



Problems Perceived by Dairy Farmers in Adoption of Animal Husbandry Practices

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ABSTRACT

The present investigation was conducted in Anand and Kheda districts of Gujarat. A sample of fifty farmers each from both the districts was collected by employing purposive sampling. The data were collected by using structured interview schedule through interview method. Lack of knowledge about common diseases and their preventive measures (MPS 87.42) and about preparation of low-cost balanced concentrate mixture at home (MPS 70.85) were expressed as the most severe constraints by the dairy farmers which were placed at I and II ranks, respectively. The other prominent constraints were lack of improved bulls for breeding in the village, lack of knowledge about sanitation and hygiene practices (MPS 61.50) and ignorance about Govt. facilities (MPS 58.85). Findings indicated that efforts should be made to solve these problems so as to increase the adoption of animal husbandry practices.

Key Words: Adoption, Animal Husbandry Practices, Dairy farmers, Problems.

INTRODUCTION

India ranks first in the world with annual milk production of 155.5 Mt. Most of the milk is produced from the animals reared by small and marginal farmers and landless labourers. The average per capita availability of milk is 337 g in India and 545 g in Gujarat (John, 2016). Despite India's first rank in world milk production, the average productivity of crossbred cattle, buffaloes and indigenous cattle is 6.87, 4.57 and 2.14 kg of milk per day per animal, respectively. This is much lower as compared to the developed countries. The probable reasons for lower productivity are poor germplasm for milk production, inadequate feed and fodder resources as well as inadequate healthcare facilities. Most of the farmers are not aware of scientific animal management practices and adoption of improved dairy practices is pre-requisite for development of dairy industry. The importance of animal husbandry lies not only in production of milk and milk products but the fact it brings about significant change in socio-economic structure of rural economy. Problems

imply the difficulties faced by dairy farmers while adopting animal husbandry practices in their dairy enterprise (Patil *et al*, 2009). If these problems are identified, it would be helpful to bridge the gap in the adoption of animal husbandry practices by dairy farmers (Rathod *et al*, 2014). Hence, this study was conducted to know the problems perceived by dairy farmers in the adoption of scientific animal husbandry practices.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present investigation was conducted in Anand and Kheda districts of Gujarat. Ex-post facto research design was conducted. Out of eight talukas of Anand District and ten talukas of Kheda District, two talukas from each district were selected on the basis of maximum number of dairy farmers in village milk cooperative society. Subsequently from each selected taluka, five random dairy farmers from randomly selected five villages from two talukas of Anand district and two talukas of Kheda district were selected. Fifty farmers each from Anand District Kheda district, making a total 100

Table 1. Problems perceived by dairy farmers in adoption of selected animal husbandry practices.

Sr. No.	Constraint	MPS	Rank
1.	Lack of knowledge about common diseases and their preventive measures	87.42	I
2.	Lack of knowledge about preparation of low cost balanced concentrate mixture at home	70.85	II
3.	Lack of improved bulls for breeding in the village	66.82	III
4.	Lack of knowledge about sanitation and hygiene practices	61.50	IV
5.	Ignorance about Govt. facilities	58.85	V
6.	Lack of knowledge about deworming schedule and practices	57.14	VI
7.	Lack of awareness in marketing strategy	56.00	VII
8.	High cost of feed	54.14	VIII
9.	Complicated procedure to get the loan from banks	49.04	IX
10.	Inadequate knowledge about pedigree enquiry	41.71	X
11.	Incorrect estimation of fat and SNF and procurement of milk	37.71	XI
12.	High cost of dry fodder	30.85	XII
13.	Distance to the milk societies	22.85	XIII

dairy farmers were selected for the study. Problems were analysed as those factors which hindered the successful adoption of animal husbandry practices as perceived by the dairy farmers. The finalised interview schedule was administered and the respondents were asked to mention the constraints. The problems perceived by the dairy farmers were collected through personal interview using structured schedule. Each respondent was asked to rank the problems in four-point continuum *i.e.*, most severe, severe, least severe and not a constraint. The scores 3, 2, 1 and 0 were assigned respectively. For each problem, frequency of the response was multiplied with its respective score and is added up to get total score of that particular problem. The obtained score of each problem was divided with the total score and is multiplied with 100 to get the 'Mean Percentage Score' (MPS). The problems were ranked based on the mean percentage score obtained.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A perusal of data (Table 1) revealed that lack of knowledge about common diseases and their preventive measures (MPS 87.42)" and lack of knowledge about

preparation of low cost balanced concentrate mixture at home (MSP 70.85) were expressed as the most severe constraints by the dairy farmers which were placed at I and II ranks, respectively. These findings were in line with the findings of Patil *et al* (2009), Bhattu *et al* (2014) and Sharma (2015). The realization of this problem might be because the dairy farmers had not been aware to the recommended management practices of animal husbandry. Lack of improved bulls for breeding in the village, lack of knowledge about sanitation and hygiene practices were ranked III and IV, respectively. This was in line with the findings of Chritian *et al* (2015), Singh *et al* (2015) and Anjali and Senthilkumar (2020). They reported that lack of facilities for artificial insemination in time and knowledge about health care were the major constraints. Ignorance of Govt. Facilities and lack of knowledge about deworming schedule and practices were the other important problems perceived by the dairy farmers. The other constraints faced by them were lack of awareness in marketing strategy, high cost of feed, complicated procedure to get the loan from banks, inadequate knowledge about pedigree enquiry and incorrect estimation of fat and SNF and procurement of milk. Besides, distance to the milk societies (MPS 22.85) and high cost of dry fodder (MPS 30.85) were less severe bottlenecks faced by the dairy farmers' assigned ranks XIII and XII, respectively.

CONCLUSION

It may be concluded that lack of knowledge about common diseases and their preventive measures and about preparation of low cost balanced concentrate mixture at home were perceived as serious constraints by the dairy farmers. Whereas, distance to the milk societies and high cost of dry fodder were perceived as less serious constraints. The reasons might be that the dairy farmers had not been aware to the recommended management practices of animal husbandry.

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Received on 25/06/22

Accepted on 17/08/22