

CONSTRAINTS IN DAIRY FARMING – AS PERCEIVED BY COOPERATIVE AND NON COOPERATIVE WOMEN FARMERS

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ABSTRACT

The present investigation was aimed to study the constraints faced by women dairy farmers in cooperative society related to dairy farming. The study was purposively carried out at MWCD (Mulukanoor Women Dairy Cooperative) in Karimnagar district of Telangana state as the same has much influence on women empowerment through cooperatives. The results found on perceived constraints among member and non member groups revealed that, inadequate irrigation and small land holding for green fodder cultivation and Non availability of purebreds and lack of awareness about hay and silage making, pricing policy and Non availability of chaff cutters were found to be the major constraints among member and non-member groups, respectively and these constraints could be attributed to financial constraints among members and lack of awareness among non-member groups of women.

Key words: Constraints, Dairy cooperative.

The cooperative systems are the potential catalyst for mitigating the transaction cost stimulating entry into the market and promoting growth in rural communities. The dairy cooperative movement has transformed the lives of women living in rural India by providing them with some measures of economic independence. Throughout the country, women from 11 million families, tend to rear their buffaloes and cows at home, while their husbands toil in the fields. Income from dairying is the women's contribution to the total family income, whereas participation of women is mostly in nonfinancial activities such as feeding, breeding, healthcare, processing, marketing and miscellaneous activities⁸. No other means would effectively provide worthwhile employment to this vulnerable section of our population^{5,9}. At

present 2,476 women dairy cooperative societies are functioning in the eighteen selected states of India with 1.63 million women membership (18%). However, women constitute less than three percent of total board members of the dairy cooperatives. In light of the above preamble, the present investigation is aimed to study the constraints faced by women dairy farmers in relation to breeding, feeding, pricing policy and health of the animal and general factors in the milk shed area of Mulukanoor dairy cooperative society. Similar studies were also reported by^{6,13}. The study analyse producer's response and attitude towards availability of facility and utilisation of techniques in dairy farming. It also emphasize the various facilities, input services, technical know how on the feeding, breeding, health care management of dairy animals, factors attributed to socio economic development of the members through channelized marketing and pricing policy etc. provided to producers to strengthen their dairy related activity.

METHODOLOGY

A sample size of 2850 women farmers for the investigation (2000 from member group and 850 from non member group for comparison) was selected

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from forty villages of milk shed area of Mulukanoor Women Cooperative Dairy (50 members from each village and all the farmers from non member group of the same villages who supplies the milk to society). Multistage random sampling was applied for selection of fifty respondents from each village with the help of primary cooperative society secretaries. The basic tool used for the study was pre tested structured interview schedule. The data was collected during the year 2014 through personal interviews of the individuals, so as to get valid and complete responses. The data collected from interviewed respondents were coded, classified and analyzed in order to make the findings meaningful. The data is subjected to the standard statistical procedures. The descriptive statistical tools like frequency, averages and percentages were used for analysis of data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The constraints perceived by the women farmers in member and non member group were ranked from I to XXIX and it was compared in between both the group to know the impact of society. The constraints pertaining to breeding practices, utilising the natural services only were perceived by 2.75 and 42.94 percent, where as 97.25 and 57.05 percent of member and non member group women farmers, respectively perceived the constraints in the utilization of artificial insemination techniques for breeding their animals. Among the member groups 97.25 percent utilised the society services regarding breeding and 2.75 percent were not utilising these service. The other constraints, such as non-availability of breeding bulls were felt by 78.30 and 56.00 percent of women farmers in member and non member groups, respectively.

93.25 and 87.41 percent of farmers from member and non member groups, respectively have responded for the constraints related to feeding practices like lack of knowledge about balanced feeding of the animal. Whereas other constraints like high cost of fodder and concentrates; lack of knowledge about extra feeding of pregnant cows; scarcity of green fodder; lack of awareness about hay and silage making; inadequate irrigation and

small land holdings for green fodder cultivation, were perceived by 84.10 and 83.76; 93.05 and 95.29; 91.95 and 93.52; 95.10 and 97.17; 96.60 and 93.29 percent of member and non-member group women farmers, respectively. About 80.00 percent of the women farmers in member and non-member groups prefer and growing cash crops than green fodder crops. Where as, lack of grazing facilities in member and non-member groups were 24.80 and 19.41 percentage, respectively. Regarding cultivation of green fodder, 78.45 percent of cooperative society women farmers and 92.82 percent non member women farmers, expressed lack of high yielding varieties of green fodder for rain fed areas. On an average, 50 percentage of members (50.50 %) and non member groups (51.17%) revealed the unavailability of dry fodder due to mechanized agriculture. These findings are in agreement with¹³.

