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Constraints Faced by the Dairy Farmers in Puducherry

A. Rajadurai,V. Rajaganapathy, R. Ganesan, P. Ponnuvel, K. Natchimuthu, D. Sreekumar

Department of Livestock Production and Management
Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Veterinary Education and Research
Puducherry- 605 009

Abstract

The major constraints faced by dairy farmers were high cost of concentrates, shortage in green fodder, high cost of construction of shed, lack / shortage of land, repeat breeding, low milk price, no credit facilities from government institution, low price of crossbred cow milk and high cost of veterinary treatment.

Keywords: dairy farmers, concentrates, veterinary treatment.

Introduction

The rapid growth of milk production in India has been mainly because of the increase in the number of animals rather than that of improved productivity.India, low animal productivity results due to climatic, social and economic factors. India possesses enormous bovine wealth, but their per capita production is one of the lowest in the world due to reasons that the farmers do not adopt improved dairy management practices at the desired level.Keeping the above problems in view, the present study was taken up with the specific objectives to identify the constraints faced by the dairy farmers.

Materials and Methods

The Union Territory of Pondicherry has a total area of 480 sq.km comprising four geographically discontiguousregions viz.Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam. The region of Puducherry is administratively divided into two urban municipalities (Puducherry and Ozhukarai) and five rural communes (Ariyankuppam, Bahour, Mannadipet, Nettapakkam and Villianur). The sampling procedure followed for this study was stratified proportionate random sampling. Here, a sample size of n=220 has been determined using the formula $n=Z^2pqN/e^2$ (N-1) $+z^2pq$ (Kothari, 2009). The sample size of 220 was randomly distributed based on the population of dairy farmers in each of the communes and municipalities. The socio economic profile of the respondents was educated by means of survey using pre-tested questionnaire.

Results and Discussion

Feeding constraints

On perusal of data, it is found that all the dairy farmers were facing constraints of high cost of concentrates and shortage in green fodder, followed by non-availability of grazing land (77.7 per cent) and 46.3 per cent of the dairy farmers reporting fluctuation in concentrate feed cost (Table 1). This finding is in line with the findings of Natchimuthu *et al.*, (2002),

Dabas *et al*., (2004), Patil *et al*.,(2009),Tailor *et al.*, (2012) and Dhindsa *et al*.,(2014) who found that high cost of commercial feed, shortage of green fodder particularly during summer months and its cost, high cost of concentrate and other feed and non-availability of land for fodder cultivation and lack of availability of green fodder round the year were the major constraints faced by dairy farmers in different regions.

Housing constraints

From the data, it is recorded that all the dairy farmers were facing high cost of construction and lack of availability of land, followed by 74.1 per cent of the dairy farmers facing inadequate knowledge on scientific housing and poor housing facilities because of their poor economic status (Table 1). This finding is similar to Balasubramanian (1995) who found in Chengalpattu district, Tamil Nadu that majority of farmers had problem of animal shed or housing facilities because of their poor economic status and their inability to maintain farm and dairy record. Tailor *et al.*, (2012) also found in Udaipur that inadequate knowledge about scientific housing as a major constraint.

Breeding constraints

All the dairy farmers were facing repeat breeding problem followed by low conception rate through artificial insemination (65.0 per cent) as constraints. About 46.3 and 25.9 per cent of the dairy farmers were facing non-availability of A.I. facility and non-availability breeding bull respectively as constraints (Table 1).This finding is similar to that of Ramkumar *et al.*, (2004),Tailor *et al.*, (2012) and Dhindsa *et al*.,(2014) who reported that inadequate knowledge about repeat breeding was the major constraint faced by the dairy farmers in Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu and Udaipur respectively.

Organisational constraints

All the dairy farmers were facing constraints of low milk price and no credit facilities from government institution, followed by 82.2 per cent and 66.8 per cent of the dairy farmers facing delay in dispersal of milk money and lack of loan facility respectively (Table 4.34). This finding is in line with the findings of Dabas *et al*., (2004) and Patil *et al.*, (2009) who found that majority of the dairy farmers experienced delay in payment from dairy co-operative societies, followed by inadequate money and lack of loan facility (63.11 per cent) as their constraints.

Milk production constraints

All the dairy farmers were facing constraints of low price of crossbred cow milk, followed by 66.8 per cent and 52.2 per cent of the dairy farmers facing problems of low fat content in cow milk and poor adaptability of cross bred animals to the existing environmental conditions respectively (Table1).This finding is in line with the findings of Manoharan (2000), Dabas *et al*., (2004),Tailor *et al.*, (2012) and Dhindsa *et al*.,(2014) who found that lower productivity, low fat content, lower price for milk, low milk production by local breeds, low price of crossbred cow milk and low fat content in cross bred cow milk were the major constraints faced by dairy farmers in different regions.

