

LEADS DEVELOPMENT MODEL

Sustainable Livelihood Promotion Initiative

MODEL: Integrated Livestock Development Centre for Sustainable Income
A Community-Based Model for Sustainable Livestock Development for Sustained Rural Livelihoods

Background

Livestock is a vital source of livelihood for rural households in Jharkhand, particularly for small and marginal farmers, landless families, and women. Enterprises such as **goat rearing, piggery, poultry, and dairy farming** provide a dependable source of income while requiring relatively low investment. However, limited access to veterinary services, poor animal health management, inadequate technical knowledge, weak market linkages, and low awareness of government livestock schemes often limit the productivity and profitability of these activities.



Recognising these challenges, LEADS has established the **Integrated Livestock Development Centre (ILDC)** Model to bring quality livestock services closer to rural communities. The model strengthens community institutions while improving access to **veterinary care, vaccination, technical guidance, capacity building, and market opportunities**. It also promotes convergence with government programmes, enabling livestock to become a sustainable and profitable livelihood option for rural households.

Concept of the ILDC Model



The Integrated Livestock Development Centre (ILDC) is a **community-managed village-level livestock resource centre** that provides affordable veterinary services, technical guidance, capacity building, and enterprise support under one platform. The model was designed to strengthen **livestock-based livelihoods** while enhancing the capacity of local institutions for managing livestock sustainably. This model is implemented

through a **participatory process** with active engagement of the community.

Steps of ILDC Promotion

Step 1: Identification of Villages

A **baseline assessment** is carried out by LEADS professionals to identify villages with significant livestock potential. The existing service gaps are evaluated. The willingness of community to manage ILDC informs subsequent planning. Priority is given to villages where livestock is a major source of livelihood and where farmers have limited alternative livelihood opportunities.

Step 2: Community Mobilisation and Institution Building

Village level meetings are conducted with livestock rearers, Self Help Groups (SHGs), women farmers, and community leaders to introduce the concept of ILDC. A **Village Livestock Management Committee** is formed

to oversee the functioning of the centre. Coordinate activities and efforts are taken to ensure community ownership and accountability.

Step 3: Infrastructure Development and Capacity Building

Essential **infrastructure, veterinary equipment, vaccines, medicines, and record-keeping systems are established**. Local youth and experienced livestock rearers are identified and selected for training as **Para Veterinary Professionals (Paravet)** in vaccination, disease management, scientific feeding, breeding, first aid, and animal husbandry practices. This initiative helps in creating a pool of skilled local service providers to deliver livestock support within community.

Step 4: Operationalisation of the Centre

Each ILDC becomes operational by delivering a range of services including - **vaccination, deworming, disease management, advisory services, farmer training, and access to veterinary medicines**. The centre also facilitates market linkages and strengthened convergence with the Department of Animal Husbandry and other government programmes to improve **livestock productivity and enterprise development**.



Step 5: Community-Based Management and Sustainability

The ILDCs continue to be **managed by the Village Livestock Management Committee** with ongoing technical support from trained Paravet. Nominal user fees is collected for veterinary services. The contribution helps in covering the cost of medicines, vaccination, equipment maintenance, and operational expenses. LEADS provides periodic technical mentoring, guidance and facilitates in establishing linkages with government departments. The continued support and community participation ensures long-term sustainability of the centres.

Key Services Provided

- Community-managed livestock service centres
- Vaccination and deworming services
- Scientific breeding, feeding and animal health management
- Preventive healthcare and first aid
- Capacity building of livestock rearers
- Doorstep veterinary support through trained Paravets
- Market linkage and livestock enterprise development
- Convergence with government livestock programmes



Financial Benefits and Community Support

The ILDC model contributes to strengthening household income by enhancing livestock productivity, reducing animal mortality, and promoting scientific livestock management. Extended support is provided in successfully linking the farmers to the market and hence replacing the involvement of the middlemen. This support saves substantial amount of the profit which directly benefits the farmers adding significantly to his income. Farmers receive affordable veterinary services, timely disease prevention through vaccination, breed improvement

support, technical guidance, and access to quality medicines, enabling them to manage livestock more efficiently and profitably.

To promote **sustainable livelihood development**, LEADS also supports eligible households with livestock through a revolving support mechanism. For example, beneficiary families receive two goats as livelihood assets. Once the goats are sold, beneficiaries return only the initial purchase cost of the animals to the programme, while retaining the entire profit earned. The returned amount is then utilised to support additional farmers, creating a self-sustaining community fund that enables more households to benefit over time.

To **improve the quality of local goat breeds**, LEADS provides selected farmers with a high-quality breeding male goat. Other farmers can bring their female goats for breeding by paying a nominal service charge. This not only improves the genetic quality and productivity of future generations of goats but also creates an additional income source for the farmer managing the breeding animal.

In addition, the ILDC model creates local **employment opportunities** by developing Para Veterinary Professionals, who **provide fee-based veterinary and advisory services** within their own communities, ensuring timely last-mile livestock healthcare while strengthening the long-term sustainability of the centres.

Experience of LEADS

LEADS has established more than 32 Integrated Livestock Development Centres across its intervention areas and trained over 60 Para Veterinary Professionals to provide community-based veterinary services.



The initiative has promoted goat rearing, piggery, duckery, poultry, and dairy enterprises through training, technical guidance, animal healthcare, and market facilitation. More than 200 Model Farmers have been developed to demonstrate scientific livestock management practices and mentor neighbouring farmers.

Regular training programmes on scientific animal husbandry, disease prevention, feeding, breeding, vaccination, and enterprise management have significantly improved the knowledge and skills of livestock rearers. These interventions have resulted in healthier livestock, reduced disease incidence, improved productivity, higher household incomes, and greater participation of women in livestock-based enterprises.

Sustainability

The sustainability of the ILDC model is rooted in community ownership and local capacity. Each centre is managed and governed by a ILDC Committee and operated with the support of trained Paravets who provide affordable veterinary services through a cost-recovery approach.

The centres are sustained through nominal service charges, continuous capacity building, active community participation, and convergence with the Department of Animal Husbandry and other government schemes. This model ensures continuous



availability of quality livestock services while gradually reducing dependence on external project support and strengthening community-led livelihood systems.

Concluding Remarks

The Integrated Livestock Development Centre (ILDC) model demonstrates the potential of community-managed livestock services that can significantly strengthen rural livelihoods. The model integrates veterinary healthcare, technical support, enterprise development, and institutional strengthening under a single platform. By developing local service providers, promoting scientific livestock management, and strengthening community institutions. The model has improved livestock productivity, enhanced household incomes, generated rural employment, and witnessed greater participation of women in the local economic activities.

With over **32 functional ILDCs**, **trained Para Veterinary Professionals**, and strong community ownership, the model offers a scalable and sustainable approach for promoting livestock-based livelihoods. It offers a replicable model that can be adopted across Jharkhand and other regions to strengthen rural livelihoods, enhance food and nutrition security, and support inclusive and sustainable rural development.

