

CONSTRAINTS IN LIVESTOCK SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEMS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

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Abstract: In spite of India being the top milk producing country, still there are many constraints in dairy production and extension service delivery. Hence an attempt was made to know the perceived constraints and suggestions of dairy farmers in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The study was undertaken with 120 dairy farmers belonging to Vizianagaram, Krishna and Chittoor districts of Andhra Pradesh based on high dairy animal population. The data was collected through an open ended interview schedule and farmers responses with respect to constraints and suggestions were tabulated separately with frequencies and percentages and accordingly ranked. Non availability of the health services round the clock was perceived as the major constraint while the need to provide emergency animal health services by veterinarians round the clock was the major suggestion expressed farmers regarding service delivery respectively.

Keywords: Service delivery, Constraints, Suggestions, Dairy farmers.

INTRODUCTION

The role of the livestock services has traditionally aimed to control the livestock diseases. As the countries began to bring serious livestock diseases under control, the dependence of rural people on livestock for livelihood has increased the scope of veterinary services to extend beyond treatment and the extension, market, disease prevention, breeding horizons etc. were added to the fold. This can be further justified from the fact that increasing livestock contribution to nation GDP of 4.11% (GOI, 2012).

Research and technology development in livestock sector has invariably proved that animal productivity depends on several factors like quality nutrition, systematic management practices, breeding and animal health care systems. On all these counts, India has a poor record (Ahuja *et.al.*, 2008). In spite of India being the top milk producer in world, average animal productivity is much below compared to many developed countries. During the last

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six decades, government was successful to establish vast network of institutes to drive the most needed livestock services to farmers. No doubt that accessibility and availability have got increased, but still whether these services are satisfying the farmers and whether they are accessing them without any problem needs to be ascertained. Understanding the problems faced by the farmers helps the policy makers to tune the policies accordingly and hence, the present study is an attempt to know the various constraints and suggestions perceived by dairy farmers with respect to the present livestock services.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted by using ex-post facto research technique in three districts of Andhra Pradesh viz., Vizianagaram, Krishna and Chittoor districts. Two mandals (blocks) from each of these districts (6 mandals) and 2 villages from each selected mandal (total 12 villages) were purposively selected for the present study based on dairy animal population. 10 dairy farmers from each selected village were selected randomly and interviewed using a structured interview schedule reaching to a total of 120 dairy farmers. The data was analyzed and ranked according to the percentage obtained from the number of responses in the form of statements regarding constraints and suggestions respectively and the inferences were drawn accordingly.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

I. Constraints perceived by farmers on service delivery systems

From the Table 1, it could be depicted that non availability of health services round the clock (100%) was perceived as the major constraint followed by less number of staff to deliver the services (95.83%), Subsidies provided for purchase of animals were not satisfactory (70.83%), Information provided for livestock related income generating activities were not satisfactory (36.60%), Need based training programmes were not being regularly conducted (31.66%), Opportunities provided for skill development were unsatisfactory (20.83%) and Information booklets of farm literature were not provided (15.00%). These results are in consonance with that of Ravikumar et al., (2006), Surkar *et al.* (2014) and partly on line with Channappagouda, B *et.al.*, (2016).

Farmers' perception about non availability of health services round the clock as major constraint clearly indicates that the farmers are in desperate need of health services during emergency for their dairy animals through which they can assure the survivability of their livelihood. Farmers' dissatisfaction with less number of qualified veterinarians and subsidies provided in purchase of animals are the constraints which could be solved by the government

recruiting the veterinarians through up gradation of rural livestock units into veterinary dispensaries and also by allocating more budget to this sector. The other rated constraints includes dissatisfaction with the information provided for livestock related income generating activities, need based training programmes, opportunities provided for skill development and information booklets of farm literature. These constraints which affect the overall development of dairy farmers would be addressed by organizing extensive extension educational activities to nurture skills for dairy development such as conducting need based training programmes with qualified veterinary extension professionals and by supplying regular and reliable sources of farm literature in the form of dairy magazines, booklets etc. with local language.

