

## Constraints in Availing the Livestock Extension Services under state Department of Animal Husbandry as perceived by women Livestock Farmers

Jyoti Yadav<sup>1</sup>, Hema Tripathi<sup>2</sup>, B. L. Balaraju<sup>3</sup> and Rekha Yadav<sup>4</sup>

### ABSTRACT

Livestock sector is one of the most important sources of livelihood in rural domain and livestock farming is mainly under the control of rural women at household level. But unfortunately, they have least access to livestock extension services. There are many constraints which are being faced by women livestock farmers in availing the livestock extension services. To explore these constraints, the current research was done in four districts of central plain zone of Uttar Pradesh. A multi-stage random sampling technique was employed for the selection of women livestock farmers. Data were collected from randomly selected 200 women livestock farmers from 8 villages. Lack of training related to scientific livestock rearing was ranked first in the constraints perceived by women livestock farmers in availing the livestock extension services followed by lack of awareness on government livestock extension programmes/schemes (rank II) and lack of time to attend livestock extension meeting, goshties, camp etc. (rank III).

**Keywords:** Livestock extension services, constraints and women livestock farmers

### INTRODUCTION

Effective and efficient delivery of livestock services is considered as vital for gainful livestock development and hence, prompt delivery of livestock services has become a subject of rising concern to many national and international organizations. The delivery of livestock services is emerging as an important priority area for enhancing and optimizing livestock production and management. State Department of Animal Husbandry caters the basic animal husbandry services to the farmers of the state that includes breeding, feeding, disease control and improved animal management practices with the objectives of enhancing productivity of our livestock and increment in the total production of milk, egg, wool and meat etc. Apart from productivity enhancement and food security, the department also helps in the development of employment, general awareness and also generates self-employment for rural youth and poor through its various extension activities. In Uttar Pradesh, livestock services are being provided through the vast network of 2,200 veterinary hospitals, 2,575 livestock extension centres and 268 'D' class dispensaries at the grass root level. According to Ravikumar *et al.*, (2007); Jagadeeshwary (2003) and Rajashree (2000), the State Department of Animal Husbandry is the main and primary provider of livestock services. A major challenge

for delivery of livestock services in India is the provision of adequate services of an acceptable standard or quality. Livestock sector is an important source of rural livelihood and in general livestock farming is under the control of rural women at household level. But unfortunately, they have least access to livestock extension services. There are many constraints which are being faced by women farmers in availing the livestock extension services provided by the State Department of Animal Husbandry personnel. In view of the above mentioned facts, an effort was made to study the perceived constraints of women farmers in availing the livestock extension services delivered by the State Department of Animal Husbandry (SDAH) personnel.

### METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted purposively in the central plain zone of Uttar Pradesh which comprises of 14 districts namely; Allahabad, Auraiya, Etawah, Farrukhabad, Fatehpur, Hardoi, Kannauj, Kanpur Dehat, Kaushambi, Lucknow, Pratapgarh, Raibareli, Sitapur and Unnao. Out of these, four districts: Sitapur, Lucknow, Hardoi and Unnao were selected randomly. From each district, one block and from each block, two villages were selected making it a total of eight villages. Final data were collected from 200 adult women farmers rearing at least

<sup>1.&3.</sup> PhD Scholar, <sup>2.</sup> Principal Scientist, and <sup>4.</sup> MVSc Scholar, Division of Extension Education, ICAR-IVRI, Izatnagar

two milch animals (cattle/buffalo/goat). Several constraints had been operationalized as the various problems and hurdles faced by women livestock farmers in availing the livestock extension services provided by the State Department of Animal Husbandry personnel. Respondents were asked to mention the constraints perceived by them on 16 statements at three point continuum *viz.*, Major constraints, Minor constraints and Not a constraint, each with scores of 3, 2 and 1, respectively. Each constraint of women livestock farmers was ranked based on the obtained mean score value.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Data in Table 1 showed the ranking of various constraints on the basis of mean score obtained by the respondents. Lack of training related to scientific livestock rearing was ranked I with the highest mean score 2.74 followed by lack of awareness on government livestock extension programmes/schemes ranked II (mean score 2.69) and lack of time to attend livestock extension meeting, goshties, camp etc. ranked III (mean score 2.68). These were the major constraints perceived by women farmers in availing the livestock extension services. On district-wise analysis, lack of awareness on government livestock extension programmes/schemes was ranked as I constraint in Sitapur district, whereas, women farmers of Unnao districts perceived it as II constraint. Lack of training related to scientific livestock rearing was ranked I by women farmers of Unnao districts, but it was ranked as II by respondents of Hardoi and Lucknow and III by respondents of Sitapur

district. Lack of monitoring of government livestock extension programme was ranked I by women farmers of Hardoi and Lucknow, In Sitapur district women farmers revealed that lack of time to attend livestock extension meetings, goshties, camp etc. as rank II major constraints as compared to III constraints of Unnao and Hardoi districts respondents.

