CONSTRAINTS PERCEIVED BY THE DAIRY FARMERS IN RUNNING DAIRY ENTERPRISES

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Abstract: The present study on constraints faced by dairy farmers in management of dairy enterprise was undertaken in *Aurangabad* and *Jalna* districts of *Marathwada* region of Maharashtra state with sample size of 120 dairy farmers. The exploratory research design of social research was used in the present investigation. Dairy farming plays an important role in social and economical livelihood of the farmers. In overall constraints, scarcity of drinking water (mean score 76.35) was the most important constraint perceived by the dairy farmers. The water availability is very less and ground water table is also very low. The cost of concentrates was very high in study area so it perceived as third most obstacles (mean score 47.62), leads to decrease in milk production.
Keywords: Constraints, Dairy farmers, Breeding, Feeding, Management and Marketing.

Introduction

Livestock sector in India has emerged as an important sector for employment generation as well as providing a stable source of income. The National Commission on Agriculture (NCA, 1976) also stated that, next to agriculture, dairy enterprise is an important subsidiary industry in the Indian economy. With the advent of "Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme" by NABARD in *Marathwada* and *Vidarbha* region of Maharashtra made the farmers in rural areas to realize the importance of dairy enterprise as the potential source of additional income and employment. Promotion of entrepreneurship in dairy farming has been emphasized as a popular poverty alleviation and empowerment strategy in the study area. However, the entrepreneurs have been confronting to numerous constraints in this enterprise. 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 while running their dairy enterprises.

Materials and Methods

There are eight districts in *Marathwada* region among these *Aurangabad* and *Jalna* districts were selected randomly for this study. Further two tehsils from each selected districts and

two villages from each tehsil were selected randomly. From each selected village, 15 dairy entrepreneurs were selected randomly. Thus a total of 120 dairy entrepreneurs were covered under the study. A pre-tested structured interview schedule was used to collect data on profile characteristics and constraints faced by dairy farmers. Garrett ranking method was employed for converting ranks into per cent as given below:

$$\text{Percent Position} = \frac{100\,(Rij - 0.50)}{Nj}$$

Where,

R = Rank given for i[th] item by j[th] individual

N = Number of items ranked by j[th] individual

The percent position of each rank was converted into scores referring to table given by Garrett and Woodworth (1969). For each factor, the scores of individual respondents were added together and divided by the total number of the respondents. Thus, the mean scores for all the factors were ranked by arranging in descending order, rank were assigned and most important factors were indentified.

Result and Discussion

Constraints imply the problems or difficulties faced by dairy farmers while adopting day-to-day practices in their dairy enterprise. Here, constraints are studied under five categories i.e. breeding, feeding, health care, management and marketing constraints. It is evident from Table 1 that poor conception rate (mean score 53.12) was perceived as major obstacle because of lack of availability of skilled veterinarians in the study area.

Table 1. Constraints Perceived by the Dairy Farmers in Breeding

Sl. No.	Constraints in breeding	Mean score	Rank
1.	Poor conception rate	53.12	I
2.	Lack of AI facility	39.58	II
3.	Lack of good quality semen	30.63	III
4.	Unaware of heat symptoms	28.96	IV
5.	Preference of natural service	23.50	V

Table 2 depicts that the scarcity of water (mean score 76.35) as a major constraints perceived by dairy farmers in feeding followed by poor availability of feed and fodder (66.36). The reason is due to frequently occurrence of draught in study area.

Table 2. Constraints perceived by the dairy farmers in Feeding

Sl. No.	Constraints in feeding	Mean Score	Rank
1.	Scarcity of drinking water	76.35	I
2.	Poor availability of feed and fodder	66.36	II
3.	High cost of concentrates	47.62	III
4.	Lack of irrigation facility	44.62	IV

The perusal of table 3 revealed that prevalence of disease was the most important due to lack of vaccination camp and hospital facility in the study area.

Table 3. Constraints Perceived by the Dairy Farmers in Health Care

Sl. No.	Constraint in health care	Mean score	Rank
1.	Prevalence of disease	44.08	I
2.	Lack of hospital facility	36.61	II
3.	High cost of vaccine and medicine	33.41	III

It is observed from table 4 that poor housing of animals was the most important due to lack of knowledge and skills of management of dairy enterprise, which leads to further health related problems.

Table 4. Constraints Perceived by the Dairy Farmers in Management

Sl. No.	Constraint in health care	Mean score	Rank
1.	Poor housing of animals	44.75	I
2.	Un-hygienic condition of cattle shed	29.18	II
3.	No isolation of diseased animals	3.75	III

Table 5 depicts that low price of milk was the most important constraint, as the farmers got Rs. 30 to 32 per litre of milk in the nearby study area. Low price of milk might be due to poor quality of milk.

Table 5. Constraints Perceived by the Dairy Farmers in Marketing

Sl. No.	Constraints in health care	Mean score	Rank
1.	Low price of milk	42.64	I
2.	High transportation rate	36.36	II
3.	Longer distance of market	33.62	III

It is clear from Table 6 that in overall constraints scarcity of drinking water was the most important constraint perceived by the dairy farmers. The water availability is very less and ground water table is also very low. Thus, it affects in cultivation of green grasses and feed-fodder as well. The cost of concentrates was very high in study area so it perceived as third most obstacles, leads to decrease in milk production.

Table 6. Overall Constraints Perceived by the Dairy Farmers

Sl.no.	Constraints	Mean score	Rank
1.	Scarcity of drinking water	76.35	I
2.	Poor availability of feed and fodder	66.36	II
3.	High cost of concentrate	47.62	III
4.	Poor housing of animals	44.75	IV
5.	Prevalence of disease	44.08	V
6.	Low price of milk	42.64	VI
7	Lack of hospital facility	36.61	VII
8.	High transportation rate	36.36	VIII
9.	Longer distance of market	33.41	IX
10.	High cost of vaccine and medicine	33.41	X

Conclusion and Suggestions

By realizing the significance of the contribution of the dairy sector in the Indian economy, an attempt has been made to examine the constraints faced by the dairy farmers in running their dairy enterprises. Every facet has been thoroughly examined on the basis of collected data and with the statistical tool. The effect of the present study shows that the performance of the dairy sector in the study area is not up to the mark and they face many problems regarding breeding, feeding, health care, management and marketing in dairy enterprises. The major constraints in all these aspects of dairy enterprises were poor conception rate in breeding; Scarcity of drinking water in feeding; prevalence of disease in health care; poor housing of animals in management and low price of milk in marketing. However, these aspects can encounter by imparting frequent training to dairy farmers in the area with which they are concerned in their day-to-day life based upon judicious assessment and analysis of the training needs of the dairy farmers.

References

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