STUDIES ON HOUSING MANAGEMENT OF BUFFALOES UNDER RURAL AND URBAN AREAS OF INDORE DISTRICT OF M.P.

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ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out in order to know the prevailing managemental practices of dairy animals in rural and urban areas of Indore district of Madhya Pradesh. Data were collected from 400 farmers of Indore district. In rural areas significantly higher number (59.33%) of farmers had mud houses and mud floor, whereas in urban areas, 68% farmers had pucca house with concrete floor. Majority of the farmers were found careful about sickness of their animals and most of them adopted prophylactic vaccination of their animals. From the study it is concluded that there is significant difference between rural and urban area in most of the managemental practices of dairy farming.

KEY WORDS: Buffalo, Housing, Rural and Urban

INTRODUCTION

In India large section of rural community depends on the dairy farming . The average milk production per animal is very low. This is mainly due to poor production potentiality of dairy animals, poor feeding, breeding practices and improper management. In Madhya Pradesh, especially in rural areas majority of cattle and buffalo owners are agriculture farmers. They give more importance to bullocks rather than to cows and buffaloes and have not yet developed commercial attitude towards dairy farming. The main reason behind this is that majority of animal are nondescript and poor producer of milk .The study on this aspect could be of immense value in determining the status of rural and urban farmers.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in 20 villages of four tehsils of Indore district namely; Mhow, Depalpur, Sanwer and Indore. 100 farmers from urban areas and 300 farmers from the rural areas were selected randomly. The data were collected from the farmers by door survey method and basic informations viz. land holdings, educational background, main occupation of farmers, type of farming and size of dairy were obtained. The informations were gathered on type of housing, floor, system of housing, space available per animal, light and ventilation, and drainage system. Chi-square test was used to determine the degree of association between different variables (Snedecor and Cochran, 1994).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From the collected data the trend clearly indicates that in rural areas, majority of the farmer's occupation is crop with dairy (68.33%), whereas in urban area it is only dairy farming (35%) . The results were in accordance with Malik and Patel (1987). A clear picture of land holdings in rural areas of Indore district comes out as 4.66% farmers were landless, 11.33% marginal, 54.33% small and 29.66% were found to be large farmers . Whereas in urban areas ,majority (59%) of farmers do not have any agriculture land , they are only engaged in their dairy farming. This trend is more or less similar with the reports of Malik and Nagpaul (1998). A Significant ($P<0.01$) association was observed between urban and rural areas with regards to the size of dairy herd.

Housing Management: In rural area majority (59.33%) of animal house had mud floor, 31.33% had concrete and 3.33% had brick floor. Whereas in urban area ,only 13% animal shed had mud floor and significantly higher number (82%) of shed had concrete and 5% shed had brick floor. In rural areas most of the farmers have animal house of single line system. Whereas in urban area significantly higher number (58%) of farmers keep their animals in double line preferably in tail to tail system of housing. A significant ($P<0.01$) difference was observed on the type of housing. Majority of the rural farmer (59.33%) had mud house. Similar findings were also reported by Verma and Sastry (1994). The study indicates that significantly higher percentage

(68%) of farmers had pucca house in urban area as compared to rural areas. It was astonishing to note that 5% farmers had no house for their animals in urban area. This may be attributed to the fact that they did not have enough land and other resources to construct shed. A significant ($P<0.01$) difference was observed between rural and urban areas. Majority of the rural shed had improper drainage due to mud floor. Similar findings were also reported by Verma and Sastri (1994).

The studies on availability of space in dairy farms suggest that in urban dairy farms , due to high cost of land lower number (32%) of animals had sufficient space . As for as light and ventilation is concerned, due to lower height of the roof and extensive wall covering from all sides that too with improper windows make these houses deficient climatic comfort. Only 29.66% animal houses had adequate light and ventilation in rural areas , whereas corresponding figure was significantly higher (86%) in urban area. Similar observations were also reported by Verma and Sastry (1994).

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