EVALUATION OF CONSTRAINTS FACED BY FARMERS IN ADOPTION OF DAIRY CATTLE MANAGEMENTAL PRACTICES

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ABSTRACT

The constraints expressed by the dairy cattle owners of Rajarambapu Patil Sahakari Dudh Sangh Ltd. Islampur as regards the reproduction, nutrition, management, health, economic and milk distribution were studied. Some remedial measures like trainings, exhibitions, brain storming sessions, poster presentations, radio talks and programmes on Door-darshan can be taken up to create awareness in dairy farmers and to impart knowledge to them to undertake new animal managemental practices to increase the milk yield.

KEY WORDS: Constraints, Animal Husbandry Practices, Respondents, economics, Nutrition,

INTRODUCTION

An age-old practice of animal husbandry is a vital part of the national, especially rural economy (Balaraman, 2006). India ranks first in livestock population and milk production. Dairying provides not only employment to farmers during the off season but give regular flow of income to unemployed graduates through out the year in draught prone area. Livestock play an important role in national economy and socio-economic development of marginal farmers. Hence it becomes essential to study the effect of independent and dependent variables with respect to socio-economic characteristics of dairy cattle owners.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The data for the present study was collected by LPM and Extension department of college of Veterinary Sciences and A.H, from co-operative members and milk producers of Rajarambapu Patil Sahakari Dudh Sangh Ltd, Islampur, Sangli, (M.S.). Ex-post facto research design was selected for the purpose. Ten different villages around Islampur each having twenty dairy farmers were randomly sampled and in all two hundred respondents formed a data base for the study. The data was collected by personal interview in local language at homes and at farms by giving complete comfort and avoiding outside influences to arrive at unbiased inferences from farmers and milk producers.

Questions were brief, self explanatory and easy to understand and capable of eliciting accurate responses, and were related to problem oriented and personal socio-economic characteristic of the respondents pertaining to constraints faced by farmers. These constraints were categorized into reproductive, nutritional, managemental, health, economic and milk distribution.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Among the reproductive constraints, majority of (85.50 per cent) dairy cattle farmers reported non-availability of indigenous and crossbred cattle with known genetic constitution in local market. Similar observations were reported by Shingade (2001) and Shinde (2002).Similarly 72.50, 39.00, 9.50 per cent dairy farmers reported lack of breeding bull and A.I. facility at local level, long calving interval and poor conception rate of AI, respectively. Similar observations were reported by Dabas *et al.* (2002), Pandey and Bijubaladevi (2002). Only 4.00 per cent dairy cattle farmers reported inability of heat detection in animals as constraints.

Among the nutritional constraints in present study, 91.00 per cent farmers expressed high cost of concentrate as reported by Singh (1999), Narkar *et al.* (2002) and Ravikumar *et al.* (2006). Dairy cattle require 61.50 per cent more feed, 56.00 per cent deficiency of balanced diet, 40.50 per cent deficiency of green fodder round the year . Non-availability of grazing land and 23.00 per cent was reported by Gaur and Patel (2003) and only 13.00 per cent dairy cattle farmers reported non-availability of concentrates, feed and fodder regularly. Similar findings were reported by Shingade (2001).

In the managemental constraints, majority (41.50 per cent) of the dairy cattle farmers explored negligence of care and management of pregnant cow and new born calf due to lack of time, while 37.50, 26.50 and 21.00 per cent dairy respondents reported no knowledge of correct method of milking leading to high incidence of mastitis. These findings are in agreement with Rakshe (2002) and Narkar e*t al.* (2002). Mortality rate of calf was high as the farmers were not aware regarding disease prevention by vaccination and care to be taken at the time of calving and just after parturition. These findings are in congruity with observations of Kumar *et al.* (2006) and non-availability of drinking water as reported by Rakshe (2002).

In the health constraints faced by the dairy cattle farmers reveled that 72.00, 59.50 and 49.50 per cent crossbred animals were more prone to diseases, ticks and other ectoparasites and lack of knowledge about animal diseases and vaccination and tick control respectively and only 16 per cent of dairy cattle farmers reported unavailability of prompt and timely veterinary services, costly veterinary aids and medicines in the by near area. Similar findings were reported by Sawarkar *et al.* (2001).

Among the economic constraints, 94.50 percent dairy cattle farmers reported that raising dairy breeds are costly, 90.50 per cent cost is incurred on feed & fodder, 85.00 per cent non availability of capital and loan from banks, financing authorities, Govt. schemes and cooperative societies at proper time. Similar findings were reported by Shingade (2001) and Shinde (2002). 76.50 per cent farmers reported high interest rate on loans and 69.00 per cent reported milk price fetched in the market was low as compared to the production cost. Similar findings were reported by Narkar *et al.* (2002) and Sawant and Siddiqui (2003)

In the milk distribution constraints, 91.00, 31.00 and 29.50 per cent dairy cattle farmers explored that milk production of indigenous breeds was very poor, non-availability of gavali for milking and lack of milk storage facilities at local level. Similar findings were reported by Narkar *et al.* (2002) and Gaur and Patel(2003). Only 9.50 and 9.00 per cent dairy cattle farmers reported that milk co-operative societies do not collect milk in time and milk co-operative societies collect milk once daily as constraints due to non availability of transport facilities**.**

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