CONSTRAINTS PERCEIVED BY THE DAIRY FARMERS IN ADOPTION OF SCIENTIFIC DAIRY FARMING PRACTICES IN SIKAR DISTRICT

N.K. Khyalia, M.P. Sagar, Mahesh Chander, and J. Pratap

Division of Extension Education

Indian Veterinary Research Institute

Izatnagar, Bareilly: 243122

Received 11-1-2015 Accepted 22-2-2015

Corresponding Author : drnkchaughary@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out to find the constraints perceived by the dairy farmers in adoption of scientific dairy farming practices in the Sikar district of Rajasthan in the 4 randomly selected villages of two blocks with a total sample size of 120 households. The results revealed that major constraints faced by dairy farmers in breeding, feeding, management and health-care practices were inadequate knowledge of breeding practices (71.67%), high cost of cattle feed like concentrate and roughage (88.33%), lack of interest in maintaining simple records (81.67%) and high cost of treatment/veterinary medicines (87.50%).

KEY WORDS: Constraints, Dairy farming, Adoption, Health care, Breeding, Feeding.

INTRODUCTION

The dairy- a sub-sector of livestock sector, occupies an important place in the India's agricultural economy as milk is the second largest agricultural commodity in contributing to GDP, next only to rice.As an age old practice, animal husbandry is playing a vital role particularly in national rural economy. India is the leading milk producer in the world and holds first rank during 2012-13 with an annual output of 133.2 million tones milk production (Annual Report, 2013). In order to retain the status, there is a need to maximize the production and profit by developing scientific attitude of farmers towards the dairy farming and its adoption. But practically, there are several constraints which hinder the farmers in scientific practicing of the dairy farming. So, the present study was carried out to find the constraints faced by the dairy farmers in the adoption of scientific dairy farming.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was undertaken in Sikar district of the Rajasthan State. The district is having total 8 blocks, out of which, two blocks were selected purposively having highest milk production. Further, two villages were selected from each block randomly. From each village, 30 dairy farmers having at least 2 milch bovines were selected as respondents, randomly. Thus, a total sample size of 120 respondents was covered under the study. The selected respondents were interviewed personally with the help of structured and pre-tested interview schedule. The collected data were tabulated and analyzed statistically.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The constraints faced by dairy farmers were categorized in to breeding, feeding, general management, and health care areas.

It was found that among breeding constraints, inadequate knowledge of breeding practices was the major constraint having rank first, followed by repeat breeding in crossbred cows/buffaloes (II rank), lack of quality bulls for natural services (III rank) and so on. While least important constraint perceived by the dairy farmers was lack of artificial insemination (AI) centres (rank VI). Similar

findings were reported by Lokhande *et al.* (2012).

Table 1. Rank wise distribution of respondents as per perceived constraints (N=120)

Constraints	F	%	Rank
Breeding Constraints			
Lack of artificial insemination (AI) centers	46	38.33	VI
Inadequate knowledge of breeding practices	86	71.67	I
Repeat breeding in crossbred cows/buffaloes	81	67.50	II
Poor conception - rate in animals through AI	71	59.16	IV
Non availability of veterinary staff in centres.	56	46.67	V
Lack of quality bulls for natural services	73	60.83	III
Feeding constraints			
Inadequate knowledge about proper/scientific feeding of dairy animals.	48	40.00	V
High cost of cattle feed like concentrate and roughage.	106	88.33	I
Non - availability of good quality feed	76	63.33	II
lack / shortage of availability of HYV fodder seeds,	52	43.33	IV
Non availability of green fodder throughout the year	56	46.67	III
General management constraints			
Lack of knowledge of management practices such as weaning of new-born calf, dehorning of calves, etc.,	42	35.00	IV
Shortage of labour, lack of credit facilities and cold storage facilities	76	63.33	II
Lack of proper housing and high capital investment for scientific housing of animals	73	60.83	III
Disinterest in maintaining simple records	98	81.67	I
Health care constraints			
High cost of treatment / veterinary medicines	105	87.50	I
Non-availability of prompt and timely veterinary services	67	55.83	III
Lack of knowledge of disease -control measures	54	45.00	V
Lack of well equipped and established veterinary hospitals and doctors	63	52.50	IV
Inadequate knowledge about vaccination and deworming.	77	64.16	II

The study revealed that in the area of feeding, high cost of cattle feed like concentrate and roughage was perceived as major constraints by majority of the dairy farmers with rank first, whereas second and third most important constraints faced by dairy farmers were non-availability of good quality feed and non-availability of green fodder throughout the year. Similar observations were reported by Ravi kumar *et al.* (2006) and Shisode *et al.* (2009).

Among management constraints, majority of dairy farmers considered lack of interest in maintaining simple records as the major constraints holding first rank, followed by shortage of labour; lack of credit and cold storage facilities, and lack of proper scientific housing. These findings are in agreement with Lokhande *et al.* (2012).

In the health care area, overwhelming majority of dairy farmers reported high cost of treatment or veterinary medicines as the major constraint followed by inadequate knowledge about vaccination and deworming and non-availability of prompt and timely veterinary services. Similar findings were reported by Tailor *et al*. (2012).

CONCLUSION

In view of the findings of the present study, it is concluded that the major constraints in breeding, feeding, general management and health-care areas of dairy farming were inadequate knowledge of breeding practices, high cost of cattle feed like concentrate and roughage, lack of interest in maintaining simple records and high cost of treatment/veterinary medicines given by veterinarians in the study area. So, there is a need to improve the knowledge base of dairy farmers about breeding practices, make available concentrate feeds and veterinary medicines to the dairy farmers at a cheaper rate. The proper scientific information regarding scientific housing and record keeping should be propagated among dairy farmers. In order to provide green fodder round the year, cultivation of perennial fodder crops should be introduced in the area.

REFERENCES :

Annual Report Government of India, (2013). Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture. New Delhi.

Lokhande, J.P., Jha, S.K. and Vaidya, M.D. (2012). J. Dairying, Foods & H.S., **31** (1): 42 – 46.

Ravi Kumar S., Reddy, K.V.R. and Sudhakar Rao, B. (2006). Indian journal of Animal Research, 40(2)143-146.

Shisode, M.G., Dhumal, M.V., Siddiqui, M.F., Kulkarni, M.D., Ulemale, A.H., Khanvilkar, A.V., Siddiqui, M.B.A., Samant, S.R. and Komatwar, S.J. (2009). Ind. J. Field Vet. **5** (1): 25-26.

Tailor, R., Meena, G. L., Sharma, L. and Sharma, F.L. (2012). Raj. J. Extn. Edu. **20** : 187-189.

❑