

## INFERTILITY

- Infertility is a temporary disturbance in reproductive function wherein the animal cannot become pregnant. Normally an animal with a healthy reproductive function should calve every 12-14 months.
- Infertility causes economic losses to the farmers due to delay in maturity, calving and milk production. The farmer also incurs losses by maintaining an unproductive animal.
- Infertility may be due to various reasons like: (i) Diseases of genital organs (ii) Infectious diseases (iii) Physiological causes like absence of heat, repeat breeding, silent heat, cystic ovary (iv) Anatomical causes (v) Faulty AI technique.

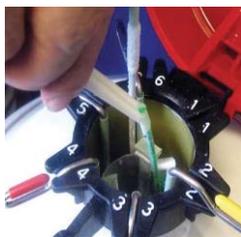
### MANAGEMENT OF INFERTILITY

- Inseminate at appropriate time of the heat. (See chapter on heat detection)
- Repeat AI may be required in cases of prolonged heat for conception to occur.
- Close observation is required to detect silent heat, especially in buffaloes.
- Provide proper nutrition right from birth of the animal.
- Provide adequate quantities of mineral mixture.
- Reduce heat stress on the animal by providing clean drinking water at all times and adequate shade or cooling systems.
- Ascertain whether the personnel providing AI services is adequately qualified.
- Consult a veterinarian if a regularly cycling animal has not conceived even after 3 inseminations to identify the problem. Repeated inseminations may cause permanent damage to the reproductive organs.
- Animals with anatomical conditions may not conceive.
- Infection/diseases of reproductive tract also may lead to infertility. Consult a veterinarian for proper advice and treatment.

### FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONCEPTION DURING A NORMAL HEAT CYCLE



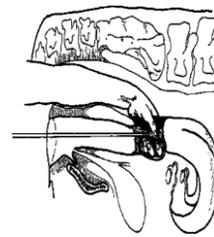
*Proper heat detection*



*Proper handling of frozen semen straws*



*Proper time and technique of insemination*



*Proper site of semen deposition*

- Only timely heat detection is in the hands of the farmer.
- Proper handling of semen, proper time of insemination, proper AI technique and site of deposition of semen are in the hands of trained personnel (vets or AI technicians).
- It is therefore very important to ensure that AI is being done only by trained personnel to avoid complications or problems later on.
- A healthy cross bred heifer should come into heat by 18 months or earlier.
- Buffaloes and local breeds may take more time to mature ( around 24 months).

*Manage infertility-ensure conception*