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# BUFFALO RESEARCH IN SRI LANKA



A REPORT  
BASED ON STUDIES UNDER  
THE SAREC/NARESA  
BUFFALO RESEARCH PROGRAM  
1983 - 1996

Prepared for NARESA  
by  
Dr M.C.L. de Alwis  
1997

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Natural Resources, Energy & Science Authority of Sri Lanka

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## FOREWORD

### THE SAREC / NARESA BUFFALO RESEARCH PROGRAM.

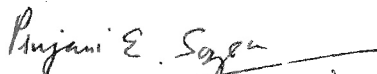
In the late 1970's, the SAREC expressed an interest in supporting research on the water buffalo. Several collaborative projects between Swedish and Sri Lankan scientists were funded on an *ad hoc* basis and the idea of a formal multidisciplinary research program emerged. As an initial step, a workshop was held at Peradeniya, at which all previous research carried out on the water buffalo in Sri Lanka was reviewed. Priority areas for research were identified, research proposals were invited and the NARESA was entrusted the responsibility of management of the program.

Phase 1 of the program was launched in 1983 with a focus on basic research, directed towards collecting basic data on the buffalo particularly the indigenous, Sri Lankan type. Upon evaluation of phase 1 by a consultant in 1988, further assistance was granted in phase 2, mainly for applied research. In the entire program 71 research proposals were approved by SAREC. Of these 69 were awarded and 60 were successfully completed. Of a financial allocation of Rs. 8.3 million and 19.3 million, for the Phase 1 and phase 2 respectively, Rs. 7.7 million and 14.7 million were expended. This included the expenditure on specific research projects as well as general infrastructure development in the participating institutions.

Using information arising from this program over a hundred publications and presentations at scientific meetings have been made. Six Ph.D. degrees and seven M.Phil. degrees have been awarded to scientists who used project work wholly or partially for their theses. Eight scientists were provided with 2-4 months training programs abroad, connected with the work of the project.

The objective of the present publication is to summarize all the activities and to present the findings of the project which was funded by SAREC for twelve years. Apart from the research findings, publications and the higher degrees obtained by the local scientists, the report indicates the upgrading and strengthening of laboratory facilities in research institutions and Universities that resulted from this project.

An attempt is also made to identify the constraints encountered in the execution of the project, as this would be a useful exercise for refining the management procedures for similar projects in the future.



Prof. Priyani E. Soysa  
Director-General

Natural Resources, Energy and Science Authority.

March 1998

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## ABBREVIATIONS USED

ACIAR	-	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
DAPH	-	Department of Animal Production & Health
BRS	-	Buffalo Research Station
FAO	-	Food & Agriculture Organisation
FVMAS	-	Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
IAEA	-	International Atomic Energy Agency
NARESA	-	Natural Resources Energy & Science Authority
NLDB	-	National Livestock Development Board
SAREC	-	Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation
VRI	-	Veterinary Research Institute
WHO	-	World Health Organisation



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