



### *Animal nutrition activities*

Under the animal nutrition component interventions like Ration Balancing Programme (RBP) and fodder development were implemented. Under RBP, feeding of balanced ration to milch animals has benefited the milk producers by way of increasing the milk production per animal per day and also by reducing the average cost of feeding. Local Resource Person (LRP) formulates a least cost balanced ration for milch animals from locally available feed resources using the software - "Information Network for Animal Productivity and Health (INAPH)". Balanced ration ensured that milch animals produce milk commensurate with their genetic potential. RBP also resulted in reduction of methane emissions, a source of Greenhouse Gases.

Further, under fodder development programme, certified/truthfully labelled fodder seeds were promoted to increase fodder production. Field demonstrations of mowers, silage making and biomass storage silos have been carried out to popularise these technologies among farmers

and increase adoption. A network of micro training centres with progressive farmers as trainers were set up for dissemination of these techniques.

RBP has been an important and successful programme under NDP I. RBP promoted optimal feed management for dairy animals from locally available resources and has improved health, productivity and fertility of milch animals. By project end, RBP covered 2.85 million milch animals and 32,787 trained LRPs had been employed to deliver the programme. RBP covered 33,374 villages. LRPs will continue to be an integral part of the programme going forward. Regional evaluation studies showed that with RBP, average fat content increased from 4.70 per cent to 4.78 per cent, and Solids-non-Fat (SNF) rose from 7.86 to 8.54 per cent in cows, and 8.12 to 9.12 per cent in buffaloes. This led to increased milk market value where farmers received an additional premium price on average of ₹10/animal/day. The ex-post EFA - measured RBP benefits as follows: (a) increased milk