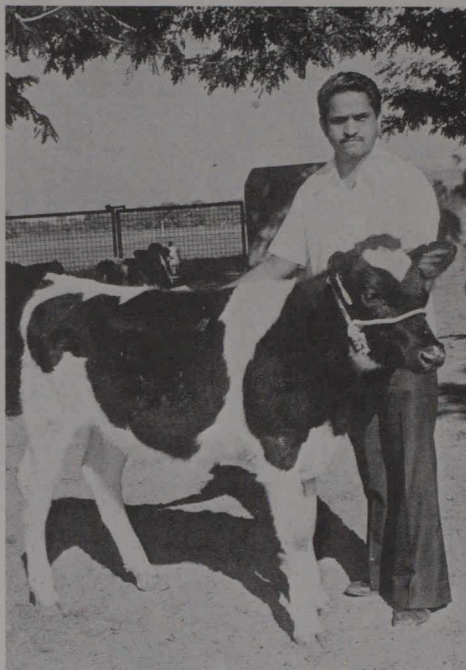


# Canadian Calves for Kaira Cooperative

Gujarat became the new home for 236 Canadian bred Holstein Friesian calves which arrived at Ahmedabad by air on November 27 as part of Canada's contribution to the development of India's dairy industry. This was the second shipment of Holsteins supplied by the Canadian International Development Agency to aid in the expansion of dairying in India.

The shipment was part of a joint Indo-Canadian pilot project designed to assess the feasibility of raising purebred Holstein milch cows with a view to implementing large scale cross-breeding with Indian cattle. The ultimate aim of the project is to increase the availability of milk, improve cash incomes for farmers and to develop cattle dairying by introducing high quality cattle for distribution. The overall program has been conceived by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in conjunction with the Kaira District Cooperative Milk Products Union Ltd (AMUL). The value of the Canadian contribution is C\$700,000 (Rs. 56 lakhs) which matches the funds made available by AMUL for the project.

The project has been located in Anand because of the excellent record of the AMUL Cooperative in improving milk production and the established facilities



*Dr. Mujundar, veterinary officer with AMUL, displaying Canadian Calf on arrival in India under the CIDA-AMUL pilot project to study the feasibility of cross breeding Holstein milch cows with Indian cattle.*

available for looking after the calves. These facilities include adequate water supply, ample land for the production of green fodder and around the clock

veterinary service.

The scheme was introduced through AMUL because animal husbandry specialists were of the opinion that the potential of the buffalo as a milk producer has been almost fully exploited by member farmers of the Union. This is in spite of the fact that AMUL members have produced better yields than their non-member counterparts through healthier animals resulting from good breeding, proper veterinary services and better fodder. The project accordingly has been set up to determine if the gradual introduction of dairy cows, whose yields can be significantly higher than that of the buffalo, will overcome these restrictions on increased production.

The Canadian bred calves were carefully chosen according to rigid specifications to ensure their suitability for breeding and a high rate of milk production. Each calf weighed between 100 and 150 kg and was between the ages of 4 to 6 months at the time of shipment. Special precautions were taken to ensure their safe journey by air from Canada to Ahmedabad, including penning according to size on board the aircraft, special instructions to the flight crew on movement of the aircraft and accompaniment on board by veterinary specialists to ensure suitable conditions were maintained at all times. The calves were unloaded quickly and smoothly by AMUL and Indian Airlines employees and trucked to the dairy research farm of Gujarat Agricultural University where they are being held until the new AMUL facilities at Ode are ready. Cool temperatures and light rains on arrival provided perfect weather for the young calves to begin their adaptation from the cold winter of Canada to Indian temperatures.

The calves will be raised and bred at AMUL holding farms. After they have calved, the cows will be sold to cooperative members who will enjoy all the highly developed services of this renowned and successful cooperative.

The operation of the project is under Dr. H C Gupta, Animal Husbandry Manager for AMUL. Mr. William Urquhart of Wellandport, Ontario was at Anand for three months to observe on behalf of CIDA the progress of the calves.



*Canadian bred Holstein Calves being off-loaded at Ahmedabad airport on route to the holding farms of the Kaira District Cooperative.*