

DAIRY BUFFALO PRODUCTION SYSTEM UNDER SEMI-INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT IN THE COASTAL AREA OF BANGLADESH

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to evaluate the present status of production system of dairy buffalo under semi-intensive management in coastal area of Bangladesh. The data were collected during farm visit and recorded in prepared questionnaire and check list. The findings of the study revealed that very minimum housing facilities were provided to the buffaloes. Both the grazing and confinement time were found similar (around 6 hrs in a day) and they spent almost 3 hrs in a day for wallowing. The majority of the lactating buffaloes were not being adequately fed. Farmers usually supplied local grass (4.98 ± 2.89 kg DM/day) and rice straw (10.90 ± 2.85 kg DM/day) with one or two concentrate feed separately as supplement (1.51 ± 0.80 kg DM/day). The daily average DCP and TDN supply were 0.365 and 6.417 kg/d respectively which were undersupplied as compared to standard requirement. The productive and reproductive performance of indigenous dairy buffalo was not similar to high producing dairy buffaloes. The average lactation yields (litre/lactation) were found as 469.52 ± 163.71 . The EC value (2.73 ± 3.53) of milk indicated as healthy milk production. Milk consumption pattern (8%) was not satisfactory. Milk market was volatile. Natural breeding (95.7%) was more prominent practice than artificial insemination (AI) (4.3%). The most of the buffalo cows showed heat from early night to early morning (22.2-54.2%). Technology adaptation for buffalo rearing was very much poor. Technology adaptation index for the use of concentrate feed, artificial insemination, de-worming and vitamin-mineral premix were 16.34, 13.46, 23.07 and 6.25 respectively. It therefore be concluded that technological transformation could be boost up to national milk production by developing of the management practise of dairy buffalo under semi-intensive system in Bangladesh.

Keywords: Dairy buffalo, semi-intensive, management practice, coastal area, technology

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INTRODUCTION


The dynamics of buffalo production systems in South Asia Region is transforming day by day due to increasing the population more rapidly specially in Asia for its emerging role in economic development (Dhanda, 2013). Buffalo production system varies widely in accordance with climate, soil and socio economic opportunities in Bangladesh (Saadullah, 2012). Buffalos graze in natural pasture in coastal areas. A total of 11, 5 and 84% farmers reared buffalo for milk purpose, meat purpose and milk and meat purpose, respectively in coastal areas (Nahar et al., 2014). According to Saadullah (2012) buffaloes are kept mainly for specific purposes, i.e. either for milk or for meat production in Bangladesh under semi intensive system. It is an important livestock resource in several countries of South Asia and the Mediterranean regions. Buffalo is playing a leading role in the national economy by producing milk, meat and draught power in India and Pakistan. Buffalo contributes about 57% and 68% of total milk production of India and Pakistan, respectively (FAO, 2010). Due to high fat content of buffalo milk, it is the most preferred species and called Black gold of Pakistan (Bilal et al., 2006). Climatic condition of Bangladesh is nearly similar to India and has many rivers and marshy lands that favour for raising buffaloes. Recently Government of Bangladesh, private sector and research organization has given emphasis on Buffalo production. The availability of milk in Bangladesh is only about 158.19 ml h⁻¹ d⁻¹ of about 63.27% (DLS, 2018) whereas, the availability of milk in India and Pakistan is about 290 ml, 525 ml, h⁻¹ d⁻¹, respectively (Hamid et al.,2016). This figure indicates that Bangladesh need to give more emphasis on the milk production to fulfil the national demand. The indigenous dairy cows are low producers and the crossbred cow has the limitation regarding disease resistance, repeat breeding etc. Use of other mammalian livestock species for milk production could help to improve the scenario (Siddiki, 2017) and the success of India and Pakistan dairy industry based on buffalo might be a good example for Bangladesh. However, buffaloes are low producers in Bangladesh, because of poor genetic potentialities, poor nutrition, longer puberty age, seasonality of breeding, longer calving interval, high calf mortality and poor management practices (Nahar, 2015; Amin et al.,2015; Sarker et al., 2013; Faruque and Amin, 1995; Shamsuddin et al., 2001). Faruque and Amin (1995), Uddin et al., (2016) and Amin et al., (2017) reported the management and production performances of buffaloes of Noakhali district of Bangladesh. However, there is no report on the management and production performances of buffaloes of Bhola district in Bangladesh which possesses the highest number of buffaloes of the country. Moreover different management system e.g. extensive and semi-intensive systems were followed in this area. Semi-intensive system introduces very recently for emphasised lactating buffaloes. Therefore, the present study was designed to investigate the existing management system along with reproduction and production characteristics of dairy buffalo in Bhola district of Bangladesh under semi-intensive system.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Location of study areas

