It must have an easy access to a high way by having a motorable road round the year, for easy transport of farm inputs and outputs.
- 1.4. The farm areas shall not be low lying, water logging and there shall be quick drainage of rainwater from the premises.
- 1.5. The farm areas shall be such that drainage water or effluent from village, town, factory and other farms doesn't enter the farm premises.
- 1.6. Farm shall be preferably established in a virgin soil where other farms were not there before.
- 1.7. Adequate drinking water of acceptable quality shall be made available in the premises.
- 1.8. Reliable electricity facilities shall be available.

2. Farm buildings and design

- 2.1. The design of the livestock/poultry sheds, their dimensions and floor space requirement shall be as specified under Annexure –V as prescribed by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- 2.2. Farm building shall be located in a carefully selected site, preferably in elevated areas where land is available around the perimeter for future expansion.
- 2.3. The farm areas shall be fenced properly to avoid trespassing with only one entry and exit gate; the gate shall be normally closed and permanently watched.
- 2.4. A main gate of 12-15 feet width for vehicles and a side gate of 3-4 feet for persons shall be provided.
- 2.5. At the entry of main and side gates, wheel dip (12'X12') and foot bath (3'X3') have to be provided which has to be filled with disinfectant lotions like 2% phenyl to sanitize wheel and feet.
- 2.6. For large size farm, workers and owners quarters may be constructed in the farm premises for efficient farm operation.

- 2.7. The residential quarters and watchman's cabin shall be nearer to the entrance of the farm; while the farm shall be located interiorly preferably with separate entrance for each.
- 2.8. There shall be disinfectant basin placed at entry of all buildings or areas where animals are kept or where feed and equipment are stored.
- 2.9. If more than one animal sheds or pens are constructed, distance between the animal/ poultry houses constructed shall be a minimum of 15 metres.
- 2.10. For poultry houses the minimum distance between any two poultry houses shall be three times the height of poultry house at ridge.
- 2.11. The orientation of houses shall take advantage of locally prevailing wind, airflow pattern and solar heat transfer.
- 2.12. There shall be effective and safe means to control vermin, insect and frequent cleaning and disinfecting of animal houses.
- 2.13. Floor shall be smooth and have a continuous joint with walls to facilitate disinfection and cleaning.
- 2.14. At the entry and outside walls of livestock farms there shall be noticeable poster/ signboard stating that entry is prohibited, mentioning penalties due for unauthorized entry.

3. Feed storeroom

- 3.1. The storeroom shall be rodent proof, leak proof and seepage proof.
- 3.2. If feed is prepared in the farm, sufficient space shall be provided to store the feed ingredients, composite feeds and to accommodate feed grinder or mixer etc.

4. Manure pit

- 4.1. A manure pit of about one meter depth shall be located at the corner of the farm and at least 30 metres away from the nearest farm house and drinking water sources.
- 4.2. The manure pit must be in an area lower than that of rest of the farm building so that contaminated rainwater will not flow from the manure pit towards livestock/ poultry sheds or pens.
- 4.3. The size of manure pit shall depend on the farm size and frequency of disposal of manure.

5. Drainage and septic tank

- 5.1. The animal sheds shall have open drainage system and appropriate size septic tank for collecting wastewater and sewage.

6. Incinerator and biological pit

- 6.1. All medium and large farms shall have an incinerator (electrical or wood/litter fired) or biological pit preferably the former for safe disposal of carcass of dead animals/birds.
- 6.2. Smaller farms where incinerator and biological pit are not available biological waste and carcass of dead animals/birds shall be buried deep or burnt.
- 6.3. The biological pit wall shall depend on the volume of material expected to be put in it. But it must be circular in cross section with diameter of 2–3 metres and a depth of 4–6 metres.
- 6.4. Only biological material shall be added and not chemicals such as disinfectant or antibacterial to the biological pit as this will delay biological breakdown.
- 6.5. Fencing shall be constructed around waste disposable area to reduce risk.

7. Other safety facilities

- 7.1. There shall be a veterinary dispensary for use only inside the livestock farm.
- 7.2. For safety in farm, every farm shall have first aid kit for worker consisting of eye bath, antiseptic cream/ liquid, assortment bandage and plasters.

8. Visitors to the farm

- 8.1. Person other than the regularly employed staff shall normally not be allowed entry to the livestock farms.
- 8.2. If for technical or other valid reasons a visitor must be received, such visitor shall be subject to the same precaution measures as the staff, and shall not enter more animal house than necessary for the purpose of the visit.
- 8.3. The visitors shall dip their feet in the footbath provided before entering farm and animal/bird sheds.
- 8.4. Visitors immediately upon entry shall change their shoes against high rubber boots/slippers, which are the property of the establishment and may be used only within the livestock farms.
- 8.5. The visitors further shall be obliged to dress in protective garments which may not be used outside the establishment.
- 8.6. Veterinary Officers visiting the livestock farm on official duty shall not enter any other farms or establishment before such visit. In case of such visit the veterinarian shall change his/her shoes, clothing and thoroughly wash and disinfect his/her hands prior to entry into animal sheds/pen.

8.7. Under all circumstances during periods of disease outbreaks in the vicinity, visitors shall be restricted from entering the farm except for the official purpose and under special circumstances.

9. Stray animals/birds

9.1. No animals/birds other than those kept in the farm shall be permitted to enter the farm.

10. Management and disease control at the farm

10.1. Feed, bedding, litter, equipment and other materials used in the livestock farms shall be subject to suitable treatment as and when required.

10.2. The livestock and poultry houses shall have proper ventilation to prevent disease associated with it.

10.3. Farm shall practice proper sanitation and remove faeces as often as practicable.

10.4. The animals and birds shall receive regular vaccination and other prophylactic treatment according to the farm management schedule. Whenever necessary, the animals and birds shall also receive immediate therapeutic treatments.

10.5. There shall be facilities for isolation of diseased and calving animals.

10.6. Cattle should be regularly tested for Tuberculosis, Brucellosis, Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR) and poultry for Infectious Bursal Disease (IBD), New Castle Disease and Pullorum disease, and pigs for tapeworm and swine fever.

11. Welfare aspects

11.1. Housing, feeding, castration etc shall be carried out taking into consideration the animal welfare standards.

11.2. Farm shall provide adequate housing space; feed and water.

11.3. Farm shall provide rapid diagnosis and treatment facilities for treatment of sick and injured animals.

11.4. Animals shall not be subjected to inhuman treatment.

12. Environment pollution

12.1. The livestock farm shall take all precautions to prevent environmental pollution.

12.2. Biological waste shall be disposed off carefully to prevent pollution of local water supply.

12.3. Manure slurry must not drain into open ponds for digestion as it yields methane gas incriminated for green house effect.