

## **Section A**

### **1. About the project:**

Theme of the project: “Empowering the communities to promote welfare of working Buffalo in Manipur, India”.

Asiatic water buffalo is widely available in the Ukhrul District of Manipur. And it is used extensively in agriculture and commercial purpose. Many families are depending on buffalo but challenges are still underlying in providing welfare of working animals in the targeted area. The main factors affecting the wellbeing of working buffalo are due to lack of treatment literacy, accessibilities of services, vaccination, preventive knowledge as well as people ignorance and lack of skills and knowledge. Ukhrul District has **15,852** buffalo as per Livestock census **report 2019** and estimated **15%** growth up-to till date which is estimated around **19,000** populations. With the help of buffalo, more than **7,000** people sustained their livelihood and even supporting education for children from the earning. More than **956** Asiatic water buffalo were killed by Septicaemia (HS), a contagious bacterial disease from March to April 2022 alone in the **7** villages in the Ukhrul district, Manipur with a mortality rate of **16%** as per department sources. There are many unreported cases of such incidents as many of villagers often perform traditional healing and self-medication practices. So far there has no any intervention from State Veterinary Department through proper investigation and steps for precautionary measures.

So, under the outreach program, **7,435** buffalo were vaccinated for 1st and 2nd Dose during the period from October 2023 to June 2024 for Black quarter and Haemorrhagic septicaemia in collaboration with District Veterinary Department in **38** villages. Emergency response service is also operationalized to provide emergency medical needs of the animal population in the targeted area. Due to lack of resources and capacity, the District Veterinary Department is still not able to initiate the mass vaccination and reaching out the villages in the case of medical emergencies that result a burden to the owners. Traditional healing practices and self-medication are common practices that resulted gaps in the proper treatment of working buffalo. Evidence shows that there is need for promoting treatment literacy at village level, better working conditions for animals, addressing cruelty, emergency medical attentions and follow-up of vaccination activities in order to mitigate negative impacts.

### **2. Expected Outcomes:**

- a)** Ensuring in controlling of 90-100% sudden outbreak of diseases through regular follow-up of fully vaccinated 7435 buffalo;
- b)** Responded emergency medical attention with emergency support unit within the District Veterinary Department;
- c)** Promoted better working conditions for working animals through village level treatment literacy practices;
- d)** Reduced cruelty to animals while engaging trained village level volunteers;

- e) Engaged with District Veterinary Department to scale-up mass vaccination of working buffalo;
- f) Promoted healthy working animals through exhibition/mela

### 3. Duration:

The SPANA Project on the Theme “Empowering the communities to promote welfare of working Buffalo in Ukhrul District Manipur, India spans from the periods of **01-10-23 till 30-09-2024**. And again, this project has been extended for another three months i.e. **01-10-24 till 31-12-24**.

**Work plan: (Period: 01-10-2023 till 31-12-2024)**

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|    |                                                                                             |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
|    | program                                                                                     |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |
| 10 | Training of village level volunteers to reduce cruelty to animals                           |  |  |  |  | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |   |  | √ | √ |   |
| 11 | Promoted healthy working animals through Exhibition/mela                                    |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   | √ |  |   |   |   |
| 12 | Village Level impact assessment.                                                            |  |  |  |  |   |   | √ |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |
| 13 | Review meeting                                                                              |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   | √ |   |  | √ |   |   |
| 14 | Travel support for Emergency medical staff including Doctor                                 |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  | √ | √ | √ |
| 15 | Meeting 20-30 buffalo owners regarding outcome and welfare initiative of working buffalo    |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  | √ | √ |   |
| 17 | Engaged with District Veterinary Department to scale-up mass vaccination of working buffalo |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  | √ |   |   |

## **Section B:**

1) Activities carried out during the reporting period as per work plan.

| Sl. No | Activities Conducted                                                                                                                             | Timeline/Date/Month | No's of people/beneficiaries reach out | Expected outcomes                                                                                                  |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1      | Recruitment of staff.                                                                                                                            | <b>October 2023</b> | <b>5</b>                               | All together 5 staff were Recruited                                                                                |
| 2      | Meeting with stake holder to prepare a tentative schedule of Vaccination of 5000-7000 buffalo in consultation with District Veterinary officials | <b>30-10-2023</b>   | <b>7435</b> number of buffalos         | Treatment of H.S & B.Q vaccine would be vaccinated in the coming days and years after every interval of six months |
| 3      | Engagement of                                                                                                                                    | January 2024        | <b>190</b> village                     | Engaged <b>190</b>                                                                                                 |

