

# Animal Nutrition Programme, Animal Sciences Institute, NARC

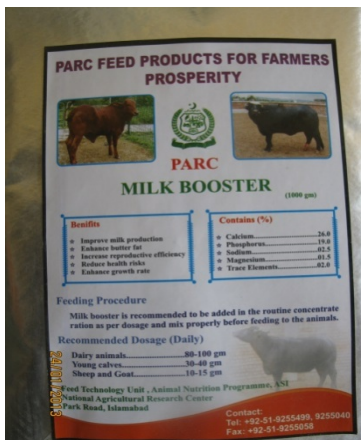
## Popularization of Nutritionally Balanced Blended Cattle Feed in Pakistan



**Feed Technology Unit at NARC  
(Established. 1986)**



**PARC Cattle Feed**



**Milk Booster**

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### Challenge:

- Inadequate feed resources and imbalanced conventional feeding practices have been the major causes of low livestock productivity in Pakistan.
- Livestock farmers in Pakistan traditionally use one or two feed ingredients which are not enough to meet the animal's nutritional requirement especially for micro nutrients.
- The challenge was to:
  - Demonstrate to the farmers that nutritionally balanced feed is important for optimum animal performance.
  - Assist the private livestock industry in establishment of small/medium feed mills for producing nutritionally balanced blended feeds.

### Intervention:

- A Feed Technology Unit at NARC, Islamabad was established in 1986 for creating awareness among farmers to use nutritionally balanced feeds.
- Later, a sister Feed Technology Unit was established at Naudero, Larkana, Sindh
- The main emphasis has been on developing livestock feed products, their validation, shaping them into deliverable products, and assisting farmers/industrialists in establishing small/medium scale feed units.

### Outcomes:

- The Feed Technology Unit produced blended feeds for various livestock species with the aim of popularising blended livestock feeds.
- Clients of PARC Feeds had been from interior Sindh, Pothohar region, parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, and Afghanistan. It was demonstrated to the farmers that used of balanced feed results in an extra lactation in an animal's life span and savings of Rs 70-100/day due to increase in milk production.
- In 2008, a mineral premix (Milk Booster) was formulated keeping in view the mineral deficiencies in the livestock of the Pothohar region. This research based mineral premix for milch animals was noted to result in profits of Rs 15-20 thousand per lactation.
- To date, there are over 50,000 beneficiaries of PARC feeds.
- Over 45 livestock feed mills in the country were established with direct assistance of the scientists of the PARC.
- Commercial livestock feed sector is now becoming an industry in Pakistan, and various other provincial public organisations started similar activities for betterment of livestock.

### Way Forward:

- Feed and related products for newborn buffalo calves is still an open area for research and extension activities.