



4

CLEANING GOSHALA

When we consider the cows to be very important part of farmer's life, we have to know how to look after them by feeding, cleaning, keeping them healthy, treating illness etc. Keeping the cowshed (Goshala) clean and tidy helps a lot. A clean cowshed, keeps diseases away. It make them healthy and it resulted in increased amount of healthy milk. So in this lesson, lets study about some simple ways to make Goshala clean.



OBJECTIVES

After studying this lesson, you will be able to :

- explain the importance of cleaning Goshalas;
- describe the maintenance of Goshala; and
- explain the steps taken for cleaning process.

4.1 IMPORTANCE OF CLEANING GOSHALAS

Goshalas are an important part of every households in rural India. Our ancient texts are filled with praising Cows and their blessings



Notes

on our life. While emphasizing the importance of cow Rishis have said,

ॐ गोकुलं भवेत्पुण्यं । गोकुलं भवेत्पुण्यं । गोकुलं भवेत्पुण्यं ।

ॐ गोकुलं भवेत्पुण्यं । गोकुलं भवेत्पुण्यं । गोकुलं भवेत्पुण्यं ।

Let cows be before, behind and around me.

Let cows be in my heart. Let me live in the midst of cows. Let cows bless me.

Often in India, the farmer's house is built with Soils bricks. The entire house used to be floored with Gomaya (cowd dung). However, this tradition is decreasing in many areas with the use of new building materials.

It is said that cowdung has the ability to disinfect the space of its



Fig. 4.1 Goshala



application from all kinds of harmful insects, germs, bacteria etc. But it doesn't mean that we should not clean our Goshalas. Dirt, wastage such as remaining eatable of cows, cow dung, the grass and other things layered on the floor make goshala dirty. It reduces the hygiene which make them vulnerable for many diseases. Keeping Goshalas clean is very important as it improves the health of cows. Healthy cows may produce more milk with better quality.

4.2 MAINTENANCE GOSHALA

Goshala (cowshed) is a place for the cows to relax and sleep during the night. We all may have seen the goshala in our home or at our nearby places. Each cow has their own place in the resting area, called STHANA.

The Goshala may look different in different geographical areas because it is mostly prepared using local products available in the vicinity. At some places the stone pillar are used for walls and grass is used for roof. At some places we may see bricked walls with cement or tin sheet. We should consider following important points while making a goshala:

- A cow needs space to lie down. One should construct Gosthanas enough to be occupied by cows most of the time.
- Use appropriate products for making goshala walls.



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Fig. 4.2 Sufficient space in Goshala

- Any type of products i.e. Stone Pillars, Brick Pillars, Wood Pillars, Unbaked brick walls, Baked brick walls or concrete walls may be used for wall making.



Fig. 4.3 Proper air and light



- Good air flow and proper lighting must be managed at Goshalas. If you are making bricks walls, create some holes on the walls for smooth flow of air.
- The Goshala must be covered with a roof made of iron sheets, grass thatch or concrete roof.
- The roof must be high enough so that it cannot be eaten by a cow if it is made of grass or if hay is stored under it.
- The shed should be constructed in such a way that the cow remains can be cleaned all the time. Clean the cow shed every day.
- Very smooth floor may not be helpful for cows to stand, it may be very slippery, so rough floor is ideal.
- Dry leaves have to be spread on the rough floor for the cows to rest.
- Clean and disinfect the floor every day. This stops foot rot and abscesses.

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 4.1**

True or false

1. The entire house used to be floored with Gomaya (cow dung).
2. Our ancient texts are filled with praising Cows.



3. Good air flow and proper lighting are not required at Goshalas.
4. Don't spread dry leaves on the rough floor for the cows to rest.
5. The Goshala must be covered with a roof.

4.3 CLEANING THE GOSHALA

Cleaning goshala is equally important. Many of us are aware with the importance of cleaning goshalas. However, we don't know the exact and effective procedure to clean our goshalas. Let us know the various steps used for making goshala clean and hygienic.

- There should be adequate flow of air and light in the goshla. It helps to keep it dry even in rainy seasons.



Fig. 4.4 Cleaning Goshala



- Dry materials are used to spread over the floor. Collect the dry materials from the entire floor and store it outside the goshala.
- If necessary, use minimal water to wash the area with broom or with pipe connection if bricks have been used for flooring.
- The dry leaves spread on the ground should be removed along with cowdung to make organic manure.
- Leave the cows outside for grazing for sometimes. In earlier times, the cows were allowed to go into the forest for grazing.



Fig. 4.5 Biogas



- Once you remove the dry leaves or grass from the ground, easily the entire area becomes clean.
- The area in which the grass and cow eatables are placed, clean the area.
- In many areas, water is mixed with dry fodder alongwith wheat or oats flour. In such cases remove the liquid remains every day.
- The waste material of the goshala should be collected at a separate place away from the goshala.
- The cow dung should also be collected separately which can be used for Biogas.
- Mosquitoes, housefly and other insects are found in goshalas. They make cows uncomfortable. Therefore, some fume by burning cow dung alongwith neem leaves may be used to keep them away from goshala.

These simple steps may be used for making goshala clean.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 4.2

Fill in the blanks

1. There should be adequate flow of air and light in the goshla.
2. Leave the cows outside for grazing for sometimes.

3. Dry materials are used to spread over the floor.
4. The cow dung should also be collected separately which can be used for Biogas.
5. Mosquitoes, housefly and other insects are found in goshalas.

**Notes****WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT**

- * Keeping goshala clean and hygienic is very important.
- * Cows are an essential part of Indian society.
- * Goshalas are prepared mostly using locally available raw material.
- * Goshala should be (?) us. It must have proper arrangements of air and light.
- * It should be clean every day.
- * Waste material should be kept separately.

**TERMINAL QUESTIONS**

1. Explain the importance of cleaning goshalas.
2. Suggest any 4 points to maintain goshala.
3. Why it is necessary to remove dry leaves from floor.
4. Why we should create fumes in goshala?
5. Make a list of any 5 steps taken in cleaning goshalas.



Notes



ANSWERS TO INTEXT QUESTIONS

4.1

1. True
2. True
3. False
4. False
5. True

4.2

1. Light
2. Grazing
3. Floor
4. Biogas
5. Mosquitoes