|           |                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                               |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|           | vaccine trained volunteers from the villages and Doctors in charge for vaccination |                                                                                                                                                                                          | volunteers were trained                                                                                                                                   | volunteers from 38 villages for the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose of vaccination program.                          |
| <b>4</b>  | Procurement of vaccine-HS & Black Quarter                                          | <b>12-11-2023, 03-01-2024, 13-06-2024.</b>                                                                                                                                               | <b>5820 H.S &amp; B.Q Vaccine has been procured on dated 12/11/2023 and 1615 Dose of H.S &amp; B.Q Vaccine has also been procured on dated 03/01/2024</b> | Fully vaccinated the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose treatment of H.S & B.Q vaccine to <b>14,870</b> no. of buffalos |
| <b>5</b>  | Initiation of mass vaccination including health check camps                        | 1 <sup>st</sup> Dose of vaccination has been vaccinated up to 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dose of vaccination has started from 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 onwards. | The vaccination has been completed on 30 <sup>th</sup> of July 2024.                                                                                      | completed                                                                                                                     |
| <b>6</b>  | Consultative Meeting with Joint Director, Doctors and Field workers                | <b>12-01-2024.</b>                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                           | Periodic meeting will be conducted as per needs of the project.                                                               |
| <b>7</b>  | Identification for Doctors and subordinate for Emergency unit.                     | <b>13-11- 2023.</b>                                                                                                                                                                      | According to the department's official memorandum, Dr. LL Michael has been appointed as an emergency response officer                                     | A sum of INR 5000 per month is supporting to cover the fuel expenses to attend the Emergency medical needs.                   |
| <b>8</b>  | Operational of Emergency unit for Working Animal                                   | <b>13-11-2023</b>                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>1267</b> numbers of buffalo                                                                                                                            | Altogether, <b>1267</b> buffalo were treated from Q1 to Q5 period.                                                            |
| <b>9</b>  | Village level treatment literacy program                                           | <b>24-11-2023, 05-01-024, 16-01-2024, 13-02-2024</b>                                                                                                                                     | <b>200</b> number of village volunteer had received beneficiaries from treatment literacy program                                                         | completed                                                                                                                     |
| <b>10</b> | Training of village level volunteers to reduce cruelty to animals.                 | <b>16-02-2024, 12-03-2024, 17-04-2024, 14-05-2024, 14-06-2024, 12-07-2024</b>                                                                                                            | <b>300</b> number of village volunteer had received beneficiaries from training of reduction of cruelty                                                   | completed                                                                                                                     |

|           |                                                                                              |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                    |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|           |                                                                                              |                                     | to animals                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                    |
| <b>11</b> | Promoted healthy working animals through exhibitions/mela                                    | <b>10-10-2024</b>                   | <b>10</b> number of buffalo owners compete the mela exhibition                                                                                                     | completed                                                                          |
| <b>12</b> | Village Level impact assessment.                                                             | <b>15-05-2024</b>                   | <b>11</b> villages were surveyed for impact assessment.                                                                                                            | completed                                                                          |
| <b>13</b> | Review meeting.                                                                              | <b>07-06-20224</b>                  | <b>7</b> number of staff including project Director and Secretary attended the review meeting.                                                                     | completed                                                                          |
| <b>14</b> | Meeting 20-30 buffalo owners regarding outcomes and welfare initiative of working buffalo    | <b>25-10-2024, 23-11-024</b>        | <b>34</b> number of buffalo owner attended the meeting.                                                                                                            | completed                                                                          |
| <b>15</b> | Travel support for Emergency medical staff including Doctor                                  | October, November and December 2024 | Dr. Michael Khovieo, Medical Officer, Chingai Veterinary Hospital has been engaged for medical emergency response.                                                 | Travel support for emergency response would continue until the ends of the project |
| <b>16</b> | Village level treatment literacy program                                                     | <b>27-0-2024, 12-2-2024</b>         | <b>100</b> number of village volunteer had received beneficiaries from treatment literacy program                                                                  | Successful completed                                                               |
| <b>17</b> | Training of village level volunteers to reduce cruelty to animals.                           | <b>29-10-2024, 28-1-202</b>         | <b>100</b> number of village volunteer had received beneficiaries from training of reduction of cruelty to animals                                                 | Successful completed                                                               |
| <b>18</b> | Engaged with District Veterinary Department to scale-up mass vaccination of working buffalo. | <b>6-10-2024</b>                    | All the SPANA staff led by the Project manager met the Extension officer, Madam P. Pangrei at her office, mini secretariat, Ukhrul district veterinary Department. | The meeting was fruitful.                                                          |
| <b>19</b> | Review meeting.                                                                              | <b>16-10-204</b>                    | <b>7</b> number of staff including project                                                                                                                         | completed                                                                          |

|  |  |  |                                                    |  |
|--|--|--|----------------------------------------------------|--|
|  |  |  | Director and Secretary attended the review meeting |  |
|--|--|--|----------------------------------------------------|--|

## 2. Outcomes:

- Controlled 70-80% sudden outbreak of disease through fully vaccination of buffalo



- Save 90% of working animals through timely medical treatment and attention

- Improved the working condition of working animal
- Responded medical emergency medical unit with emergency unit within the District veterinary Department
- Promoted better working condition for working animals through village level treatment literacy practices



- Reduced cruelty to animals with support from cadre of 190 village level volunteers and



- Promoted healthy working animals through exhibition/mela.