Table-1: Distribution of dairy farmers according to perceived constraints on service delivery systems

S.No.	Constraints*	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Non availability of the health services round the clock	120	100	I
2.	Less number of staff to deliver the services	115	95.83	II
3.	Subsidies provided for purchase of animals were not satisfactory	85	70.83	III
4.	Information provided for livestock related income generating activities were not satisfactory	44	36.66	IV
5.	Need based training programmes were not being regularly conducted	38	31.66	V
6.	Opportunities provided for skill development were unsatisfactory	25	20.83	VI
7.	Information booklets of farm literature were not provided	18	15.00	VII

*Multiple responses

II. Suggestions of dairy farmers regarding services rendered by service delivery systems

From Table 2, it could be inferred that the suggestion to provide animal health services round the clock at the time of emergency by the veterinarians (100%) was found obviously the genuine as they expressed non availability of services as major constraint. It was followed by the suggestions that veterinarians may be made available in more number to improve animal breeding service delivery i.e., in critical cases of parturition etc.(93.30%), Awareness programmes may be carried out in a more effective way with advance intimation (89.16%), Chilling facilities may be arranged for storage of milk which could be affordable by every dairy farmer such that he would sell the milk at a minimum price available (79.16%), Information related to dairy animal nutrition from cheap sources of feed available may be provided (68.33%), Seeds of improved varieties of feed which can be grown in any climatic conditions may be provided on subsidy (60.83%), First aid medicines may be provided at free of cost to the farmers with training to administer (55.00%).

The suggestions proposed by the dairy farmers in providing the services in emergency situations by the veterinarians was found to be obvious on par with the major constraint encountered as evident from table 1. The suggestion to improve breeding service delivery might be because of the paramount importance a dairy farmer gives to an added number in his herd and to feel content enough. This suggestion is in line with that of Rathod *et.al.*,(2014) and Channappagouda,B *et.al.*,(2016). As suggested, awareness programmes would be much more appreciated when intimation to the concerned is done well in advance facilitating the effectiveness and maximum participation. The other suggestions including chilling facilities, cost effective nutrition supplements, subsidy on seeds of forage varieties and first aid medicines in case of emergency would be considered. More activities of the government should be implemented through more inclusive policy reforms and by improving concerned human resources.

Table 2: Suggestions of dairy farmers on service delivery systems

S.No.	Suggestions*	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Animal health services may be provided round the clock and at times of emergency by the veterinarians	120	100	I
2.	Veterinarians may be made available in more number to improve animal breeding service delivery i.e., in critical cases of parturition etc.	112	93.33	II
3.	Awareness programmes may be carried out in a more effective way with intimation	107	89.16	III
4.	Chilling facilities may be arranged for storage of milk which could be affordable by every dairy farmer such that he would sell the milk at a minimum price available	95	79.16	IV
5.	Information related to dairy animal nutrition from cheap sources of feed available may be provided	82	68.33	V
6.	Seeds of improved varieties of feed which can be grown in any climatic conditions may be provided on subsidy	73	60.83	VI
7.	First aid materials or medicines of emergency may be provided at free of cost to the farmers with training to administer	66	55.00	VII

***Multiple responses**

CONCLUSION

In view of perceived usefulness of the services provided by various livestock service delivery systems, dairy farmers opined about the constraints faced and also proposed some suggestions for effective delivery of services. Majority perceived non-availability of the health services round the clock as a constraint and suggested provision for emergency health services by the veterinarians round the clock. It clearly indicates that farmers are in desperate need for door step service at times of emergency needs which should inevitably be considered. On the other hand, it has directed the need for formulation of policies towards effective delivery of services and consequently enhancement of production would be expected. In this context, proper action plan is required with a primary objective to provide qualitative and need based services which would eventually lead to best outcomes and thereby satisfaction among the dairy farmers.

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