

- Calving interval is moderate, influenced by nutrition, suckling practices, and limited reproductive management.
- Shweta Kapila cows exhibit good adaptability and reproductive resilience under hot and humid coastal conditions.
- The breed shows a low incidence of major reproductive disorders, making it suitable for low-input systems.
- Shweta Kapila cattle represent a valuable indigenous animal genetic resource, conserved through farmer-led selection and traditional management practices.

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Shweta Kapila Cattle of Goa: Necessity for Conservation and Propagation



**ICAR- Central Coastal Agricultural
Research Institute**

(INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH)

Introduction

Goa is a small state on western India, lies in the Konkan region—a biodiversity hotspot on the Western Ghats. Goa is home to two registered native livestock breeds: Shweta Kapila (cattle breed) and Agonda Goan (pig breed). Both breeds possess unique characteristics that are well-suited to the local environment and play an essential role in preserving indigenous breeds. These breeds play a vital role in conserving India's animal genetic resources.

Shweta Kapila - name is derived from the term "Shweta," meaning white, and "Kapila," referring to a short statured cow with a uniform coat colour. This breed is well-adapted to the local conditions in Goa and have specific advantages that make it suitable for the region.

Key features of the Shweta Kapila cattle:

- Colour: Breed is known for its complete white coat. This white colour extends from the muzzle to the tail switch, including eyelashes and the muzzle, which is whitish brown.
- Size: They are short to medium in stature.
- Horns: They have small, straight horns that are directed upward and outward.
- Hump: Shweta Kapila cattle typically

have a small to medium-sized hump.

- Udder: The udder is described as bowl-shaped and small to medium in size. The teats are cylindrical with rounded tips.
- Milk Yield: 1.8 kg to 3.4 kg, with an average yield of 2.8 kg per day and milk fat ranged from 3.7 to 4.2%.
- Lactation Milk Yield Range: 250 kg to 650 kg
- Height Range: 97 cm to 137 cm
- Population Size: Approximately 22,000

Brief Description

- Shweta Kapila is the first registered indigenous cattle breed of Goa, recognized by ICAR-NBAGR, Karnal in 2015 based on the application submitted by the ICAR-CCARI, Goa.
- They are native to the coastal hot and humid climate, with temperatures ranging from 23.0 to 34.5°C, relative humidity of 57–90%, and annual rainfall between 2,432 and 4,470 mm.
- The breed is well adapted to high humidity and is generally sturdy and disease resistant.
- Animals are reared under extensive to semi-intensive management systems, involving grazing from morning

to afternoon followed by limited concentrate feeding.

- Management is low-input and traditional system with minimal mechanization, natural breeding, and limited record keeping.
- Gaushalas play a key role in sheltering and conserving the breed, and animals exhibit a moderate, manageable temperament.
- Shweta Kapila cattle display a distinct and uniform morphology, characterized by a predominantly white coat in both sexes.
- The muzzle is whitish-brown, eyelids are white, the tail switch ranges from white to brownish-white, and hooves are greyish-white.
- Horns are greyish-white, straight to slightly curved, oriented outward and upward, and measure 8–11 inches in length.
- Growth performance reflects moderate growth typical of indigenous cattle under traditional systems.
- Average body weights are 11.57 kg at birth, 59.7 kg at pre-weaning, 137.1 kg at 12 months, and 202.37 kg at 24 months.
- Weight at first calving averages 283.1

kg, indicating adequate maturity at reproduction.

- Adult body weight averages 382.8 kg in males and 276.7 kg in females.
- The breed is primarily maintained for milk production, though overall milk yield is low to moderate.
- Average daily milk yield is 2.8 kg, depending on nutrition, management, and stage of lactation.
- Lactation length is moderate, with milk mainly used for household consumption and local purposes rather than commercial dairying.
- Milk is traditionally valued for its perceived medicinal and therapeutic properties, particularly from pure white animals.
- The predominance of the A2 β -casein allele, with complete absence of the A1A1 genotype, confirms the breed's suitability for A2 milk production.
- Age at first calving is relatively late, reflecting slower growth and traditional rearing practices.
- The breed shows satisfactory reproductive efficiency under optimal breeding conditions, with conception occurring mainly through natural service.