The study revealed that the constraints related to cost of milk production like non remunerative price for milk; high cost of dairy animals; non availability of pure breeds; irregular and untimely payment for milk; non availability and distant location of milk collection centres in member and non-member groups felt by 64.45 and 52.58; 88.30 and 85.10; 96.35 and 89.88; 94.45 and 24.70; 6.80 and 64.00 percentage, respectively. Maximum incidences of repeat breeding and prolapse of uterus were noticed in member groups by 79.00 and 2.25 percent farmers, when compared to non-member groups of 76.47 and 29.10 percent, respectively. Non availability of veterinary services in member and non-member groups was felt by 41.40 and 53.40 percent women farmers, respectively.

The constraints related to general factors like procedural complication in getting support from the dairy development agencies/ co-operative union/ rural bank for non member group was higher i.e., 85.50 percent and minimum (8.35 %) members of farmers. Adaptation of advanced techniques in dairy cattle feeding and management was the constraint almost equally felt by non-member (80.00%) and member groups (81.70%). Non-member groups, felt less training facilities were available to rural women on dairying and allied activities (91.10%) and low literacy among the dairy farmers (72.90%)

were noted when compared to member groups of 62.75 and 43.55 percent, respectively. Higher cost of insurance premium was perceived by non member group (79.50%) as compared to member group (44.10 percent). Similar findings reported by¹³.

Based on the intensity of the problems perceived by the women farmer members of the Mulukanoor Women Cooperative Dairy, showed that the top ten constraints perceived were pertaining to feeding practices including inadequate irrigation and small acreage for green fodder cultivation, non availability of pure breeds, lack of knowledge about hay and silage making, irregular and untimely payment for milk, lack of knowledge about balance feeding of animal, lack of knowledge about extra feeding allowances to pregnant animals, scarcity of green fodder, non availability of chaff cutters, high cost of dairy animal and high cost of fodder and concentrates were recorded as I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX and X ranks, respectively. Whereas, the least ranks in members group recorded constraints related to breeding practices including using A.I techniques for breeding as XXV rank, using natural services as XXVI rank, distant location of A.I centres as, XXVIII, using society services as XXVII and non availability of breeding bulls locally as XV. The constraints related to the price and health of animals showed that non availability of purebred is the major constraint and ranked II, irregular and untimely payment of milk ranked as IV, high cost of dairy animal as IX, high incidence of repeat breeding as XIII, non remunerative price for milk XVI, non availability of veterinary services as XXI, non availability and distant location of milk collection centre as XXIV and high incidence of prolapsed of uterus as XXIX respectively. These reports are in comparison with reports of¹³.

Regarding constraints about general factors such as procedural complications in getting support from the dairy development agencies or cooperative union or rural banks has been ranked as XXIII, adaptation of advanced techniques in dairy cattle feeding management as XII, lack of training facilities to rural women on dairying and allied activity as XVII, low literary among women dairy farmers as XX and high cost of insurance premium as XIX in

member groups, respectively. Whereas majority of the members of Punjab Dairy Farmers Association who adopted ideal feeding, health and breeding management practices had achieved the higher productivity and net returns⁷. Similarly illiteracy and lack of finance inhibit the women in participating in cooperative societies^{2,9}.

The constraints felt by non member households also were ranked based the percentage rates as were perceived for the constraints. Accordingly, major constraints recorded were for feeding practices. Among constraints related to feeding practices, lack of awareness about hay and silage making was ranked first followed by non availability of chaff cutters, lack of knowledge about extra feeding allowances for pregnant cows, scarcity of green fodder, inadequate irrigation and small acreage for green fodder cultivation, lack of high yielding varieties of green fodder for rain fed areas as II, III, IV, V and VI ranks, respectively. According to the rankings, the next priority was given to the problems of general factors, such as procedural complications in getting support from the dairy development agencies or cooperative unions for rural bank, ranked as X, adaptation of advanced techniques in dairy cattle feeding and management stood at XIII rank, lack of training facilities to rural women on dairying and allied activity at VII rank and low literacy among women dairy farmers as XVIII rank and high cost of insurance premium as XIV rank. Among the price and health related constraints, non availability of purebreds, as the major constraints which ranked VIII, followed by high cost of dairy animals (XI rank), high incidence of repeat breeding (XVI), non availability and distant location of milk collection centres (XIX), and non remunerative price for milk (XXIII). Whereas, breeding related constraints were, usage of A.I techniques, natural services, distant location of A.I centres, using societies services and non availability of breeding bulls were ranked as XX, XXV, XVII, XXIX, and XXI respectively (Table 1).