The study area was Vhalu Miar Char, Sub-district: Bhola sadar, District: Bhola (AEZ-18, coastal area), Bangladesh. This is a coastal area of Bangladesh having high buffalo concentration (10.1-32.3 buffaloes/1000 people (Huque and Khan, 2017). Under the Köppen Climate Classification, Bhola is under Tropical Monsoon Climate (Wikipedia, 2017). General information of study area demonstrated in Table 1.

Table 1. General information and satellite image of study area

The Köppen Climate Classification	Tropical wet climate (Aw)	
Location Vhalu Miar Char, Bhola sadar in Bangladesh	22.6903°N & 90.6525°E	
Temperature (Min-Max)	19-29°C	
Humidity (%)	71	
Average yearly rain fall(mm)	2424	
Human population density	480/km ²	
Management system	Semi-intensive	
Breed type	Indigenous	

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org>; <https://www.timeanddate.com/weather/@1336136/climate>; <https://www.banglapedia.org>

Farmer selection

Buffalo farmers were randomly selected from three villages. Farmers had at least one milking buffalo with calf and reared buffalo under semi-intensive management system. Farm visit, farm observation, secondary review, community discussion were held in the from January to July 2017.

Preparation of questioner

Structured questionnaire was developed according to variable of the objectives. Variables like productive and reproductive performances, feeding and management practices with related problem for buffalo farming were considered. The questionnaire was pre-tested in the selected area. The preliminary schedule was edited on the basis of experience gained in pre-testing and then the questionnaire was finalized. The schedule contains both open and closed-ended question.

Data collection

Qualitative and quantitative information were collected from semi-intensive farm. Data were collected directly from 30 farms by the experience enumerators. Researcher monitored the enumerators and support as required by direct visit and mobile communication. Moreover, more than 40 milking buffalo farmers were directly contacted by the researcher for validation of the information. Discussion was also conducted with the cowboys (hired labours) who are responsible for the care and management of the buffalo and the farm as a whole, to confirm and recheck the information that were collected from the household buffalo farms which fulfil the triangulation methods.

Period of Study

Farm visit, farm observation, secondary review, community discussion were held in the period of six months which was from January to July 2017.

Sample collection and analysis

Information regarding the amount and types of feeds and fodders being offered randomly to thirty the lactating buffaloes. The quantity of dry matter (DM), digestible crude protein (DCP) and total digestible nutrient (TDN) available to dairy buffaloes were calculated from the records of feeds and fodder using value as given by Kears (1982) and Feedipedia.org (2018). Their requirements for DCP and TDN were worked out according to Kears (1982).

During this visit, 15 individual milk samples (50 ml/sample) were also collected from study area. The milk samples were immediately placed in a home freezer, transported in a cool box and again placed in a regular freezer in the Dairy Chemistry Laboratory, Department of Dairy Science, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh-2202, Bangladesh until further analyses. Milk samples were analyzed for fat, protein, lactose, SNF, ash content and Electric Conductivity (EC) by auto-milk analyzer (Lactoscan, Ultrasonic Milk Analyzer; Model MIA-SLP-60, S/N-70148; MILKOTONIC Ltd., Bulgaria 6000. Stara zagora).

Data Analysis

After collecting data from field, these were edited and coded. The data was then transfer to MS Excel 2007 for processing and summarizing. The tabular technique mainly used to analyze the data and derived meaningful finding by using simple statistical measures like mean, percentage and ratio by using SPSS16 version.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Buffalo herd composition

