

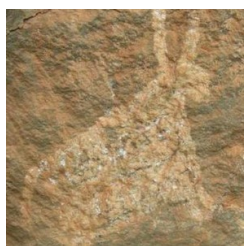
Farmers' Friends - Tamil Nadu's indigenous breeds of cattle

---R.Soundararajan, Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu, India

India has the world's most significant cattle diversity with 26 well-defined indigenous breeds which are hardy, resistant to disease and can withstand harsh ecological conditions. From time immemorial, they have been helping the farmers in the agricultural activities. They are well adapted to the agro-climatic conditions and are resistant to many tropical ailments.

In India, Tamil Nadu has five popular indigenous breeds of cattle - Kangayam, Pulikulam, Umblachery, Alambadi and Bargur. Of these, two breeds, Kangayam and Umblachery are known for their adaptability to the frugal feed and rugged terrain. They are most suitable for ploughing, carting, threshing and levelling in arid and marshy paddy fields.

Kangayam breed which derives its name from its habitat, Kangayam in west Tamil Nadu is reputed for its superior draught power and adaptability to poor nutritional conditions.



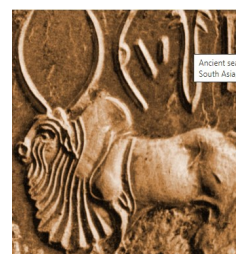
Bull on Rock art

Umblachery, breed of cattle of the zebu type is famous for its sturdiness and strength. This breed is reared mostly in deltaic districts of Cauvery in Nagapattinam, Thanjavur and Tiruvarur districts, Tamil Nadu. It derives its name from a small village with same name (Umblachery). The male Umblachery cattle suitable for working in marshy rice fields are used for agricultural purposes such as carting and ploughing. Its also called the ‘terrestrial ambassadors’ of the region.



India Post released special cover on Umblachery Breed of Cattle during the Delta Digipex 2022 stamp exhibition on 23 Apr.2022

Both Kangayam and Umblachery breeds are considered as farmers' friends as they are helpful in ploughing and working even during draught times. These cattle have similar characteristics. The bullocks have capacity for work and are used for various agricultural operations and for works like sugarcane load hauling, bulls. The bulls are engaged in traditional bull races and fights and also in the *Jallikattu* sport.



Indus Valley seal on bull



**A farmer ploughing
field with cattle**



Kangayam breed on stamp by India Post released on 25 Apr. 2000



Taming the bull. A statue in Alwarthirunagari, Tamil Nadu, India.