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**DEVELOPMENT OF MODELS FOR THE GENETIC
IMPROVEMENT OF DAIRY CATTLE UNDER COOPERATIVE
DAIRYING CONDITIONS IN BANGLADESH**

A thesis presented in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy
in
Animal Breeding and Genetics

at Massey University, Palmerston North
New Zealand

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2009

This thesis is dedicated to my late parents

ABSTRACT

The aim of this thesis is to enquire into genetic approaches for improving milk yield from dairy cattle in order to overcome the milk shortage in Bangladesh. Survey work on the dairy industry was carried out to reveal its current status. The collected data of different genotypes (Pabna cattle, Australian-Friesian-Sahiwal \times Pabna, Holstein \times Pabna, Jersey \times Pabna, and Sahiwal \times Pabna) from 1999 to 2001, and in two seasons, were used to predict model parameters, fit-statistics and total lactation yields, by fitting ten lactation curve models. Best fitting model(s) were chosen on the basis of fit-statistics. The input parameters from best fitting model(s) were used for: developing a deterministic model; estimating the profitability of individual cows; estimating whole farm profitability; and for developing a profit function to estimate the economic values of traits in breeding objectives. The individual cow performances for different traits were stochastically simulated in respect of additive genetic, permanent and temporary error, herd and age effects, and mendelian sampling under progeny and parent-average testing breeding schemes based on three selection objectives applied over on 20 year period. Genetic gains in different traits were calculated from the regression of trait values on the selection index.

The estimated lactation curves model parameters, and predicted lactation milk yield were significantly different between breeds, years and seasons. From four fit-statistics values, the CCC value was considered superior, and this value indicated that the Nelder model best represented the test day records. The net annual income for Holstein \times Pabna cattle was the highest (US\$229) and was lowest (US\$115) for Pabna cattle, while all other genotypes were intermediate. The economic values (EVs) of milk yield for all genotypes were similar (US\$0.32), and due to payment for milk volume only, the EVs of fat and protein were negative. EVs of liveweight, calving intervals and calving rate were negative, but survivability was positive in all genotypes. The parent-average testing selection scheme showed higher genetic gains than progeny testing. The highest (US\$15.80) genetic gain was obtained for milk yield when selection was for milk merit only.

The study will assist in undertaking a genetic improvement programme for the increase of milk production in Bangladesh and thereby enhance food security.

(Key words: Dairy cattle, genetic improvements, models, stochastic).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Professor Hugh T. Blair and Dr. Nicolas Lopez-Villalobos for their assistance, guidance and supportive supervision throughout my doctoral studies at Massey University.

Professor Hugh T. Blair enlightened me in understanding the concept of farm modelling and the designing of breeding programmes for livestock production. He made himself available at all times to provide valuable assistance in both personal and tutorial or professional matters and his guidance, constant source of constructive criticism, comment and encouragement above and beyond the call of duty was invaluable in the completion of this thesis.

Dr. Nicolas Lopez-Villalobos provided me his invaluable knowledge in understanding animal breeding and mathematical statistics with analysis. His constant support and help encouraged me in this study. In this limited space I can not possibly express fully, the level of his unlimited cooperation and assistance in my completing this thesis.

Dr. Patricia L. Johnson provided her constant help and encouragement in the early stages of this thesis.

I would like to thank to all the personnel in the Post Graduate studies' office, at the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences, Massey University, for their active cooperation and ongoing support in the attainment of the goal of this study.

I would like to give thanks to Dr. Siva Ganesh, Institute of Information Sciences and Technology, Massey University for providing and helping me with data simulation. I also want to express my gratitude to Dr. Ngaio Beausoleil, lecturer in Physiology, IVABS for her cooperation, and for providing me valuable comments to write the thesis.

I acknowledge the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade who provided me the funds of NZAID: Postgraduate Scholarship for PhD study at Massey University. I would also like to thank the International office, Massey University for their friendly support and encouragement while completing the study.

I would like to thank to Dr. Shakhawat Hussen, Manager, Animal Breeding Section, Bangladesh Milk Producer's Cooperative Union Limited (BMPCUL) for providing me data.

I acknowledge Dr. M. A. Barek, General Manager and the member Directors of BUPCUL for all their support while I was over there, collecting data, and I would like to give thanks to all the farmers, of Baghabarighat Milk Shed area at BMPCUL for helping me to complete the survey.

I also sincerest thanks deep gratitude to Dr. Nitish C. Debnath, Vice-Chancellor, Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Khulshi, Chittagong-4202, Bangladesh for giving me study leave as such as assistance, of pursue my study in New Zealand.

Special thanks must go to parents, and specially my mother who has sacrificed her happiness for my study, and I would like to thank my sisters also whose encouragement and blessings were with me from the beginning of my study.

I acknowledge Dr. Rao Dukkipati, Mrs. Mary Gaddam, Dr. Jeremy Bryant, and Mrs. Rebecca Hickson for the friendly environment at the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences, Massey University.

Thanks also go to my friends from Manawatu Bengali Society, especially those who encouraged and assisted me to complete this thesis. I would like to thanks Mr. Saptarshi Mukherjee, Professor Srikanta Chattaterjee, Associate Professor Subhas C Mukhapaday, Dr. Md Abdul Wahab, Dr. Md. Mofakkarul Islam and Mr. Arif Hasan Khan Robin for their friendly support in Palmerston North and who encouraged me to complete this thesis.

Finally, I would like to give my profound appreciation to my wife, Mrs. Jannatara Khatun and my beloved daughter Jakia Sadia Khanom (Oyshi) for their encouragement, patience and mental support which was immeasurable and which made this thesis possible.

My heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who helped me directly or indirectly to complete this thesis.

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