Health constraints

All the dairy farmers were facing high cost of veterinary services followed by reproductive disorders (93.6 per cent). About 52.7 per cent and 44.5 per cent of the dairy farmers were facing reduced accessibility of veterinary hospitals and timely veterinary services respectively (Table 1). This finding is similar to Patil *et al*.,(2009)and Tailor *et al.*, (2012) who found in Nagpur that 43.11 per cent of the farmers revealed high cost of medicine as their constraint, About 68.0 per cent of the respondents, opined to have inadequate knowledge of diseases, their prevention and control as their constraints and 56.89 per cent stated their constraints as non-availability of nearby veterinary hospitals.

Table: 1. Constraints faced by the dairy farmers

Particulars		Communes (180)		Municipalities (40)		Total (220)	
		n	%	n	%	n	%
Feeding constraints	High cost of concentrates	180	100	40	100	220	100
	Shortage in green fodder	180	100	40	100	220	100
	No common grazing land	141	78.30	30	75.00	171	77.70
	Fluctuation in concentrate feed cost	84	46.70	18	45.00	102	46.30
Housing constraints	High cost of construction	180	100	40	100	220	100
	Lack of land	180	100	40	100	220	100
	Inadequate knowledge on scientific housing	134	74.40	29	72.50	163	74.10
	Poor economic status to build sheds	132	73.30	31	77.50	163	74.10
Breeding constraints	Repeat Breeding	180	100	40	100	220	100
	Low conception rate through AI	117	65.00	26	65.00	143	65.00
	Non-availability of A.I. facility	84	46.70	18	40.00	102	46.30
	Non availability breeding bull	47	26.10	10	25.00	57	25.90
Organisational constraints	Lowmilk price	180	100	40	100	220	100
	No credit facilities from government institution	180	100	40	100	220	100
	Delay in milk money payment	148	82.20	33	82.50	181	82.20
	Lack of loan facility	121	67.20	26	65.00	147	66.80
Milk production constraints	Low price of crossbred cow milk	180	100	40	100	220	100
	Low fat content in cow milk	121	67.20	26	65.00	147	66.80
	Poor adaptability of cross bred animals	94	52.20	21	52.50	115	52.20
Health constraints	High cost of veterinary services	180	100	40	100	220	100
	Reproductive disorders	169	93.90	37	92.50	206	93.60
	Reduced accessibility of veterinary hospitals	95	52.80	21	52.50	116	52.70
	Timelynon-availability of veterinary services	80	44.40	18	45.00	98	44.50

*Multiple responses

Conclusion

From the present study, it was concluded that:

1. As regards feeding constraints, it is found that all the dairy farmers were facing constraints of high cost of concentrates and shortage in green fodder, followed by non-availability of grazing land (77.7 per cent) and 46.3 per cent of the dairy farmers reporting fluctuation in concentrate feed cost.
2. With respect to housing constraints, it is recorded that all the dairy farmers were facing high cost of construction and lack of availability of land, followed by 74.1 per cent of the dairy farmers facing inadequate knowledge on scientific housing and poor housing facilities because of their poor economic status.
3. Referring to breeding constraints, it is found all the dairy farmers were facing repeat breeding problem followed by low conception rate through artificial insemination (65.0 per cent) as constraints. About 46.3 and 25.9 per cent of the dairy farmers were facing non-availability of A.I. facility and non-availability breeding bull respectively as constraints.

4. With respect to organisational constraints, it is recorded all the dairy farmers were facing constraints of low milk price and no credit facilities from government institution, followed by 82.2 per cent and 66.8 per cent of the dairy farmers facing delay in dispersal of milk money and lack of loan facility respectively.

5. As regards milk production constraints, it is recorded all the dairy farmers were facing constraints of low price of crossbred cow milk, followed by 66.8 per cent and 52.2 per cent of the dairy farmers facing problems of low fat content in cow milk and poor adaptability of cross bred animals to the existing environmental conditions respectively.

6. Referring to health constraints, it is recorded all the dairy farmers were facing high cost of veterinary services followed by reproductive disorders (93.6 per cent). About 52.7 per cent and 44.5 per cent of the dairy farmers were facing reduced accessibility of veterinary hospitals and timely veterinary services respectively

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