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Constraints in Adoption of Various Dairy Animal Management Practices in the Coastal Area of South Gujarat

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Abstract

A field survey was conducted to collect the information on constraints faced by dairy animal owners of Navsari taluka of Navsari district of South Gujarat. Fifteen villages of Navsari taluka having functional primary milk producer's co-operative societies were selected. Ten dairy animal owners from each selected village were randomly chosen which constituted a total of 150 respondents. The selected farmers were interviewed and the preferred information was collected with the help of predesigned and pretested questionnaire. Perusal of data revealed that major constraint faced by the dairy animal owners in providing adequate housing to their dairy animals was lack of own capital. Major constraints in adopting recommended feeding practices were high cost of feed and non-availability of green fodder round the year. Lack of knowledge of heat detection and lack of improved bulls for breeding in villages were major constraints in adopting proper animal breeding practices, while inadequate knowledge of diseases and their control was major constraint in adopting proper health care management practices.

Key Words: Constraints, Dairy Animals, Housing, Breeding, Feeding. Coastal Gujarat

Introduction

Dairy animal farming has been an important source of livelihood and nutritional security of majority of the rural population over the years. Productivity of dairy animals depends on four major dimensions of animal husbandry practices, i.e. breeding, feeding, housing and health-care management practices (Yadav *et al.,* 2014). Due to limited resource base , dairy animal owners face numerous constraints in various aspects of production and marketing and thus their productivity of their animals get affected. Most of the dairy related information available for Navsari district of Gujarat is based on assumptions, casual observations and personal experience of visiting professionals which are not sufficient to formulate dairy development policies, programs, and intervention strategies for improving dairy production in this area. Therefore, keeping these problems in consideration, the present study was undertaken to identify the constraints faced by the dairy farmers while adopting recommended animal management practices in the coastal area of South Gujarat.

Materials and Methods

A field survey was conducted to collect the information on constraints faced by dairy animal owners of Navsari taluka of Navsari district of South Gujarat. Navsari district is spread over five talukas Navsari, Jalalpore, Gandevi, Vansada and Chikhli. 15 villages of Navsari taluka having functional primary milk producer's co-operative societies were selected randomly. Ten dairy animal owners from each selected village were randomly selected which constituted a total of 150 respondents. The selected respondents were interviewed and the desired information was collected. While selecting respondents due care was taken to ensure that they were evenly distributed in the village and truly represented animal management practices prevailing in the area. The required information on constraints faced by dairy animal owners were collected. The selected farmers were interviewed and the preferred information was collected with the help of predesigned and pretested questionnaire.

Results and Discussion

Constraints faced in adoption of recommended housing, feeding, breeding and healthcare management practices by dairy farmers of Coastal areas of Navsari are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Constraints faced in adoption of recommended housing, feeding, breeding and healthcare management practices by dairy farmers of Coastal areas of Navsari.

Management practices	Constraints	Percent of respondent
Housing	(i) Lack of own capital	49.3 (74)
	(ii) Lack of credit facility	36.0 (54)
	(iii) High interest rate	14.7 (22)
	(iv) Lack of adequate space	46.7 (70)
	(v) High construction cost	34.0 (51)
Feeding	(i) High cost of feed	64.7 (97)
	(ii) Lack of knowledge of balancing ration	42.7 (64)
	(iii) Lack of availability of fodder crop seeds	20.7 (31)
	(iv) Non availability of green fodder round the year	60.0 (90)
	(v) Lack of awareness about treatment if poor quality straw to improve its nutritive value	39.3 (59)
	(vi) Lack of knowledge about silage preparation	37.3 (56)
Breeding	(i) Lack of knowledge of heat detection	46.7 (70)
	(ii) Low conception rate through AI	7.3 (11)
	(iii) Repeat breeding in crossbreds	22.0 (33)
	(iv) Lack of availability of insemination in time	40.0 (60)
	(v) Lack of improved bulls for breeding in villages	46.7 (70)
	(vi) Preference of natural service in buffalo	35.3 (53)
Health care	(i) Problem of mastitis in crossbred cows	26.0 (39)
	(ii) High cost of veterinary medicine	39.3 (59)
	(iii) Inadequate knowledge of diseases and their control	43.3 (65)
	(iv) Distant location of veterinary hospital	42.0 (63)
	(v) lesser availability of services of veterinary doctors	18.7 (28)
Figure in parentheses indicate number of respondents.		

Perusal of data revealed that major constraints faced by the dairy animal owners in providing adequate housing to their dairy animals were lack of own capital, lack of adequate space, lack of

credit facility, high construction cost and high interest rate. These findings are in consonance with the reports of Chinnadurai *et al.* (2002), Patil *et al.* (2009), Khandi *et al.* (2011) and Patel *et al.* (2013).

Likewise ,Major constraints in adopting recommended feeding practices were high cost of feed, non availability of green fodder round the year, lack of knowledge of balancing ration, lack of awareness about treatment of poor quality straw to improve its nutritive value, lack of knowledge about silage preparation and lack of availability of fodder crop seeds . (Table 1). Similar findings were reported by Patel *et al.* (2013) and Yadav *et al.* (2014).

Lack of knowledge of heat detection, lack of improved bulls for breeding in villages, lack of availability of insemination in time , were major constraints followed by preference of natural service in buffalo, repeat breeding in crossbreds and low conception rate through AI were constraints in adoption of recommended breeding practices (Table 1).,These observations are in agreement of the findings of Patel *et al*.(2013), Meena and Fulzele (2006) and Kumar *et al.* (2011). Similarly there were constraints in health care in the following orders, inadequate knowledge of diseases and their control, distant location of veterinary hospital, high cost of veterinary medicine, problem of mastitis in crossbred cows and lesser availability of services of veterinary doctors in adoption of scientific health management practices (Table 1). Similar findings were reported by Kumar *et al*. (2006), Sabapara *et al*. (2012) and Patel *et al.* (2013).

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

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