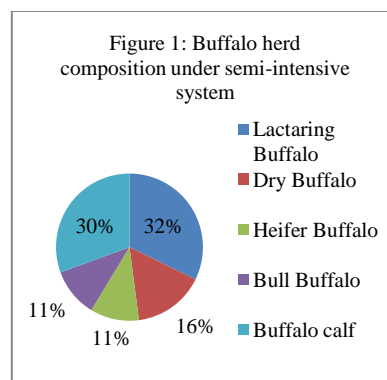
Farmers kept different type of buffalo in the herd. The average herd size was found to be 1.80 ± 0.12 . The herd was composed mainly of lactating buffalo, dry buffalo, buffalo heifer, buffalo bull and buffalo calf. The average number of lactating

buffalo, dry buffalo, buffalo heifer, buffalo bull and buffalo calf were 1.01 ± 1.01 , 0.78 ± 1.72 , 0.89 ± 1.85 , 1.06 ± 1.62 and 1.02 ± 1.94 , respectively under semi-intensive system (Table 2 and Figure 1). This result supports to the findings of Uddin et al., (2016) who reported that 82% of the farmers having 1 to 3 buffalo reared under semi intensive system in coastal areas of Bangladesh. However Huque and Borghese (2013) found that average herd size in household subsistence farming (HF) and semi-intensive farming (SIF) buffaloes were about 1-3 and 4-15, respectively. Faruque (2000) found that the percentage of milking buffaloes, dry buffaloes, heifer buffaloes, bulls and calves were 35, 15, 16, 2 and 32, respectively in the upper part of coastal area reared under semi intensive management system which is very similar of our finding though number of bulls were relatively few in his study. But Akbar et al., (2009) mentioned that there was sufficient number of bull for breeding purpose in coastal areas.

Table 2. Average number of buffalo holding under semi-intensive system in Bhola district

Type of buffalo	Mean \pm SD (N)	Min	Max
Lactating Buffalo (No/HH)	1.85 \pm 1.01 (39)	1	4
Dry Buffalo(No/HH)	1.72 \pm 0.78 (19)	1	3
Heifer Buffalo(No/HH)	1.8 \pm 0.89 (13)	1	3
Buffalo Bull (No/HH)	1.62 \pm 1.06 (13)	1	4
Buffalo calf (No/HH)	1.94 \pm 1.02 (37)	1	4
Overall	1.80 \pm 0.12		

N_i= Number of observation; SD_i =Standard Deviation



Housing system of buffalo

Different types of housing were seen in the study area. Some farmers' constructed floor by brick, some sheds have roofs using tin or golpata (*Nipa fruticans*). Most of the house had no boundary wall and roof. Many buffaloes were kept on raised place in the open yard at day-night. Uddin et al., (2016) observed that dairy buffaloes were kept under semi-intensive system in the wet season and only 15% farmers provided shed having only roof but no concrete floor. Akbar et al., (2009) mentioned that most of the dairy buffalo were not housed in extensive system of bathan areas but buffaloes which were in the plain land sometime had an enclosure with only roof

made by straw or tin without wall and floor was always muddy. The average grazing time of buffalo was 6.04 ± 1.52 hour in a day and rest of the time (5.91 ± 1.70 hour/day) it was kept in confinement shed situated in household yard (Table 3). The average wallowing time of buffalo was found 2.78 ± 1.34 hour/day (Table 3). Saadullah (2012) described that the buffalo farmers had their own wallowing place, but sometimes the whole village herd down together in mud wallows. Siddiki (2017) noted that majority (85%) of the buffalo farmers followed average grazing period of 6-8 h in a day and lowest grazing period (<6h) was found in Trishal and Lalpur Upozila (10%) which was similar to our findings.

Table 3. Average scavenges confinement and wallowing time (hrs/day)

Variable	Mean \pm SD	Minimum	Maximum
Grazing duration(hrs day ⁻¹)	6.04 \pm 1.52	2	8
Confinement (hrs day ⁻¹)	5.91 \pm 1.70	3	10
Wallowing (hrs day ⁻¹)	2.78 \pm 1.34	1	6

