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A New Initiative: Paashu Aadhar Card

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Livestock plays a vital role in the rural economy, providing milk, meat, wool, draught power, and other by-products, as well as contributing to the livelihoods of millions of farmers in India. Despite its importance, efficient management, identification, and monitoring of livestock populations have historically been challenging. To address these issues, the Government of India has introduced the Paashu Aadhar Card (PAC) initiative—a unique livestock identification and registration system. This program aims to provide unique identity numbers to individual animals, similar to the Aadhaar system for humans, enabling efficient tracking, health management, breeding programs, and subsidy distribution. The Paashu Aadhar Card initiative represents a transformative step towards digitization and modernization of livestock management in India.

Concept and Objectives of Paashu Aadhar Card

The Paashu Aadhar Card system assigns a unique identification number to each livestock animal, which is linked to a centralized database containing animal details such as species, breed, age, gender, owner information, and vaccination history. The primary objectives of this initiative include improving livestock traceability, streamlining disease control programs, facilitating insurance and subsidy schemes, enhancing breeding and nutrition management, and promoting transparency in livestock management. By enabling a unified platform for data collection, the Paashu Aadhar Card allows policymakers, veterinarians, and farmers to make data-driven decisions for livestock development and welfare.

Animal Identification Process

Under the Paashu Aadhar Card program, animals are identified using a combination of physical and digital tools. This includes ear tags, RFID chips, and biometric identification techniques such as muzzle or nose pattern recognition. Each animal's identification details are digitized and linked to its unique Paashu Aadhar Number (PAN). The registration process involves recording critical data such as breed, age, sex, parentage, vaccination history, and location. Mobile applications and online portals enable real-time updates, ensuring that the database remains accurate and current. The use of technology in identification reduces errors associated with manual record-keeping and allows for seamless integration with other livestock management systems.

Health Management and Disease Control

One of the key benefits of the Paashu Aadhar Card system is improved animal health management. Vaccination records, disease history, and treatment details are linked to each animal, allowing veterinarians to monitor and manage herd health more efficiently. In the event of disease outbreaks, authorities can quickly identify affected animals, trace their movement, and implement containment measures. This system also facilitates nationwide surveillance programs for major livestock diseases such as Foot-and-Mouth Disease,

Brucellosis, and Avian Influenza. By ensuring proper record-keeping and monitoring, the PAC program contributes to better animal welfare and public health safety.

Breeding and Genetic Improvement

The Paashu Aadhar Card enables better tracking of breeding programs. By recording parentage and genetic information, farmers and authorities can monitor breeding patterns, avoid inbreeding, and promote selective breeding for desirable traits such as higher milk yield, disease resistance, and improved growth rates. The database also helps implement artificial insemination programs more efficiently by tracking eligible animals, timing of insemination, and conception success rates. This technology-driven approach enhances livestock productivity and genetic improvement across the country.

Subsidies, Insurance, and Financial Inclusion

The Paashu Aadhar Card plays a crucial role in financial inclusion for farmers. Livestock subsidies, insurance schemes, and government aid programs can be linked to the unique identification of animals, ensuring transparency and preventing misuse of funds. Farmers can receive compensation for disease-related losses or disaster events based on verified PAC records. The system also enables smooth access to loans or credit for livestock development, empowering farmers to invest in better feeding, housing, and healthcare for their animals.

Traceability and Transparency

The PAC initiative strengthens traceability and accountability in livestock management. By maintaining accurate records of each animal's movements, vaccinations, and breeding history, authorities can track livestock products from farm to consumer. This traceability ensures food safety, prevents illegal animal trade, and enhances consumer confidence in livestock products such as milk, meat, and dairy derivatives. It also allows researchers and policymakers to analyze livestock trends and make informed decisions for future development programs.

Integration with Smart Technologies

The Paashu Aadhar Card system can be integrated with other smart livestock technologies such as IoT devices, RFID-enabled feeding stations, and mobile health monitoring apps. Sensors can record feed intake, activity, and body condition, linking this data with PAC records to provide a comprehensive overview of herd health and productivity. Such integration enables precision livestock management, improving milk yield, reproductive efficiency, and overall animal welfare.

Farmer Awareness and Training

Successful implementation of the Paashu Aadhar Card system requires capacity building and farmer awareness. Training programs educate farmers on registering their animals, maintaining records, and using PAC-linked digital platforms. Awareness campaigns also highlight the benefits of the initiative, including access to subsidies, insurance schemes, disease prevention, and improved livestock productivity. Empowered with knowledge, farmers can better manage their herds and leverage technology for sustainable livestock development.

Challenges and Future Directions

While the PAC initiative offers numerous advantages, challenges remain. These include accurate data collection in remote areas, maintaining updated records, ensuring technological literacy among farmers, and managing large-scale databases. Future improvements may include expanded biometric identification, integration with climate-smart livestock management systems, AI-driven health analytics, and real-time disease tracking. As technology becomes more accessible and farmers adapt to digital platforms, the Paashu Aadhar Card system has the potential to transform livestock management in India comprehensively.

Conclusion

The Paashu Aadhar Card initiative represents a major step forward in modernizing livestock management in India. By providing unique identification, digital record-keeping, health monitoring, breeding management, and financial integration, the system enhances productivity, welfare, and traceability. Its success will depend on effective implementation, farmer participation, and integration with other smart livestock technologies. In the long term, the PAC system promises to create a more efficient, transparent, and sustainable livestock sector, benefiting farmers, policymakers, and consumers alike.

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