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# Attitude of Dairy Farmers Towards Cultivation of Green Fodder Crops in Bidar District of Karnataka

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## Abstract

An ex-post-facto exploratory study was conducted to assess the attitude of dairy farmers towards cultivation of green fodder crops and constraints faced by them for fodder cultivation in Bidar district of Karnataka, India using an attitude scale through personal interview method. The study reported that majority of the respondents had medium level of favorable attitude towards green fodder cultivation and the variables education and scientific orientation of the farmers was found to be significantly correlated with attitude towards green fodder cultivation. The respondents perceived that non-availability of inputs and scarcity of water was the major constraints for cultivation of fodder in the study area. The study concluded that, there is a need to educate the farmers about green fodder cultivation and feeding through various extension approaches for improved dairy production in the study area.

**Key Words:** Attitude, Dairy Farmers, Green fodder, Bidar, Sujala project

## Introduction

India is blessed with highest cattle (190.09 million) and buffaloes (108.7 million) (GOI 2012), but the productivity per se is very poor which is a major cause of concern in Indian livestock and dairy sector (Chander *et al.*, 2010). Among various issues to be addressed in this context, fodder production and feeding has been a critical element for improved livestock production and productivity. Over the years, although various attempts are made to promote fodder production at field conditions, there is a poor response from the farmers for fodder cultivation and feeding which might be due to major constraints like lack of awareness and inputs, poor socio-economic status of the farmers etc. Further, the attitude and knowledge level of the dairy farmers also plays a pivotal role in adoption of recommended animal husbandry practices including green fodder cultivation and feeding since the decision to adopt a practice depends on the attitude of farmers towards the practice to be adopted. Hence, the present study was carried out to assess the attitude of dairy farmers towards cultivation of green fodder crops and constraints faced by them for fodder cultivation in Bidar district of Karnataka, India.

## Materials and Methods

The present investigation was conducted in the purposively selected project villages of World Bank funded, Karnataka watershed Development Department sponsored - Sujala III Project, implemented

by Veterinary College, Bidar (Karnataka). The data was collected during January, 2016 to March 2016 as a preliminary study to frame suitable action plans for the project. Two blocks which were identified by Government of Karnataka were selected from the district and further, from each block four villages were selected randomly for the study. Further, 15 respondents who reared two or more dairy animals at the time of data collection were selected from each village by random sampling and snow ball method ultimately to form a sample size of 120 respondents from eight villages for data collection. The primary data was collected through personal interview method with the help of a standard attitude scale developed by Kunzru and Tripathi (1994) which included 14 statements and the responses on three point continuum. The responses for each statement included 'Agree', 'Undecided' and 'Disagree' with the score of '3', '2' and '1' for positive statements and vice-versa for negative statement. A set of questions about socio-personal status of respondents and the constraints faced by the farmers in cultivation of fodder was also enquired. The information collected through interview was analyzed using statistical tools like Frequency, Percentage, Mean, SD, Correlation and regression and the results were discussed accordingly keeping in view the objectives laid for the study.

## Results and Discussion

### Socio-personal, economic and psychological characteristics of dairy farmers

Table 1 reveals that majority of the respondents in the study area belonged to the medium age group with the average age of 45 years. Further, majority of dairy farmers were found illiterate, followed by those having education upto high school. The majority (95%) of respondents reported that they pursued both agriculture and animal husbandry as their main source of livelihood followed

**Table 1. Socio-personal, economic and psychological characteristics of dairy farmers**

**N=120**

| Variables | Mean & S.D | Categories | Frequency | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Age | Mean-45.21; S.D-12.563 | Low | 21 | 17.5 |
| | | Medium | 72 | 60 |
| | | High | 27 | 22.5 |
| Education | Categorical Value | Illiterate | 45 | 37.5 |
| | | Primary School | 22 | 18.3 |
| | | High school | 27 | 22.5 |
| | | College &Above | 26 | 21.7 |
| Occupation | Categorical Value | Agri+A.H | 114 | 95 |
| | | A.H | 3 | 2.5 |
| | | Business | 2 | 1.7 |
| | | Labour | 1 | 0.8 |
| Social Participation | Categorical Value | Nil | 116 | 96.7 |
| | | Member of One Organization | 1 | 0.8 |
| | | Member of more than One Organization | 3 | 2.5 |
| Land holding | Mean-7.31; S.D-4.169 | Low | 19 | 15.8 |
| | | Medium | 84 | 70 |
| | | High | 17 | 14.2 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Annual Income | Mean-63275; S.D-37814.22 | Low | 13 | 10.8 |
| | | Medium | 94 | 78.3 |
| | | High | 13 | 10.8 |
| Livestock holding | Mean-2.49; S.D-1.282 | Low | 20 | 16.7 |
| | | Medium | 81 | 67.5 |
| | | High | 19 | 15.8 |
| Information seeking behaviour | Mean-26.28; S.D-3.112 | Low | 33 | 27.5 |
| | | Medium | 48 | 40 |
| | | High | 39 | 32.5 |
| Decision Making Ability | Mean-17.73; S.D-2.439 | Low | 21 | 17.5 |
| | | Medium | 83 | 69.2 |
| | | High | 16 | 13.3 |
| Scientific Orientation | Mean-12.33; S.D-1.599 | Low | 14 | 11.7 |
| | | Medium | 76 | 63.3 |
| | | High | 30 | 25 |
| Economic Orientation | Mean-12.5; S.D-1.396 | Low | 24 | 20 |
| | | Medium | 66 | 55 |
| | | High | 30 | 25 |

