Recommendations to Improve Success Rate of Artificial Insemination in Cattle

- AI Kits should be checked monthly for completeness, and should include the following:
  - Tweezers/forceps
  - Scissors
  - Paper towels
  - AI Gun in good condition
  - Sheaths
  - Water Bath
  - Thermometer

- BRAC trainers continue yearly intense training of inseminators, emphasizing the following points:
  - Semen straws - lift no higher than frost line to retrieve straw.
  - Use tweezers/forceps to retrieve straw
  - Maintain semen at frost line for 5 seconds maximum.
  - Thawed at 35-37 degrees centigrade for 15 seconds minimum
  - While being held and protected in paper towel, keep semen straw well dried, cut, and loaded in gun.
  - Keep insemination gun loaded, clean, and protected from direct sunlight (either undershirt or in sewn holster).
  - Keep vulva of cow cleaned. Wipe gently with paper towel prior to entry of gun.

- Consider using a field notebook with pages (or photos) demonstrating the following: Proper AI technique, Semen handling, Signs of estrus, and Contents of a proper AI kit

- The target of breeding is always the uterine body. The exception is if the cervix is sticky, then suspect pregnancy and deposit semen mid-cervical.

- Consider using a French Straw AI gun; whichever is the easiest to use.

- Consider using LCD plastic thaw bath thermometers that are color-coded to the proper temperature.

- Encourage farmers to feed 10% of the newborn calf weight with first colostrum’s from the mother. It can be fed via nursing, clean bottle, or esophageal feeding.

- Encourage calving in a clean, dry area and clean manure off mother before encouraging the calf to nurse.

- Consider using sheath protectors when breeding cows that are multiple repeat breeders. This can give you a slight increase in conception by eliminating vaginal contamination.

- AI Technicians should work within their scope of training; consulting a Breeding Specialist/Veterinarian for technical reproductive issues is vital.