National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR)

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The **National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR**) has recognised the **Manda buffalo** as the **19th unique breed of buffaloes** found in India.

[Ref: the Hindu]

- Two breeds of buffalo– Chilika and Kalahandi, along with four breeds of cattle– Binjharpuri, Motu, Ghumusari and Khariar–and one breed of sheep, Kendrapada, have already received NBAGR recognition.

About the Manda buffalo:

- It is found in the **Eastern Ghats** and plateau of **Koraput region of Odisha.**
- The Manda is **resistant to parasitic infections**, less prone to diseases and can live, produce and reproduce at low or nil input system.
- The small, sturdy buffaloes are used for ploughing in their native habitat of Koraput, Malkangiri and Nabarangpur districts.
- It has **ash grey and grey coat** with copper-coloured hair.
- The lower part of the legs up to elbow is light in colour with copper colour hair at the knee. Some animals are silver white in colour.
- Horns are **broad and emerge slightly laterally**, extending backward and inward making half circles. Jaws and nostrils are wide and prominent.

- Manda buffaloes get **matured at around 3 years** and drop the first calf at around 4 years. Every 1.5 to 2 years they give birth to a calf for the whole life of around 20 years.
- Average calving interval of these buffaloes is 18 months with **gestation period of 307 days.**
- They are moderate milk yielders having lactation milk yield of around 700 lt.
- The average milk yield of these buffaloes is **2 to 2.5 litre in single milking** with more than **8% fat.** However, a few of those yield up to 4 litres.
- These animals are **famous for longevity**, hard work and length of working life.

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- The National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources and National Institute of Animal Genetics were **merged in 1995** to function as a single unit in the form of National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources.
- It acts as an organization which could undertake the responsibility of evaluating, certifying and conserving the rich and varied germplasm resources available in the country and whose genetic base is shrinking fast.

Mandate:

- Identification, Evaluation, Characterization, Conservation and sustainable Utilization of Livestock and Poultry Genetic Resources.
- Coordination and capacity building in animal genetic resources management and policy issues.

Objectives:

- To conduct systematic surveys to characterise, evaluate and catalogue farm livestock and poultry genetic resources and to establish their National Data Base.
- To design methodologies for ex situ conservation and in situ management and optimal utilization of farm animal genetic resources.
- To undertake studies on genetic characterisation using modern biological techniques such as molecular cytogenetics, Immunology, DNA Fingerprinting, RFLP analysis etc.
- To conduct training programmes as related to evaluation, characterisation and utilisation of animal genetic resources.

Role and Responsibility:

- It is basically be a centre for **information regarding the genetic resources** in the country and will act as a link between ICAR Institutes, Agricultural Universities, Government or Private Agencies, national and international organizations which are concerned with livestock.
- It also supports such agencies to maintain rare species and breeds of animals which are in danger of extinction.
- Wherever information is not available or existing performance data are scanty, the Bureau will help in setting up herds and flooks for the purpose of evaluating the breeds and strains.

