

CONSTRAINTS IN ADOPTION OF SCIENTIFIC ANIMAL BREEDING AND HEALTH CARE PRACTICES – FARMERS' POINT OF VIEW

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Abstract: The productive potential of animals depends crucially on the quality nutrition, breeding and the animal health care system. In spite of continuous extension efforts the farmers continue to face several problems in dairy management. The present study was undertaken to know the constraints faced by dairy farmers of Bijapur district of Karnataka state in adoption of scientific animal breeding and health management practices. For this study, twenty dairy farmers who visited veterinary hospital in five block veterinary hospitals were selected randomly for reaching total sample size of 100. The Data was collected through pre-tested interview schedule on 14 constraints in management with 3 point likert scale viz., most important, important and least important with scoring pattern of 3, 2 and 1 respectively. The data thus collected was analysed and ranked with the help of mean scores and inferences were drawn accordingly. Non availability of AI and PD at their door step (2.75) and inadequate knowledge on diseases of cattle and their control (2.81) were perceived as the major constraints by the dairy farmers respectively in adoption of scientific animal breeding and health care practices. The related implications on dairy husbandary and service delivery were discussed.

Keywords: Animal Breeding, Animal Health, Constraints, technologies adoption

AI- Artificial Insemination; **PD-** Pregnancy Diagnosis.

Introduction

The importance of livestock sector in India can also be corroborated from the fact that our country is blessed with 190.09 million cattle and 108.7 million buffaloes (GOI 2012). Numerous technologies were generated and promoted by research institutions in the past to make dairy farming more productive, economic and viable. But our livestock are roughly half as efficient as the average milch animals in the world and probably only one fifth as efficient as those in the developed countries (Shah, 2001), in spite of consistent rise in India's share in world milk production from 9.9 percent in 1990 to 14.5 percent in 2003 (Shah, 2008). The scenario of improved technologies adoption remains still dismal among the farming community. Several adoption and diffusion studies conducted in different parts of nation

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indicate that only few of them are diffused and adopted effectively at field conditions. Among various issues to be addressed animal breeding and maintaining good animal health remains as a critical element for improved livestock production and productivity.

The productive potential of animals depends crucially on the quality nutrition, breeding and the animal health care system. On all these counts, India has a poor record (Ahuja *et al.*, 2008). There may be several reasons from the point of different stake holders for this poor record. Constraints are the circumstances or the causes which prohibit the course of action. There are several constraints in adopting the recommended dairy production technologies with varying degree of seriousness in increasing milk production which are confronted not only by the dairy farmers but also by the dairy extension researchers. On one hand these constraints adversely affected the adoption of recommended dairy production technologies by the farmers while on the other hand block the flow of new technology from research scientists to extension agents and in turn to dairy farmers. Hence the present research survey was an attempt to know the extent of different constraints faced by dairy farmers who are unable to adopt scientific animal breeding and health care practices from their point of view.

Materials and methods

The present study was conducted by using the exploratory research technique. The study area that is Bijapur district of Karnataka state was selected purposively due to researchers' familiarity and convenience. Bijapur district is having five blocks viz., Muddebihal, Bagewadi, Indi, Sindagi and Bijapur. The dairy farmers visiting veterinary hospitals for treatment of their ailing animals at each block were selected as respondents for this survey. Twenty farmers from each block veterinary hospital were selected for reaching the total sample size of 100. The pre-tested interview schedule consisting of fourteen constraints (viz., eight from animal breeding and six from animal health care management) based on extensive review of literature was used to collect the data. The responses were taken with 3-point continuum likert scale viz., Most important, Important and least important with the scoring pattern 3, 2 and 1 respectively. The data thus collected was analyzed and ranked with the help of mean scores and inferences drawn.