Feeding system

The available feed stuff were straw e.g. paddy straw (*Oryza sativa*); local green grass e.g. Dol (*Sacrolepis indica*), Dubla (*Cynodon dactylon*), Halancha (*Enhydra fluctuens*), Sesbania, Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia Crassipes*) and khesari (*Lathyrus sativus*); Concentrate feed e.g. oil cakes, wheat bran, rice polish, soybean meal and broken maize in the study area. Islam et al., (2002) identified more than fifty different types of local green grasses from different Agro Ecological Zones (AEZs) in Bangladesh among which most of those were same found in the present study. They noticed that baksha, lota, poa, khesari, beju, matikalai, kolmi, gamma, badam, durba, chailla, helencha, shama were mostly common and more potential native grasses. 89%, 100% and 57 % farmers provided dry roughage (straw), green roughage (local grass) and concentrate feed respectively to lactating buffaloes under this system. Among those, the average dry roughage, green roughage and concentrate feed supply were 10.90 ± 2.85 , 4.98 ± 2.89 and 1.51 ± 0.80 Kg DM day⁻¹ head⁻¹, respectively. Nahar et al., (2015) found that 22 - 23% farmers supplied only straw, 95.55% farmers supplied straw with roughages, 8.89% farmers supplied only concentrate under extensive system in Bhola district. In the Ganges-Brahmaputra flood plain, dairy buffaloes were reared in semi-intensive system in which farmer raised buffaloes with minimum inputs. They were allowed to graze on natural pasture or road side in day time and were corralled at night (Akbar et al., 2009). The household subsistence farming (HF) buffaloes were reared under stall feeding with 6-7 hours grazing around backyard or public land with very little feed supply. The semi-intensive farming (SIF) buffaloes were raised in combination of seasonal based

household during rice cultivation and free range system during common land free which was mostly upper part of coastal areas (Huque and Borghese, 2013). According to investigation of Uddin et al., (2016), in the household farming, after morning milking, buffaloes were allowed to graze in fallow or road side land up to evening that covers approximately 8-9 hours per day. From the evening to next morning, buffaloes were tied up in homestead and they were offered mainly rice straw with little concentrate mixtures (wheat bran, rice bran, rice polish etc). The findings of the present study do not agree with the findings of Uddin et al., (2016) who mentioned the natural grass is the main source of feed in contrast to straw. This transforming perhaps to happen for newly introduces of semi-intensive system for lactating buffaloes in upper land of the coastal areas. Besides different crops were occupied most of the fellow land.

Table 5. Average feed supply (DM kg⁻¹day⁻¹head⁻¹) of lactating buffalo under semi-intensive system in Bhola district

Items	Mean±SD	Minimum	Maximum
Concentrate feed	1.51±0.80 (57)	0.44	2.64
Straw	10.90 ±2.85 (89)	4.50	16.0
Green grass (cut and carry)	4.98±2.89 (100)	1.6	11.30
Total supply	16.16±3.28	6.4	20.3

Figure parenthesis in the bracket indicates percentage of farmers

Nutritional status

Feeding practice deprives the potential high milk producers and also overburdens the low producers with nutrients (Habib et al., 2007). The average estimated levels of nutrients supplied to lactating buffaloes in coastal (Bhola) area of Bangladesh presented in Table 6.

Table 6. Average estimated levels of nutrients supplied to lactating buffaloes in coastal area in Bangladesh

Name of the feed resources	Amount DM (kg d ⁻¹)	DCP(kg d ⁻¹)	TDN(kg d ⁻¹)
Coastal area: Bhola			
i. Broken Maize(Zea mays)	0.750	0.040	0.563
ii. Soybean meal(Glycine maximum)	0.560	0.228	0.459
iii. Rice bran (Oryza sativa)	0.200	0.015	0.120

Name of the feed resources	Amount DM (kg d-1)	DCP(kg d-1)	TDN(kg d-1)
A. Total concentrate mixture (i+ii+iii)	1.510	0.283	1.142
B. Straw (<i>Oryza sativa</i>)	10.900	0.022	4.578
C. Grass (native mix)	4.980	0.060	0.697
D. Total(A+B+C)	17.390	0.365	6.417

