

Indian Cattle: Red Sindhi

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Introduction

In an agriculture based developing country like India, natural resources provide basic livelihood support to rural people. Our rural families are dependent on land, water, livestock and forests for generating employment and for earning their livelihood. Among the livestock, cattle and buffaloes play a significant role, because of their contribution to human nutrition (milk and butter fat), plant nutrition (farmyard manure) and energy (bullock power). Cattle and buffaloes are maintained by all sections of the community and unlike other natural resources, it is well distributed among small and large land holders. India possesses a good number of recognised breeds of cattle, which represent more than 16% of the world cattle population. These are classified into milch breeds, draft and dual purpose breeds. Our milch breeds such as Gir, Tharparkar, Red Sindhi and Sahiwal are popular even in other countries.

Red sindhi is an important dairy cow breed of the subcontinent. The home tract and origin of the breed is around Karachi and Hyderabad district of Pakistan. Due its hardiness, heat resistance, good foraging and high milk yielding capacity they have spread to many parts of India as well as other parts of world including America, Africa, Australia, Phillipines, Tanzania, Srilanka, Iraq etc. A number of organized herd of this breed is maintained at some government farm of the country. This breed of cattle In Australia they have been used for cross breeding with the local Australian breeds due its good adaptability, resistance to heat and ticks and hardiness and a new cross breed Australian Milking Zebu (AMZ) was established. The breed has been used for cross breeding with high yielding exotic breed such as Brown Swiss to develop cross breed such as Karan Swiss at National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal.



Red sindhi breed of cattle is also known as Malir, red Karachi and Sindhi Red sindhi have medium sized compact and well-proportioned body with round dropping quarters. The colour of the breed is brick red with the shed varying from dark red to light strips of white colour sometimes on dewlap and occasionally on the fore head. Male are darker than female. Hump dewlap and sheath are heavy. Females are good milkers and bullocks are suited for field work. It is distinguished from Sahiwal by its darker muzzle. Thick horns are emerging laterally and end in blunt points. The average height of a Red Sindhi cow is 116 cm with a body weight of 340 kgcm in height and 420 kg in weight`

Males are darker than females and when mature may be almost black on the extremities, such as the head, feet and tail. As per livestock census 2019, the Red Sindhi cattle population is 6,12,900 which constitutes 0.4% of total cattle population in India.

Production Characteristics

This is one of the best milch breed of the subcontinent. Though this breed is mainly found in the Hyderabad and Karachi district of Pakistan, cows of this breed are maintained in almost part of our country for milk production. Under good management conditions the Red Sindhi averages over 1700 kg of milk per lactation after suckling their calves but under optimum conditions there have been milk yields of over 3400 kg. The average milk production of this breed in India varies between 1300 kg to 1800 kg per lactation. The heritability of milk production is 0.30-0.35. Milk fat varies between 4.5 - 5.2%. Age at first calving is 39-49 month and calving interval is 425-540 days. The body weight of Red sindhi calf at birth is 18-21 kg which attains about 340-348 kg at the time of calving.

Average lactation (300 days) yield in different lactation (in kg)

1.	First lactation	1431
2.	Second lactation	1556
3.	Third lactation	1677
4.	Fourth	1822
5.	Sixth	2192

Breed Characteristics

Source of Funding

None.

Conflict of Interest

None.

Reference

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