

CONSTRAINTS OF DAIRY ANIMAL OWNERS IN THE NAVSARI DISTRICT OF SOUTH GUJARAT

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ABSTRACT

A field study was conducted to identify constraints that hinder the dairy animal owners to adopt recommended scientific management practices in the Navsari district of South Gujarat. Majority of the respondents in the survey area were poor and major constraints observed related to housing, feeding and breeding management practices were lack of own capital, high cost of feeding and incidences of repeat breeding, respectively. These constraints are usually area specific and farmer specific. Hence, present study was planned to identify constraints that hinders them to adopt recommended scientific management practices in housing, feeding and breeding management of dairy animals in the Navsari district of south Gujarat.

Key words : Housing, Feeding, Breeding, Dairy animal, Constraints

Navsari district is spread over five talukas, 366 gram panchayats and 374 villages. Majority of the population live in rural areas (72.6%), who are mostly engaged in agriculture, animal husbandry, floriculture and horticulture, small scale and cottage industry, sugar industry, agro & food processing.

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

A field study was conducted to collect information on various constraints encountered by the dairy animal owners in adoption of various scientific management practices in the Navsari district of South Gujarat region. Out of the five talukas under Navasari district four of them namely Navsari, Jalalpore, Gandevi and Chikhli were selected for the purpose of this study. Ten rural villages were selected randomly from each taluka and from each selected village five respondents having more than two dairy animals (cattle/buffalo/both) were chosen with the help of Talati cum Mantri (Tehasildar)/members of village dairy cooperative, which constituted a total of 200 respondents from rural area. Further, twenty five respondents were selected from urban area of each taluka which constituted a total of 100 respondents. Hence, finally 300 selected respondents were interviewed and the desired information was collected. While selecting respondents due care was taken to make sure that they were evenly distributed in the village/urban areas and truly represented dairy animal management practices existing in the whole area. The selected farmers were interviewed and the desired information was collected with the help of pre-designed and pre-tested questionnaire.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Perusal of data revealed that major constraints observed in the adoption of improved housing practices for dairy animals in Navsari district were high construction cost, lack of own capital and lack of adequate space were major constraints for the 87.5, 49 and 28 per cent of the respondents in the rural areas and 35, 18 and 9 per cent of the respondents in the urban areas, respectively. Other workers also identified high construction cost^{7, 8} lack of capital^{10, 15}, lack of adequate space^{13, 15}, high interest rate on loan^{7, 8} and lack of credit facility^{8, 9} as some of the constraints in adoption of proper housing facility to the dairy animals.

Major constraints which get in the way of dairy animal owners of Navsari district in the adoption of improved feeding practices to their dairy animals were lack of knowledge about silage preparation, high cost of feed, lack of awareness about treatment of poor quality straw to improve its nutritive value, lack of knowledge of balanced ration, under feeding due to limited financial resources, non-availability of green fodder round the year and lack of availability of fodder crop seeds were major constraints for the 97.5, 95, 72.5, 70, 67.5, 49 and 30 per cent of the respondents in rural areas while 91, 55, 17, 39, 12, 18 and 23 per cent of the respondents in the urban areas, respectively. Findings of this study was in accordance with the findings of other workers who also identified lack of knowledge about silage preparation^{7, 8}, high cost of feed^{1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 13}, lack of knowledge about balanced ration^{4, 5}, lack of awareness about treatment of poor quality straw to improve its nutritive value¹⁵, non-availability of green fodder round the year^{3, 4, 5}, under feeding due to limited financial resources^{4, 11} and lack of availability of fodder crop seeds^{2, 6} as some of the important constraints in adoption of scientific feeding practices for dairy animals in the different parts of the country.

Major constraint faced by the dairy animal owners of Navsari district in adoption of improved breeding practices were poor availability of resources to maintain crossbred/superior breed of milch animals, lack of pedigree bulls for natural service, Low genetic potential of local animals, low conception rate through A.I., repeat breeding in dairy cattle, belief that PD through rectal palpation is harmful for pregnant animals, lack of availability of insemination in time and lack of knowledge of heat were major constraints for the 82.5, 78.5, 78, 54.5, 43.5, 7 and 8 per cent of the respondents in rural areas while 45, 44, 39, 18 and 23 per cent of the respondents in urban areas, respectively. In urban areas all respondents had knowledge related to heat detection of dairy animals and regularly insemination in your animals.

Constraints of dairy animal owners

Finding of this study are in agreement with the findings of the other workers who also identified poor availability of resources to maintain crossbred/superior breed of milch animals ^{14, 15}, lack of pedigree bulls for natural service ^{10, 11}, low genetic potential of local animals ^{11, 12}, repeat breeding in dairy cattle ^{12, 14}, low conception rate through A.I.

^{2, 9, 10}, belief that PD through rectal palpation is harmful for pregnant animals ⁸, lack of availability of insemination in time ^{4, 7} and inadequate knowledge of heat detection ^{8, 9} as important constraints in adoption of improved breeding practices by the dairy animal owners from different parts of the country.

Table 1. Distribution of the dairy animal owners according to problems faced by them in adoption of housing, feeding and breeding management practices.

Characteristics/ Categories	Rural bovine dairy farmers		Rural bovine dairy farmers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
I. Constraints on Housing				
Lack of own capital	98	49.00	18	18.00
Lack of adequate space	56	28.00	9	9.00
High construction cost	175	87.50	35	35.00
II. Constraints on Feeding				
High cost of feed	190	95.00	55	55.00
Lack of knowledge of ration balancing	140	70.00	39	39.00
Lack of availability of fodder crop seeds	60	30.00	23	23.00
Non availability of green fodder round the year	98	49.00	18	18.00
Lack of awareness about treatment poor quality straw to improve its nutritive value	145	72.50	17	17.00
Lack of knowledge about silage preparation	195	97.50	91	91.00
Under feeding due to limited financial resources	135	67.50	12	12.00
III. Constraints on Breeding				
Lack of knowledge of heat detection	16	8.00	0	0.0
Low conception rate through A.I.	109	54.50	18	18.00
Repeat breeding in dairy cattle	87	43.50	23	23.00
Lack of availability of insemination in time	14	7.00	0	0.0
Belief that PD through rectal palpation is harmful for pregnant animals	78	39.00	25	25.00
Low genetic potential of local animals	156	78.00	39	39.00
Lack of Pedigree bulls for natural service	157	78.50	44	44.00

CONCLUSION

From the study it can be concluded that the major constraints observed were related to housing, feeding and breeding management practices, lack of own capital, high construction cost, high cost of feed and incidence of repeat

breeding. Milk union and Animal Husbandry Department can provide financial credit at lower interest to farmers through village co-operatives societies or other appropriate agencies to uplift the socio-economic status of these resource poor people through dairying.

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