The major constraints as perceived by the respondents of both the member and non member with regard to the feeding practices include inadequate irrigation and small land holding for

green fodder cultivation (96.6%, 93.29%), lack of awareness about hay and silage making (95.1%, 97.17%), lack of knowledge about balance feeding (93.25, 87.41%) lack of knowledge about extra feeding of pregnant cows (93.05%, 95.29%) and scarcity of green fodder (91.95%, 93.52%) in member and non member groups. Similar reports

pertaining to feeding practices was given by several authors^(1,3,4,10,11,12). Further it was also noticed that in spite of availability of resources, techniques in scientific feeding, breeding, and management of health of the animals, its utilisation is poor in member and non member group due to illiteracy and lack of knowledge about technologies.

Table 1. Constraints as perceived by member and non – member groups women farmers.

S. No.	Constraints	Member group (n=2000)		Non member group (n=850)	
		Percentage (%)	Rank	Percentage (%)	Rank
	Breeding practices				
1	Using A.I techniques for breeding	2.75	XXV	57.05	XX
2	Using Natural services	2.75	XXVI	42.94	XXV
3	Distant location of A.I centers	2.25	XXVIII	76.47	XVII
4	Using Societies services for breeding	2.75	XXVII	0	XXIX
5	Non availability of breeding bulls locally	78.3	XV	56	XXI
	Feeding practices				
6	Lack of knowledge about balance feeding of animals	93.25	V	87.41	IX
7	High cost of fodder and concentrates	84.1	X	83.76	XII
8	Lack of knowledge about extra feeding allowances of pregnant cows.	93.05	VI	95.29	III
9	Scarcity of green fodder	91.95	VII	93.52	IV
10	Lack of awareness about hay and silage making	95.1	III	97.17	I
11	Inadequate irrigation and small land holding for green fodder cultivation.	96.6	I	93.29	V
12	Farmer prefer growing cash crops than green fodder crops	82.75	XI	78.23	XV
13	Lack of grazing facilities.	24.8	XXII	19.41	XXVIII
14	Non available of chaff cutters	91.75	VIII	95.76	II
15	Lack of HYVs of green fodder for rain fed area	78.45	XIV	92.82	VI
16	Unavailability of dry fodder due to mechanized Agriculture and Harvester	50.5	XVIII	51.17	XXIV
	Price and health of animal				
17	Non remunerative price for milk	64.45	XVI	52.58	XXIII
18	High cost of dairy animals	88.3	IX	85.1	XI
19	Non availability of pure breeds	96.35	II	89.88	VIII
20	Irregular and untimely payment for milk	94.45	IV	24.7	XXVII
21	Non availability and distant location of milk collection centers	6.8	XXIV	64	XIX

22	High incidence of repeat breeding	79	XIII	76.47	XVI
23	High incidence of prolapsed of uterus	2.25	XXIX	29.1	XXVI
24	Non availability of veterinary services	41.4	XXI	53.4	XXII
	General factors				
25	Procedural complications in getting support from the dairy development agencies/cooperative union/rural bank	8.35	XXIII	85.5	X
26	Adaptation of Advanced techniques in dairy cattle feeding and management	81.7	XII	80	XIII
27	Lack of training facilities to rural women on dairying and allied activity	62.75	XVII	91.1	VII
28	Low literacy among women dairy farmers	43.55	XX	72.9	XVIII
29	High cost of insurance premium	44.1	XIX	79.5	XIV

CONCLUSION

Based on the finding the study revealed that the major constraint perceived by the respondents was regarding the feeding practices followed by the pricing policy. The study area under milk shed is rain fed and semi-arid, which required special attention regarding cultivation of high yielding fodder varieties suitable to this area by creating awareness, development of suitable package of practices of cultivation of fodder, procurement and preservation of harvested agricultural by products which are burnt or wasted in field and supply of suitable seed material through societies, NGOS, Government department, agencies and also creating awareness on nutritional requirement and balanced feeding to dairy animals. Pricing policy should be revised regularly and should be done in timely to attract and strengthen the society. Breed improvement should be undertaken by covering more number of animals under upgrading. The non members need to be trained and supported by the Government and NGOs to reduce the difficulties and procedural complications in getting support from dairy development agencies.

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