

Need for conservation of Halari donkeys found in Halar region of Gujarat-Laid

SHRI MUKESHKUMAR CHANDRAKAANT DALAL (SURAT): Halari donkeys are found in Halar region of Gujarat only and their milk is just invaluable & worth its weight in gold & possesses distinctive properties which is not found in other milk. It is known to have been sold between Rs 5000 to 7000 per 1 liter on online platforms. It can readily fetch anything between Rs 300 to 400 per liter on daily base. It closely resembles human milk making it an ideal alternative for babies who are allergic to cow milk. Studies also indicate its potential in regulating intestinal micro flora, enhancing immunity & some anti diabetic qualities. These distinctive white-flurried animals are larger than typical donkeys but smaller than horses. They also have a much lower environmental footprints compared to larger livestock requiring less feed & less water. Their grazing habits even help maintain grassland ecosystems. Hence, they are low maintenance animals & farmers with five Halari donkeys can easily earn Rs 1500/-daily. There are only 430 Halari donkeys out of which 110 are male. National Research Centre on Equines (NRCE), Bikaner houses 43 of them to prompt farmers to breed them. If urgent measures are not taken today to conserve and breed those, Halari donkeys will become extinct during next five years and will soon become history.