Daily average digestible crude protein(DCP) supply in the lactating buffaloes in Bhola district were 364 g d⁻¹ which were undersupplied as compared to requirement of Kearn (1982) standard (Table 7; Fig 2) considering average body weight 242.0±45.1 and milk fat percent (7.3±2.66). Other studies aimed at evaluating the nutritional status of dairy animals in India based on survey of different districts/regions showed variable trends-most of them showing undersupply of DCP as compared to standard requirements (Vidya et al., 2013; Bakshi et al., 2010; Jawale et al., 2007; Singh et al., 2003). These findings agreed with our observation. However daily average DCP intake in the buffaloes in Patan district of India was observed 1.049 kg d⁻¹ that indicates the buffaloes got adequate DCP as per the requirement (Chavda and Parnerkar, 2016). Daily average total digestible nutrient (TDN) supply to the lactating buffaloes in Bhola areas of Bangladesh were observed 6.417 kg d⁻¹ (Table 6) which indicated that the buffaloes got few amount of low TDN (-0.353 kg d⁻¹) than requirement of Kearn (1982) standard (Table 7; Fig 3). Chavda and Parnerkar (2016) got surplus amount of average TDN intake (10.17 kg d⁻¹) in the buffaloes in Patan district of India. The findings of Chavda and Parnerkar (2016) are supported by the observations of Patange et al., (2002) and Singh et al., (2003) indicating a surplus of TDN supply. However, deficit supply of TDN in lactating buffaloes was also reported by Chaturvedi et al., (2009) and Singh et al., (2008) in their study.

Table 7. Deficit (-) and surplus (+) of DCP and TDN in lactating buffaloes in different agro-climatic zone in Bangladesh

Areas	Total requirement of DCP (g)	Total supply of DCP (g)	Deficit (-) /surplus (+) of DCP	TDN requirement (kg d ⁻¹)	TDN supply (kg d ⁻¹)	Deficit (-) /surplus (+) of TDN (kg d ⁻¹)
Coastal area	697.000	364.790	-332.210	6.770	6.416	-0.353

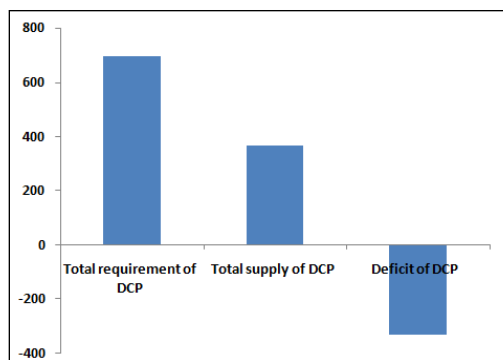


Figure 2. Total requirement and supply of DCP (gm d⁻¹)

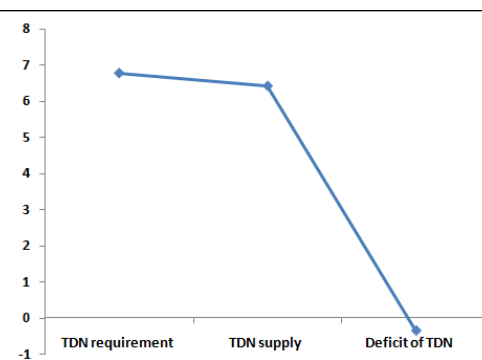


Figure 3. Total requirement and supply of TDN (kg d⁻¹)

Productive and reproductive performance

Productive and reproductive efficiency are influenced by different management system, nutrition and environment factors. A very low protein diet can cause cessation of oestrus (Agrawal, 2003). Though actual reproductive parameters is very difficult to find out without record or close supervision but farmer's experience would be asset for those information.

The average lactation length of indigenous buffalo cows were 197 days under semi-intensive system in the study area (Table 8) which was low as compare to Karim et al., (2013); Faruque and Amin (1995). It might be happen for week management practice of the farmers as this system newly introduced in upper land in Bhola. Karim et al., (2013) found 286 days of lactation period in similar kind of buffaloes under extensive production system in Mathbaria and Pirozpur, which was 290 days in Pathorghata and Barguna. Faruque and Amin (1995) also reported that the lactation yield of indigenous buffalo in Khulna region were 280 liters. The findings of this study were also less similar to the findings of other authors (Bezerra et al., 2014; EI-Kirabi1995). The average milk yield (L d⁻¹) and lactation yield (L lactation⁻¹) were found as 2.39±0.83 and 469.52±163.71, respectively (Table 8). The average dry period (day), weaning age (day), service per conception (Number), age at first pregnancy (month), age at first caving (month), calving interval (month), gestation period (month), post partum heat period (month) were 42.80±26.44, 201.88±77.63, 1.11±0.32, 35.37±9.44, 46.56±6.80, 14.21±2.09, 10.04±0.23 and 3.94±1.51, respectively (Table 8). Similar findings were also reported by other authors (Karim et al., 2013; Shabede et al., 2003).

