

Constraints Perceived by Farm Women in Adopting Improved Animal Husbandry Practices

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ABSTRACT

This current scenario of dairying in India calls for intensive efforts directed towards enhancing the milk production, productivity and the acceptance of recommended dairy farming practices at the household level. Present study was conducted in two district i.e. Junagadh and Gir somnath of Saurashtra region to measure the Extent of adoption and Attitude of the farm women towards improved animal husbandry practices. Data were collected from 120 respondents using structured interview schedule which contains the different areas of improved animal husbandry practices. The results revealed that the major constraints faced by farm women were high cost involved in calling veterinary staff (89.16 per cent) lack of A.I. centres, ill equipped, & poor services at A.I. centres (86.67 per cent), lack of loan facility (85.00 per cent), inadequate knowledge of scientific housing, repeat breeding problems in crossbreds, lack of knowledge about preparation and feeding of concentrate, lack of awareness about treatment of poor quality of straw to improve its nutritive value

Key words: Constraints, Animal Husbandry, Farm Women

INTRODUCTION

India has a major share of the global population of the livestock with rich and vast genetic resources. Livestock industry plays an important role in national economy and socio-economic development of our country. In as much as, rural families depend on livestock rearing for supplementary income. Apart from providing a subsidiary income to the families, rearing of livestock such as cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry etc. is a source of nutrition in the form of milk, eggs and meat. It has been found that in the time of exigencies

like drought and other natural calamities, it is the livestock, which comes to the rescue of the vast sections of rural population. More than three fourth of the labour demand in livestock production is met by women. The crucial role of women in agriculture and allied activities has been grossly under estimated and undervalued. However, many of the important tasks in animal husbandry are performed by women besides their responsibilities as home makers and caring of animals is considered as an extension of domestic activities.

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Objectives of the study

To identify the constraints experienced by farm women in adoption of improved animal husbandry practices.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Study was conducted in two district i.e. Junagadh and Gir somnath in south Saurashtra region of Gujarat. Purposive random sampling was used to for selection of respondents. Ex-post facto research design was followed. Interview schedule was prepared to study these parameters that was pretested and translated in Gujarati. The data of this study were collected through personal interview. In the present study, constraints were operationalized as those factors which hindered the efficient animal husbandry practices as perceived by the farm women. With a view to identify these constraints, an open ended schedule was made and on the basis of frequencies and percentage

of respondents, the ranks were given from higher to lower. The dairy farm women grouped in different catogries on the basis of ranking which is measured by number and percentage. The statistical measures such as percentage, mean and standard deviation were used.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

There might be many constraints on the path of farm women in improved practices of animal husbandry. If such constraints are identified, corrective measures can be taken up. With this in view, the farm women were requested to express their constraints in livestock management. Frequency and percentage for each constraint were calculated and rank given based on per cent in order important. The data in this regard are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Constraints experienced by farm women in adoption about improved animal husbandry practices (n=120)

Sr. No.	Constraints	Frequency	percentage	Rank
1	High cost involved in calling veterinary staff for treatment of breeding related problems	107	89.16	I
2	Lack of A.I. centres, ill equipped, & poor services at A.I. centres	104	86.67	II
3	Inadequate knowledge of scientific housing	101	84.16	IV
4	Repeat breeding problems in crossbreds	95	79.16	V
5	Lack of knowledge about preparation and feeding of concentrate	84	70.00	VI
6	Lack of awareness about treatment of poor quality of straw to improve its nutritive value	80	66.67	VII
7	Lack of knowledge regarding treatment of dairy animal diseases	77	64.16	VIII
8	Lack of knowledge of balance ration	75	62.50	XI
9	Lack of knowledge about silage preparation	69	57.50	XII
10	Lack of preservation facilities for milk	64	53.33	XIII
11	Importance given to growing food and cash crop than fodder cultivation	62	51.67	XIV
12	Reduction in milk yield due to diseases	60	50.00	XV
13	Difficulty to store milk in summer season	76	63.33	IX
14	Lack of loan facility	102	85.00	III
15	Lack of knowledge of recommended management practices	73	60.83	X

Concluding the findings based on per cent and rank, it can be said that the major important

constraints faced by farm women about improved animal husbandry practices high

cost involved in calling veterinary staff for treatment of breeding related problems (first rank), lack of A.I. centres, ill equipped, & poor services at A.I. centres (second rank), lack of loan facility (third rank), inadequate knowledge of scientific housing (fourth rank), repeat breeding problems in crossbreds (fifth rank), lack of knowledge about preparation and feeding of concentrate (sixth rank), lack of awareness about treatment of poor quality of straw to improve its nutritive value (seventh rank), lack of knowledge regarding treatment of dairy animal diseases (eighth rank), difficulty to store milk in summer season (ninth rank), lack of knowledge of recommended management practices (tenth rank), lack of knowledge of balance ration (eleven rank), lack of knowledge about silage preparation (twelve rank), lack of preservation facilities for milk (thirty rank), importance given to growing food and cash crop than fodder cultivation (fourteen rank), reduction in milk yield due to diseases (fifteen rank).

It can be concluded that most important constraints were high cost involved in calling veterinary staff for treatment of breeding related problems, lack of A.I. centres, ill equipped, & poor services at A.I. centres, lack of loan facility, inadequate knowledge of scientific housing and repeat breeding problems in crossbreds.

This finding is supported by that of reported by Manoharan *et al.*⁴, Kavathalkar *et al.*², Patil *et al.*⁷, Mohapatra *et al.*⁵, Chaudhary *et al.*¹⁰, Kumar *et al.*⁹, Kathiriya *et al.*⁸, Narayan *et al.*⁶, and Mahla *et al.*³.

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