Results and discussion

1. Constraints in Animal Breeding

The results depicted in the table indicate that among the constraints related to animal breeding non availability of AI and PD services at their door step with a mean score 2.75 was perceived as the major constraint by the farmers, followed by Lack of availability of staff

round the clock for AI (2.40), lack of awareness about scientific breeding practices (2.37), missing heat (2.28), Poor results of AI (2.23), High Incidence of repeat breeding in cross bred cows (2.10), inability to get their animals to the A.I. centers due to high cost and labour involvement (1.97) and Non availability of breeding bulls of improved breeds (1.72). These results are in consonance with that of Patel *et al.* (1978), Venkatsubramaniam (1996), Reddy *et al.*, (1999) and Ravikumar *et al.*, (2006).

The farmers' perception about non availability of AI and PD at their door step as major constraint clearly indicates that the farmers are slowly becoming aware of worth of their labour and time. So farmers started demanding the essential production services at their door step which can very well thought over by policy makers to make these services more accessible with subsidized cost recovery approach in stipulated time frame. Lack of awareness, missing heat and poor results of AI are the other rated constraints which can be overcome by improving overall efficiency of staff and AI technicians and also by organizing extension educational activities to create awareness among the dairy farmers about scientific breeding practices and their importance in improving the overall dairy production. Further, providing incentives to AI workers and staff for achieving more targets with better conception rate can be thought over by various service delivery agencies.

II. Constraints in animal health care

In health care management, inadequate knowledge on diseases of cattle and their control with a mean score 2.82 was expressed as most important constraint followed by high cost of veterinary medicines (2.4), inadequate supply of quality medicines to veterinary institutions (2.27), inaccessibility of veterinarians due to more span of control (2.17), inadequate laboratory facilities (1.93) and distant location of veterinary institutions (1.45). The findings are in line with Patel *et al.* (1978), Reddy *et al.*, (1999), and Vyas, H.U and Patel, K. F (2001). Moran (2014) also reported that poor acceptance rate by the small farmers for majority of the technologies was attributed to the lack of extension facilities, unavailability of inputs and the time and labour involved under small farm situations.

Inadequate knowledge on diseases of cattle and their control was expressed as major constraints by farmers which might be due to lack of effective livestock extension programmes. This might be because of more emphasis on sick animal treatment by state animal husbandry department. This clearly indicates the need to accelerate the efforts in delivering extension services such as creating awareness among the dairy farmers. Further

provision of adequate quality medicines and other infrastructure along with recruitment of required technical staff can help to overcome other constraints.

Conclusion

In view of the great importance attached to adoption of scientific animal breeding and health care practices in gaining the optimum production from dairy animal, the present study provided an insightful on farmers' views on various constraints in their way towards adoption of these practices. The survey clearly indicates the need to formulate policies with regard to increase the availability of quality breeding services both at door step and at institutions along with supply of quality medicines and infrastructure from the service delivery point. On the other hand, overall awareness of dairy farmers also needs to be enhanced by strengthening dairy extension activities. In this direction, the ongoing discussion of establishing the separate Directorate of Livestock Extension and Development under state animal husbandry department in Karnataka can very well be thought off.

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Table-1: Constraints expressed by farmers along with mean score and ranks

SI No	Constraints	Mean score N=100	Rank
I	Constraints related Animal Breeding		
1	Non availability of AI and PD services at their door step	2.75	I
2	Missing heat	2.28	IV
3	Lack of awareness about scientific breeding practices	2.37	III
4	Lack of availability of staff round the clock for AI	2.4	II
5	Poor results of AI	2.23	V
6	High Incidence of repeat breeding in cross bred cows	2.1	VI
7	Inability to get their animals to A.I centers due to high cost and labour involved	1.97	VII
8	Non availability of breeding bulls of improved breeds	1.72	VIII
II	Constraints related Animal Health		
1	Inadequate knowledge on diseases of cattle and their control	2.82	I
2	Distant Location of veterinary institutions	1.45	VI
3	High cost of veterinary medicines	2.4	II
4	Inadequate supply of quality medicines to veterinary institutions	2.27	III
5	Inadequate laboratory facilities	1.93	V
6	Inaccessibility of veterinarians due to more span of control	2.17	IV
AI- Artificial Insemination; PD- Pregnancy Diagnosis			