



Lumpy Skin Disease and it's Outbreak in Maharashtra

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Lumpy skin disease is a Viral Infectious disease of cattle caused by virus of family Poxiviridae. The virus is also named as Neethling virus. The cattle which is infected by LSD shows symptoms like fever, enlarged superficial lymph nodes, nodules on skin and also on mucous membranes. The initial symptoms observed in LSD are nasal discharge and fever greater than 40.5°C observed for a week.

It is observed that, due to swelling in the limbs cattle shows lameness. Further complications like pneumonia due to secondary bacterial infection is observed. It is observed that the infected animal gets recovered within 3 weeks through proper treatment. In market, the hide of Cattle have a great demand but due to LSD the hide gets damaged permanently which further degrades the economic value of the hide. The disease also results in decreased milk production, abortion, and poor development of cattle. In some cases it results in death of the cattle. LSDV mainly affects Cattle but is also seen in giraffes, zebu, and water buffalo. Outbreaks of LSD are mostly observed in high temperature and high humidity regions. The mechanical vectors involved in LSD are mosquito and flies. As the vectors for LSD are mosquitoes and flies it is advised to keep the farm clean and spraying of insect repellent should be done. LSD Virus is transmitted through semen, saliva, blood, discharge from nasal cavity, lacrimal secretions. LSD is not a zoonotic disease it is not transmitted through the consumption of meat and milk.

In year 2020, with the current ongoing pandemic the livestock sector in Maharashtra was affected by the outbreak of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD). Approximately around 95,000 Cattles in different regions of Maharashtra like Vidharbha, Marathwada, Gadchiroli and Beed districts were affected by LSD. The experts in livestock sector suggested that approximately 2 lakh animals were affected by LSD in Maharashtra. LSD was earlier discovered in states like Manipur, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh. LSD was first reported in Odisha, August 2019. Further the outbreak was also reported in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana. During the outbreak, the virus was having a morbidity of 20% and 1 per cent mortality rate. In Maharashtra Chandrapur was one of the region which was most-

ly affected by the LSD with a total count of approximately 50,000 cases and further Nagpur with 12,900 cases, Gadchiroli with 8,120 cases, Wardha with 3,696 cases. In Marathwada region of Maharashtra LSD was detected in Parbhani and Nanded districts.

A specific vaccination for LSD is not available in India so the vaccine for goat pox is used against the LSD in cattle's. The government had allotted around 4 lakh of vaccination doses in Vidharbha and Marathwada regions of Maharashtra. An effective vaccination drive was initiated in Palghar district has it was severely affected with LSD, over 46,000 doses of goat pox vaccines were distributed among the 88 centers in Palghar for farmers to vaccinate there cattle's.

The Farmers are advised to keep the suspected animal separately from the herd of animals and communal feeding should be avoided. All the belongings and equipment's in farm are to be disinfected to avoid any further transmission. The breeding sites of mosquitoes like standing water, waste water, and slurry in the nearby areas should be minimized. If any purchase of a new animal is to be done it should be examined properly and quarantine the newly purchased animal for about 28 days. In this way precautions should be taken in order to prevent the spread of Lumpy skin disease.

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