CONSTRAINTS FACED BY THE TRIBAL FARMERS IN DAIRY FARMING IN UDAIPUR DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in Udaipur district of Rajasthan to identify the constraints faced by the tribal milk producers with a sample of 80 households. The results of the study clearly indicated that major constraints faced by tribal farmers were non-availability of green fodder throughout the year, inadequate knowledge about scientific feeding of dairy animals, repeated breeding of animals, lack of pedigree bulls for natural services, low milk productivity of animals and lack of scientific housing etc., in the study area.

INTRODUCTION

The dairy sub-sector occupies an important place in the agricultural economy of India as milk is the second largest agricultural commodity in contributing to GDP, next only to rice. Milk production in India, is by far the domain of small farmers in a mixed farming system (Patel, 1994). To maximize the production and thereby profit, the farmer depends on his limited resources available viz., inputs, potential of the animal and feed quality. Scientific management and skill of the farmer can definitely augment the profit. Still milk producers face a lot of constraints- milk production, breeding, feeding, health management, infrastructural, technical, socio-psychological, economic and marketing with high or low severity to expansion of milk production in the country. Keeping in view, the present study was conducted with the specific objective of identifying the constraints perceived by tribal milk producers in dairy farming in Udaipur district of Rajasthan.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Udaipur district was purposively selected from Rajasthan state for the present study because it has maximum cattle as well as tribal population. Two tehsils were selected randomly from the Udaipur district and two villages from each tehsil were selected randomly. 20 tribal farmers were selected from each village. A total of 80 households were considered to study the constraints in dairy farming. The selected respondents were interviewed personally with the help of a well structured and pre-tested interview schedule in order to get relevant information. The detailed information required for the study was collected from each of the selected households for the year 2011-12. Then, the data collected were tabulated and analyzed using Garret ranking technique to interpret the results. By using this technique, the order of the merit given by the respondents was transformed into ranks by using the following formula.

$$\text{Percent position} = \frac{100\left(R_{ij} - 0.50\right)}{N_j}$$

Where,

R_{ij} - Rank given for the ith factor by the jth individual.

N_j - Number of factor ranked by the jth individual.

The percent position was converted into scores as referring table given by Garett and Woodworth (1969). Then for each factor the scores of the individual household were added together and divided by the total number of households for whom scores were added. These mean scores for all the factors were arranged in descending order and the most influencing factors were identified

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through the ranks assigned.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Constraints faced by tribal farmers with Garret's scores as well as the ranks in feeding, breeding, production and health management in the study area are presented in this section.

Feeding constraints: Major constraints faced by tribal farmers in feeding of milch animals are grouped in table 1 with their scores as well ranks. The analysis revealed that the first and foremost constraint in dairy farming was non availability of green fodder throughout the year. Inadequate knowledge about proper or scientific feeding of dairy animals, non availability of cattle feed, high cost of concentrates, high cost of green fodder, high cost of dry fodder, lack of knowledge about mineral mixture were found to be second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh constraints, respectively. Whereas inadequate knowledge about cultivation of hay preparation and lack of sufficient pasture lands for animal grazing were ranked eighth and ninth, respectively. Lack of sufficient pasture land for animal grazing was ranked as last constraints among feeding constraints. This might be due to freely availability of land in the tribal hilly area.

Table 1. Feeding constraints

Constraints	Garrett's Score	Rank
1. High cost of green fodder	53.87	5
2. High cost of dry fodder	44.00	6
3. High cost of concentrates	55.20	4
4. Non availability of cattle feed	60.62	3
5. Non availability of green fodder throughout the year	81.50	1
6. Inadequate knowledge about cultivation of hay preparation	31.37	8
7. Inadequate knowledge about proper/scientific feeding of dairy animals	69.75	2
8. Lack of sufficient pasture lands for grazing animals	19.62	9
9. Lack of knowledge about mineral mixture	38.50	7

Breeding constraints: Major constraints of animal breeding faced by farmers are presented in table 2 with their scores as well ranks. The overall analysis revealed that, the first and major constraint in animal breeding was repeated breeding of milch animals. This is might be due to lack of balanced feeding of the milch animals. Lack of pedigree bulls for natural services and inadequate knowledge about artificial insemination were found to be the second and third major constraints, respectively. Whereas, poor services available at artificial insemination centre's was ranked fourth.

Table 2. Breeding Constraints

Constraints	Garrett's Score	Rank
1. Lack of Pedigree bulls for natural services	56.12	2
2. Inadequate knowledge about Artificial Insemination	42.62	3
3. Poor services available at Artificial Insemination centres	27.75	4
4. Repeated breeding in dairy animals	73.25	1

Production constraints: The major constraints of milk production faced by farmers are depicted in table 3 with their scores as well ranks. The analysis revealed that low milk productivity of dairy animals was the first and major constraint in milk production. This is might be due to local breeds & unproductive animals maintained by tribal farmers. Lack of awareness about clean milk production and lack of knowledge about making value added dairy products were observed to be second and third constraints, respectively. This might be due to lack of knowledge about importance of clean milk production and utility of value added dairy products.

Table 3. Production Constraints

Constraints	Garrett's score	Rank
1. Lack of awareness about clean milk production	50.00	2
2. Low milk productivity of dairy animals	69.00	1
3. Lack of knowledge about making value added dairy products	31.00	3

Health Management Constraints: Major constraints faced by tribal farmers in health management of dairy animals are presented in table 4 with their scores as well ranks. Lack of scientific housing was ranked first major constraints. Tribal farmer could not afford to invest huge amount which is needed in preparing the scientific housing for dairy animals. Cattle sheds are usually made up of earth and covered with Kolu or wood in the study area. Lack of knowledge about vaccination against contagious disease, lack of knowledge about isolation of sick animals and inadequate knowledge about deworming & dehorning of animals were found to be second, third and fourth major constraints. Although deworming & dehorning of animals and isolation of sick animals are "low cost or not cost practices". But inadequate knowledge about these practices might be due to high level of illiteracy. Inadequate knowledge about cleaning of cattle shed and inadequate knowledge about cleaning/grooming of animals were observed to be fifth and sixth constraints.

Table 4. Health management constraints

Constraints	Garrett's score	Rank
1. Inadequate knowledge about cleaning/grooming of animals	23.62	6
2. Inadequate knowledge about deworming & dehorning of animals	45.75	4
3. Inadequate knowledge about cleaning of cattle sheds	36.50	5
4. Lack of scientific housing	77.00	1
5. Lack of knowledge about vaccination against contagious disease	63.50	2
6. Lack of knowledge about isolation of sick animals	54.25	3

CONCLUSION

Thus, it can be concluded that the major constraints faced by tribal farmers in feeding, breeding, production and health management of milch animals observed were non availability of green fodder throughout the year, inadequate knowledge about proper/scientific feeding of dairy animals, repeated breeding of animals, lack of pedigree bulls for natural services, low milk productivity of animals and lack of scientific housing in the study area.

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