by animal husbandry undertaken exclusively. The study (Table 1) also indicated that majority of the respondents had medium levels of landholding-size, herd-size and annual family income. The study also revealed that majority of the farmers did not have any social participation. It was observed that the majority of the dairy farmers were in medium category in terms of information-seeking behaviour, decision-making ability, scientific orientation, economic-orientation and risk-orientation. Similar findings were also reported by Rathod et.al (2016).

Table 2 depicts that 57 per cent of the respondents had low favorable attitude towards cultivation of green fodder followed by high favourable attitude towards fodder cultivation indicating the fact there is a need to create positive attitude towards fodder cultivation in the study area.

Table 2. Distribution of respondents based on attitude towards cultivation of green fodder crops

N=120

| **Attitude towards cultivation of green fodder (Favourability)** (Mean-27.42; S.D-1.903) | **Categories** | **Frequency** | **Percent** |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Low | 68 | 56.7 |
| | Medium | 20 | 16.7 |
| | High | 32 | 26.7 |

Further, Table 3 shows that attitude of dairy farmers was found to be significantly correlated with education and scientific orientation of the farmers. Further, it was also noted that all the variables except education, scientific orientation and economic orientation were positively correlated with attitude towards green fodder cultivation. The coefficient of determination (R-square= 0.17) was explained by 11 variables to the extent of 17.1 per cent in this model.

Table 3. Relationship of socio-personal and economic characteristics of dairy farmers with attitude towards cultivation of green fodder crops

N=120

| Variables | Correlation Coefficient (r) | Regression Coefficient( b) | SE | p-Value |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Age | 0.155 | 0.017 | 0.014 | 1.185 |
| Education | -0.180* | -0.18 | 0.154 | -1.164* |
| Occupation | 0.098 | 0.481 | 0.369 | 1.303 |
| Social Participation | 0.054 | 0.417 | 0.358 | 1.166 |
| Land holding | 0.072 | -0.007 | 0.08 | -0.087 |
| Annual Income | 0.076 | 2.41E-06 | 0 | 0.279 |
| Livestock holding | 0.148 | 0.179 | 0.14 | 1.281 |
| Information seeking behaviour | 0.025 | 0.007 | 0.07 | 0.106 |
| Decision Making Ability | 0.095 | 0.21 | 0.094 | 2.235 |
| Scientific Orientation | -0.194* | -0.259 | 0.132 | -1.962* |
| Economic Orientation | -0.133 | -0.287 | 0.156 | -1.848 |
| Multiple R : 0.414 | R square: 0.171 | Goodness of fit: 17.1 % | | |

* Significant @ 5 % level of significance ** Significant @ 1 % level of significance

The respondents perceived that non-availability of inputs like fertilizers, fodder seeds, power supply etc. and scarcity of water in the study area were the major constraints for cultivation of green fodder (Table 4).

Table 4. Constraints in green fodder cultivation as perceived by dairy farmers (N=120)

| S. No | Constraints | Frequency | Percent (%) | Rank |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Lack of awareness/knowledge about green fodder | 91 | 75.83 | **III** |
| 2 | Scarcity of water | 100 | 83.33 | **I** |
| 3 | Lack of labour/man power | 70 | 58.33 | **V** |
| 4 | Non-availability of inputs like fertilizers, fodder seeds, power supply etc. | 95 | 79.16 | **II** |
| 5 | Preference for cultivation of human food/cash crops | 74 | 62.0 | **IV** |
| 6 | Dairying do not demand green fodder feeding | 58 | 48.0 | **VI** |

## Conclusion

The study reported that majority of the respondents had medium level of favorable attitude towards green fodder cultivation and the variables education and scientific orientation of the farmers was found to be significantly correlated with attitude towards green fodder cultivation. The respondents

perceived that non-availability of inputs and scarcity of water was the major constraints for cultivation of fodder in the study area. The study concluded that, there is a need to educate the farmers about green fodder production through various extension approached for the improved dairy production in the study area.

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**Conflict of Interest**: All authors declare no conflict of interest.

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