### 3. Finding from the project activities:

1. The SPANA project activity encourages mainly the young generation to develop positive beliefs and respect towards animals.

2. To provide necessary kits/wages/ medicine like vitamins, deworming etc. to the village level volunteers in every training and literacy treatment in order to get full satisfaction from the buffalo owners
3. Baseline Assessment should be taken twice a year in order to purview the opinion of the buffalo owners.
4. Fencing project activities should be added in the interest of the Public (village volunteer and Buffalo owners).
5. Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is also one of the most prevalent diseases in buffaloes.
6. H.S and B.Q vaccination is needed twice a year. Without such required vaccination, buffaloes are likely to get infected with various diseases and more likely to cause death.
7. We also took up buffalo mela/exhibitions. We noticed a good number of buffalo owners turning up at such events. So we observed that buffalo owners were supportive of such programs and they also showed their interest in healthy working buffalo competitions.
8. We often observe that the most urgent thing for the buffalo owners is setting up of veterinary stores in villages where medicine and doctors can be availed when required. We notice that many buffaloes are left untreated when infected with diseases as they don't have medicine to treat them and lack knowledge without proper guidance from a doctor.
9. To educate more to the buffalo owners, conducting more literacy treatment/reduction of cruelty to animals/Awareness/Programs are necessary so that maximum benefits are reached out to the remote/far flung areas/villages.
10. We encountered some challenges, but we were able to overcome them through communication and teamwork.
11. Team collaboration was effective, leading to successful conduct of awareness program and reaching out to the unreached buffalo owners in orders to get benefit from such literacy treatment and training of village level volunteers.
12. The feedback from the village level volunteers and buffalo owners was so positive.
13. Overall, the project was successful and provided valuable insights for future activities.

**4. Next year, Plan Activities i.e. (from 01-01-2025 till 31-12-2025):**

### **Activity work-plan.**

#### **Output 1- controlled 90-100% sudden outbreak of diseases through fully vaccination of 5000-7000 buffalo.**

1. Meeting with stakeholders to prepare a tentative schedule of vaccination of 5000-7000 buffalo in consultation with DVO officials.
2. Meeting with buffalo owners and village level volunteers to scale up vaccination
3. Engagement of volunteers and training of vaccination skills.
4. Initiation of vaccination with support from State Officials through DVO.

#### **Output 2- Responded emergency medical attention with emergency support unit**

1. Consultative meeting with DVO officials and Field level volunteers and workers
2. Operational of Emergency Unit for working Animal.

#### **Output 3- Promoted better working conditions for working animals through village level treatment literacy practices**

1. Village level treatment literacy program

#### **Output4- Engaging trained village level volunteers**

1. Training of village level volunteers to reduce cruelty to animals.

#### **Output 5- Promoted healthy working animals through exhibition/mela**

1. Exhibition/Mela

### **5. Gaps and challenges:**

1. Lack of awareness on treating the buffalo at the right time.
2. Sometimes it is very difficult to approach the village volunteer because communication or internet facility is not easily available in the remote areas.
3. Before the introduction of this SPANA PROJECT, they never knew the idea of proper treatment and vaccination of buffalo to mitigate any disease outbreak.
4. Due to lack of information and knowledge on treating the animals properly, the participants wanted to avail this program on village literacy cum vaccination skills and reduction of cruelty to animals more in the days to come.
5. To make people aware and understand is very important to save the life of animals. So, conducting frequent awareness program is inevitable in the future too.

6. As the condition of Ukhurul road is in very pathetic and deplorable condition, more budgets on travel allowances should be increased for all the staff.
7. One of the most issues faced by the village volunteer was the skin diseases and foot & mouth diseases (F.M.D) too. So, they urged the organizers to supply the ivermectin injection and foot & mouth diseases vaccine in the days to come.

## **6. Mitigation measures:**

The mitigation measures are to enhance community engagement and education, Implement efficient data collection and monitoring as well as Establish disease management and quarantine protocols. The SPANA PROJECT helps buffalo owners in a variety of ways. They may provide better economic opportunities and proper buffalo treatment in the event of illness by implementing treatment literacy and vaccination programs, as well as linking with an emergency support team.

Furthermore, village-level volunteers were trained to prevent cruelty to animals, educating the greatest number of people about the necessity and value of animal life. There is a significant communication gap between the Ukhurul District Veterinary Department and the affected areas in terms of livestock disease consultation. To overcome this gap, an ISRD sponsored by SPANA collaborated with the concerned District Veterinary Department and worked closely with all the affected communities. Attempting to establish a proper network of channels and linking villages while mobilizing the greatest number of people is extremely difficult

## **7. Conclusion:**

The effort created a sense that animal lives are also important. It will bring about long-term change in decreasing animal cruelty by involving volunteers at the local level. Before the project began, buffalo owners knew little about proper buffalo husbandry and care, including timely immunization. The project built a robust network and linkages with the District veterinary Department, ensuring timely treatment and medicine. They now ban self-indigenous medication models without consulting veterinarians.