

IMPACT OF SPECIAL ANIMAL HUSBANDRY PACKAGES AMONG THE FARMERS OF WESTERN ZONE OF VIDARBHA IN MAHARASHTRA

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ABSTRACT

The present work was undertaken to study the impact of special animal husbandry packages among the farmers of western zone of Vidarbha namely Akola, Buldana and Washim districts in Maharashtra. Under these special packages 122 Holstein Friesian crossbreds and 78 buffaloes were supplied to 10 selected SHG's having 10 beneficiaries each. On analyzing the results, it was found that majority of the beneficiaries (66%) were found to have a positive impact of special packages in raising the economic status, 66% on improvement in social status, 65% in building of confidence in farmers, 69% as motivation of other farmers to adopt A.H. Enterprises whereas 78% of the beneficiaries were found to have a positive impact of these special packages as a ray of hope for sustainable development.

KEYWORDS: Impact, Special Packages, Self Help Groups.

INTRODUCTION

The white revolution in our country has brought tremendous socio-economical improvement in the lower income group of the society especially of rural areas. However in the recent years in Maharashtra there were reports of large scale dissatisfaction and frustration among the farmers of Vidarbha region during 2006-2007 due to drought, crop failure and non availability of other resources. The suicides by the farmers are increasing at an alarming rate. Since January 2001 to July 2007 total 3281 farmers committed suicides. Responding to these suicides, the Government of India and Maharashtra Government has sanctioned "Special Packages" of Rs. 3,750 crores and Rs. 1575 crores respectively and certain other relief measures for the farmers of Vidarbha region for the year 2006-2007. Therefore the present project was undertaken to study the impact of special packages on socio-economic status of distressed farmers in Akola, Buldana and Washim districts of Western zone of Vidarbha region.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was carried out in three districts of western zone of Vidarbha region in Maharashtra state viz. Akola, Buldana and Washim, which were granted "Special Packages" from Central and State Government during 2006-2007. Under this special package Holstein Friesian crossbreds and buffaloes were supplied to 10 selected SHG's in the three districts, each SHG's were having 10 beneficiaries each. In all 122 Holstein Friesian crossbreds and 78 buffaloes were supplied to the 100 beneficiaries under study. According to working objectives of the present study, the structured interview schedule was developed by referring available literature and discussion with experts. It comprises the questions pertaining to personal, educational, socio-economical and package related questions viz., No. of supplied crossbreds, daily milk production, peak yield, lactation length etc. It also contained the questions regarding knowledge, adoption of improved dairy cattle management practices viz., feeding, breeding, housing, milking and health related practices followed by beneficiaries. The questions related to the impact or benefits, satisfaction, status of packages towards Hope Generation of the beneficiaries were also included in the interview schedule. After finalization of interview schedule, it was pre-tested with non-beneficiaries of that study area and thereafter with beneficiaries of SHG's of study area. The research work was

conducted during May 2007 to July 2007. Responses regarding special packages were also taken into consideration along with data collection by personal interview .

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

On analyzing the data, it was found that majority of the beneficiaries (66%) were found to have a positive impact of special package in raising the economic status, 66% on improvement in social status, 65% in building of confidence in farmers, 69% as motivation of other farmers to adopt A.H. enterprises whereas 78% of the beneficiaries were found to have a positive impact of the special package as a ray of hope for sustainable development . It was observed that maximum numbers of beneficiaries were influenced by these special packages and there was substantial improvement in their socio-economic status and building of confidence among the farmers for livelihood security. The A.H. package was also useful to motivate other farmers to adopt animal husbandry enterprises as a supplementary option for livelihood security and sustainable rural development. The findings are comparable with Kore (2005) who studied the economic impact of SHG's on its members and found majority of respondents had medium level of economic impact of SHG's on them. Amrutkar. (2007) has undertaken a similar study under the same "Special Packages" in two other districts of Vidarbha namely Amravati and Yeotmal. The results of the present study corroborate with the findings of Amrutkar (loc.cit.)

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1st annual conference of a newly emerging Society for Veterinary Sciences and Biotechnology is to be held shortly . Venue and exact date will be announced soon. For details participants may contact to :

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