Table 8. Productive and reproductive trait of lactating buffalo under semi-intensive system

Parameters	Mean \pm SD	Minimum	Maximum	Highest frequency percentage
Lactation Length (d)	197.44 \pm 29.06	150	270	180 (37%)
Milk yield (L d ⁻¹)	2.39 \pm 0.83	1	5	2.3(18.2%)
Lactation yield (L lactation ⁻¹)	469.52 \pm 163.71	196	916	392(15%)
Dry Period (d)	42.80 \pm 26.44	30	90	30 (60%)
Weaning age(d)	201.88 \pm 77.63	7	365	180 (24%)
Service Per Conception (Number)	1.11 \pm 0.32	1	2	1 (88%)
Age at first Pregnancy (month)	35.37 \pm 9.44	33	48	34 (34%)
Age at first caving(month)	46.56 \pm 6.80	34	58	46(28%)
Calving interval (month)	14.21 \pm 2.09	11	18	16 (15.4%)
Gestation period (month)	10.04 \pm 0.23	10	11	10(80%)
Post Partum heat period (month)	3.94 \pm 1.51	2	6	3(29.2%)

L, liter; d, day.

Milk composition

Milk composition of indigenous lactating buffalo under semi-intensive system is shown in Table 9. Milk composition attributed for breed, physiology of animal, environment, and management system (Ravikala et al., 2014). Nahar et al., (2014) found different milk composition of buffalo, though those were little lower or higher for different selected areas of Bangladesh. The average fat percentage of buffalo milk from Noakhali (8.16), Sirajgang (7.54), Potuakhali (7.18) and Bagerhat (6.92) (Nahar et al., 2014) which was similar value of fat % of our present study (7.30). The range of protein, lactose and SNF percentage were 3.00-4.36, 3.64-4.8 and 7.52-9.35 respectively. EC (ms cm⁻¹) value for present study was shown as 2.73 \pm 3.53 with the range of 2.00-3.53mS cm⁻¹. Fahmid et.al., (2016) observed that EC value had less than 5.5 mS cm⁻¹ which considered as healthy milk production.

Table 9. Milk composition of lactating buffalo under semi-intensive system

Variables	Mean±SD (N=15)	Minimum	Maximum
TS(%)	15.60±2.55	12.81	19.63
Fat(%)	7.30±2.66	4.07	11.97
SNF(%)	8.30±0.54	7.52	9.35
Lactose(%)	4.03±0.32	3.64	4.8
Ash(%)	0.62±0.06	0.53	0.75
Protein(%)	3.64±0.41	3.00	4.36
Electric conductivity (EC) (mS cm ⁻¹)	2.73±3.53	2.00	3.53

Marketing

All of the farmers sold milk to Ghosh. About 57.89 percent farmers received advance money (BDT3000-10000) on monthly basis from the Ghosh and 42.11 percent farmer didn't receive the same. The higher milk selling price was BDT 55.71±5.34 for the farmer who didn't take advance from Ghosh but selling price was relatively low (BDT 52.72±4.10) who had taken advance (Table 10). It also noted that milk market was more volatile in case of the farmers who didn't take advance from Ghosh as CV% was higher (9.59%) than other (7.77%). The present finding is in agreement with the earlier findings of (Raha, 2010) who reported that price of milk was set below by BDT 5 liter⁻¹ in the case of advance payment.

Table 10. Milk marketing scenario in Bhola district (USD1=BDT78)

Group	% of farmers	Amount of advance money (BDT Month ⁻¹) Min-Max	Average milk price (BDT L ⁻¹)	SD value	CV%
Farmers who taken advance	57.89	3000-10000	52.72	4.10	7.77
Farmers who didn't taken advance	42.11	-	55.71	5.34	9.59
Overall	100				

Technology adaptation

Adaptation levels of technologies for dairy buffalo farmers were very poor due to lack of public awareness and inadequate knowledge about buffalo husbandry (habitat, feeding, breeding & health care). Only 17.4 % farmer adopted for providing concentrate feed to their animal. Adaptation level of technologies e.g. use of urea-molasses straw/blocks, cultivation of fodder crops, use of Artificial Insemination(AI), practice for de-worming, practice for vaccination and provide vitamin-mineral premix from farmers were 0, 0, 4.3, 8.7, 0 and 8.7%, respectively. Average adaptation capacity of technologies were 16.34, 11.53, 12.01, 13.46 23.07, 17.30 and 6.25% for use of urea-molasses straw/blocks, cultivation of fodder crops, use for AI, practice for de-worming, practice for vaccination and provide vitamin-mineral premix from farmers, respectively. Among those technologies, the capacity of technology was higher for practise of de-worming and vaccination though those were not followed regularly (Table 11). Creation of public awareness by different media; i.e. Radio, TV, Internet, Newspaper about the impotence of buffalo milk and meat as well as the good practice of dairy buffalo management might be improved the adaptation level of technologies.

