

Dairy scientists in Karnal clone female buffalo

Anita Singh | TNN

Karnal: Researchers at the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) in Karnal have cloned a female buffalo calf.

The calf, which has been named Lalima, has been 'produced' using the 'hand-guided cloning technique'. Though she was delivered on May 2, the achievement was made public on Monday.

Lalima is NDRI's seventh cloned calf. The institute had produced the world's first cloned buffalo calf in 2009. Three of the seven cloned calves have died. Lalima was born by normal parturition and its weight at the time of birth was around 36kg. She is in

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good health and weighs 42kg.

In Lalima's case, the donor cell was taken from the ear of an elite murrah buffalo, which produced 2,713kg milk in the standard lactation period of 305 days at the institute's livestock farm. The calf was produced after the standard gesta-

tion period without any assistance.

Congratulating the scientists, Indian Council of Agricultural Research director general S Ayyappan said the latest achievement of producing a cloned calf from adult lactating animals by the 'hand-guided cloning' technique would facilitate faster multiplication of elite germplasm and help meet the increasing demand for milk.

NDRI director A K Srivastava said, "India has the world's largest population of buffaloes, which contribute about 55% of the milk production in the country, but even then, there is an urgent need to enhance the population of elite buffaloes."

शुभिका गुप्ता
डॉ. शशि

प्रभारी पत्रिका सेव समाचार पत्र अनुभाग

प्रशासक

प्रतिलिपि :-

1. निदेशक कार्यालय
2. संयुक्त निदेशक (प्रसार)
3. अधिष्ठाता/संयुक्त निदेशक (शिक्षा)
4. प्रभारी, यू. एस. आई
5. प्रभारी, कर्ष
6. प्रभारी, सी. पी. आई