Sasidhar *et. al.* (2001) also stated that lack of training programmes (12.66%) was the major constraint in getting effective services. IFAD (2009) reported that the main constraints of women farmers in livestock farming were lack of access to information and organization, livestock extension and veterinary information and services, artificial insemination services, participation in developing livestock programmes and policies. According to Devaki and Senthilkumar (2011), farm women involved in livestock enterprises encountered with numerous constraints including high cost of feed and medicine (94.00%), lack of transport facilities (79.00%), non-existence of regulated market (42.00%), and lack of veterinary aid (22.00%) in availing the livestock services.

Muhammad *et. al.* (2014) revealed that low literacy rate, non-availability of female extension staff in livestock extension department, non-availability of training facilities related to livestock management were the top I, II and III constraints faced by farm women regarding access to livestock extension services in the district Faisalabad-Pakistan. Thus the results of the present study are in consonance with the earlier studies.

**Table 1: District-wise ranking of various constraints perceived by women farmers hindering them in availing the livestock extension services**

Constraints	Sitapur (n=50)		Unnao (n=50)		Hardoi (n=50)		Lucknow (n=50)		Overall (N=200)	
	Mean score	Rank	Mean score	Rank	Mean score	Rank	Mean score	Rank	Mean score	Rank
Late/no delivery of livestock extension services	2.64	VI	2.56	VIII	2.58	IX	2.60	III	2.60	VII
Lack of time to attend livestock extension meeting, goshties, camp etc.	2.80	II	2.68	III	2.74	III	2.48	VIII	2.68	III
Unavailability of SDAH personnel	2.30	XIV	2.48	XII	2.64	VI	2.18	XIV	2.40	XI
Lack of awareness on government livestock extension programmes/schemes	2.84	I	2.70	II	2.70	IV	2.50	VII	2.69	II
Lack of education	2.70	V	2.60	VII	2.56	X	2.56	IV	2.61	VI
Poor communication skills	2.36	XII	2.16	XVII	2.36	XIV	2.34	X	2.31	XIV
Rift between women farmer and SDAH personnel	2.18	XVII	2.22	XV	2.10	XVI	2.14	XV	2.16	XVII

CONSTRAINTS IN AVAILING THE LIVESTOCK EXTENSION SERVICES UNDER STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AS PERCEIVED BY WOMEN LIVESTOCK FARMERS

53

Inadequate technical advice	2.34	XIII	2.18	XVI	2.06	XVII	2.26	XII	2.21	XVI
Distance of veterinary hospitals and LEO centres	2.28	XV	2.32	XIV	2.26	XV	2.00	XVII	2.22	XV
Financial constraints in purchasing inputs	2.46	IX	2.30	XIII	2.40	XIII	2.38	IX	2.39	XII
Personnel disliking	2.26	XVI	2.52	X	2.50	XI	2.10	XVI	2.35	XIII
Preferences for male farmers by SDAH personnel	2.56	VII	2.64	V	2.62	VII	2.24	XIII	2.52	IX
Less favorable attitude of SDAH personnel	2.38	XI	2.54	IX	2.66	V	2.32	XI	2.48	X
Lack of training related to scientific livestock rearing	2.76	III	2.76	I	2.78	II	2.64	II	2.74	I

### CONCLUSION

Analysis of the data on constraints perceived by the women livestock farmers in availing the livestock extension services concludes that provision of training on scientific livestock rearing, organizing awareness campaign on livestock extension programme/scheme by the State Department of Animal Husbandry personnel are helpful in availing livestock extension services. In order to overcome the problem of time, the useful livestock related information could be provided through mass media channels, latest ICT tools, and through organizing public awareness meetings exclusively for women livestock farmers.

*Paper received on : February 28, 2017*

*Accepted on : March 09, 2017*

### REFERANCES

Devaki, K. and Senthilkumar, K. 2011. Farm women adoption constraints in livestock farming. *Indian Journal of Fundamental and Applied Life Sciences*, 1 (4), 361-363.

International Fund for Agricultural Development. (2009). *Gender and Livestock: Tools for design* Rome, IFAD.

Jagadeeswary, V. 2003. Establishing private veterinary clinics in Andhra Pradesh -An Opinion Study. M.V.Sc Thesis, Acharya N.G.Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad.

Luqman, M., Shahbaz, B., Ali, S. Butt, T.M. and Ashraf, S. 2014. Rural women's involvement and their constraints in accessing livestock extension services in district Faisalabad-Pakistan. *Global Veterinaria*, 12 (4), 550-556.

Rajashree. 2000. Farmers perception on privatizing Animal Husbandry extension services. M.V.Sc. Thesis, TANVASU, Chennai.

Rathod, P. Nikam, T. R., Landge, S. and Hatey, A. 2012. Perceived constraints in livestock service delivery by Dairy Cooperatives: A Case Study of Western Maharashtra, India. *Indian Journal of Dairy Science*, 65(5), 423-430.

Ravikumar, S., Reddy, K. V. R. and Sudhakar Rao, B. 2007. Farmers choice for cost recovery of veterinary services in different livestock holding systems- A Case Study of India. *Livestock Research for Rural Development*, 19(66).

Sasidhar, P.V.K., Rao, B.S. and Kumar, S.R.V. 2001. Constraints perceived and suggestions Expressed by Veterinary Assistant Surgeons. *Indian Veterinary journal*, 78(6): 540-541.