Table 11. Technology adaptation of dairy buffalo farmers

Technical intervention	Level of adaptation(Frequency)			Average capacity(index) of technology
	Never	Tried but not adopt	Fully adopted	
Provide concentrate feed	69.6	13	17.4	16.34
Use of urea-molasses straw/blocks	95.7	4.3	-	11.53
Cultivation of fodder crops	91.3	8.7	-	12.01
Use for Artificial Insemination	82.6	13	4.3	13.46
Practice for de-worming	-	91.3	8.7	23.07
Practice for vaccination	34.8	65.2	-	17.30
Provide vitamin-mineral premix	52.2	39.1	8.7	6.25

Breeding

Recently government buffalo project has started AI in Bhola district, but it is not popular because of insufficient AI worker as well as unavailable of buffalo semen and low conception rate. Farmers didn't get AI worker in right time when buffaloes showed heat. Traditionally farmers kept buffalo bull to bred buffalo cows in these areas. It means that there were two breeding systems in Bhola district. A total of

95.7% buffalo cow received natural breeding whereas AI covered only 4.3% of buffalo cows. Akbar et al., (2009) reported that the sufficient number of breeding bull was kept by the farmer in coastal areas and there were no fertility problem. However, inbreeding and abortion due to use same bull was common. They also noted that low oestrous detection (i.e. 30%) was a major challenge that limited efficiency of AI use. According to farmer's observation, buffalo cows showed heat in different time. A few number of buffalo cows (4.2-5.2%) showed heat in day time but higher number of the buffalo cows showed heat in early morning (54.2%), followed to early night (22.2%) and late night (9.3%) (Table 12). Saadullah, (2012) stated that the buffaloes showed their maximum activity during the night and breeding take place mainly during night. Therefore present study has been supported to the information of Saadullah, (2012) though a few number of buffalo cows showed heat in day time (4.2-5.2%).

Table 12. Type of breeding and time of heat showed by buffalo cows

Variable	Value
Type of breeding	
Natural breeding (% of buffalo)	95.7
Artificial insemination (AI) (% of buffalo)	4.3
Time of showing heat	
Morning (% of buffalo)	54.2
Noon (% of buffalo)	4.8
Afternoon (% of buffalo)	5.2
Evening (% of buffalo)	4.2
Early night (% of buffalo)	22.2
Late night (% of buffalo)	9.3

Hygienic measure for buffalo rearing

Farmers kept manure near to the animal shed in small hole, situated from 2-20 feet distance from the shed. However sometime they did not make small hole and manure through the open places. A total of 22 % farmers did not follow good practice for waste management. The udder health situation of milking buffaloes was aggravating as mastitis was rising as of the notification of farmers (7%). Islam et al., (2016) isolated pathogens (i.e. Coagulase Negative Staphylococci (CNN), *Staptococcus spp.* and *Bacillus spp.* and *Staphylococcus aureus*) from milk sample in Bangladesh including coastal areas that were responsible for mastitis in lactating buffaloes. Only

hand milking was followed practiced in the study areas. They washed their hands, milking pots and also cleaned milking parlour/platform before milking. All of the farmers allowed calves to suckle udder of buffalo by the calf for stimulating hormonal affects before starting milking.

CONCLUSION

The productive and reproductive performance of indigenous dairy buffalo was not better to high producing dairy buffalo's. Scientific management and improved breeding system could minimize this situation. Optimum use of feed resources and their treatment whenever needed becomes evident from the present study. Improved adaptation level of technologies would be ensured by creating public awareness and by providing door-step service to the buffalo farmers. It is therefore, can be concluded that technological transformation is important to boost up of the productivity of the dairy buffaloes under semi-intensive system.

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