

Constraints Faced by the Dairy Farmers in Nagpur District while Adopting Animal Management Practices

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Abstract

The present study was carried out to analyse the constraints faced by the dairy farmers in Nagpur district. This study was conducted in 15 villages from 3 talukas of Nagpur district by personally interviewing 225 dairy farmers. Here, majority of the respondents (72.44%) stated their constraint as low milk production from the local breeds, 45.33% as shortage of green fodder and 41.33% as lack of clean water while 25.33% stated lack of preservation facility as their constraint. Referring to the financial constraints, 78.22% respondents stated their constraint as delay in milk payment, 63.11% as inadequate money and lack of loan facility whereas high cost of concentrates as the constraint by 56.44% of the respondents. As regards technical constraints, majority of the respondents (68.00%) have stated their constraint as inadequate knowledge of diseases, their prevention and control while 56.89% have referred their constraint as non-availability of veterinary services.

Keywords: Constraints, Dairy Farmers, Nagpur District, Animal Management Practices

Introduction

The dairy sub-sector occupied an important position in the agriculture economy of India, as milk is the second largest agriculture commodity contributing to the G.N.P., next only to rice. Dairy sector in India provides regular employment to 9.8 million people in subsidiary status, which together constitutes 5 % workforce. The share of livestock output to the agriculture is 25 % of the total and 6 % GDP. Milk alone contributes Rs. 450 billion to the GNP of the country. The strength of Indian sector lies in the fact that in spite of limited investment, it has shown consistent and sustainable growth (Kadirvel, 2002).

The rapid growth of milk production in India has been mainly because of the increase in the number of animals rather than that of improved productivity. The low productivity of dairy animals is of great concern and average productivity of Indian cow is only 987 Kg/lactation as against the world average of 2038 Kg/lactation. The gradual breed deterioration generally occurs from negligence over centuries and consequent rise in the population of non-descript cows (80%) and buffaloes (50%) along with the chronic shortage of feed and fodder coupled with their nutritive values and low fertility of our dairy animals has resulted in the low productivity. In India, low animal productivity results due

to climatic, social and economical factors. India possesses enormous bovine wealth, but their per capita production is one of the lowest in the world due to reasons that the farmers do not adopt improved dairy management practices at the desired level.

Keeping the above problems in view, the present study was taken up with the specific objectives to identify the constraints faced by the dairy farmers while adopting animal management practices.

Materials and Methods

1. Locale of the study: The present study was conducted in Nagpur district of Maharashtra state. Nagpur district is centrally located district in Vidarbha region, which is eastern part of the Maharashtra state.

2. Methods of sampling: For the study, in all 15 villages i.e. five villages from each block i.e. Kalameshwar, Hingana and Nagpur were selected randomly.

3. Selection of the respondents: For the study, in all 225 dairy farmers were interviewed wherein a dairy farmer with two or more than two dairy animals was considered as a respondent.

4. Tools and techniques of data collection: The basic instrument used for the study was the interview schedule. The questions were related to different constraints faced by the farmers while adopting animal husbandry practices.

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Results and Discussion

Constraints imply the problems or difficulties faced by dairy farmers while adopting day-to-day animal husbandry practices in their dairy enterprise. Here, constraints are studied under three categories i.e. situational, financial and technological constraints. Regarding situational constraints, it was observed that majority of the respondents i.e. 72.44% were facing the constraint of low milk production by local breeds. This might be because of the fact that, most of the farmers in Vidarbha region have local breeds and because of poverty, they are unable purchase high yielding crossbreds. Whereas 45.33% respondents stated their constraint as shortage of green fodder particularly during summer months or even if available, it costs more. 41.33% of the respondents conveyed their constraint about lack of clean water for managerial activities of animal, whereas lack preservation facility for milk is stated as their constraint by 25.33% of respondents. These findings are in line with those of Dabas *et al.* (2004).

About financial constraints, majority of the dairy farmers (78.22%) experienced delay in milk payments from dairy co-operative societies, followed by 63.11% of the respondents as inadequate money and lack of loan facility as their constraint. 56.44 % of the respondents, conveyed their constraints as high cost of concentrate and other feeds, while 50.66% respondents stated high cost of high yielding breeds of animals as their constraint while 43.11% of the farmers responded high cost of medicine as their constraint.

Regarding technical constraints, 68.00% of the respondents, opined to have inadequate knowledge of diseases, their prevention and control as their constraint, followed by 60.89% respondents to have constraint as non-availability of A.I. facility and timely veterinary services; whereas 56.89% stated their constraint as non-availability of veterinary hospitals.

Conclusion

From the present study, it was concluded that:

1. As regards situational constraints in dairy enterprise, most of the respondents expressed their constraints as low milk production by local breeds, shortage of green fodder, lack of clean water and shortage of milk preservation facility in order of its nature and severity.
2. With respect to financial constraints, majority of the respondents opined, delay in milk payment followed by inadequate money and lack of loan

facility, high cost of concentrate and other feeds, high cost of high yielding breeds of animals and high cost of medicines respectively as their constraints in descending order.

3. Referring to technical constraints, inadequate knowledge of diseases through prevention and control, followed by non-availability of artificial insemination facilities and timely veterinary services and non-availability of veterinary hospitals were responded as important constraints in order of its nature and severity.

Suggestion and Implications

1. There should be a special provision to impart frequent training to dairy farmers in the area with which they are concerned in their day-to-day life based upon judicious assessment and analysis of the training needs of the dairy farmers in the areas such as animal health care and disease control, care and management of animal, breeding and management of animal, feeding and management of animal and clean milk production etc.
2. Training programmes should be formulated by considering some important aspects like duration, time (season), place, month and interval of training as per the responses recorded by the farmers. Training fees should be minimum and affordable by the rural dairy farmers, if at all charged.
3. Even the government, co-operative or private institutes should organize training programme before distribution of loans and provide guidance to rural dairy farmers through guidance centre or counseling centers through an extension agency.

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