

CONSTRAINT ANALYSIS OF SHEEP REARERS IN CHITTOOR DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

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Abstract: A survey was conducted with a sample of 38 sheep beneficiaries of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) Project from selected Mandals in Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh in order to identify the constraints faced by them. The constraints that disrupt the successful rearing of sheep were identified and ranked. Out of the 10 constraints identified, majority of the shepherds opined that poor credit facilities from the government sector with special reference to banks was their main constraint with a mean score of 70.15. Second constraint expressed by beneficiaries was lack of veterinary care with a mean score of 65.81. Limited availability of quality breeding stock was ranked 3rd with a mean score of 63.28. Most of the farmers also reported that high lamb mortality was another concern for them and ranked 4th with a mean score of 58.28. The next constraint faced by beneficiaries was shrinkage of grazing lands, which was ranked 5th with a mean score of 51.94. Disease attacks was ranked 6th place with a mean score of 50.52 followed by drinking water scarcity which ranked 7th with a mean score of 45.65. Frequent drought attacks was ranked 8th with mean score of 44.07. Inadequate marketing facilities and non-availability of farm labour ranked 9th and 10th with a mean score of 27.02 and 22.42, respectively.

Keywords: Constraint analysis, Sheep rearing, RKVY Project, Garrett's ranking.

Introduction

Constraints faced by Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) supported sheep beneficiaries in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh was studied. Sheep with its multi-facet utility as a producer of meat, wool, skin, manure and milk to some extent has an added advantage of survival in low vegetation areas since the prospects of providing irrigation facilities to drought prone areas in the near future is bleak. In such a situation, sheep rearing may help to alleviate poverty of rural poor by earning additional income for their family which will ultimately improve their standard of living.

Materials and methods

Desired number of ram lambs as per the availability were distributed to the interested farmers on subsidized cost along with other inputs like concentrate feed, medicines and vaccines. The project took sufficient care to cross check the facilities available with the beneficiaries like

housing, water, feeding and availability of labour. In addition minimum training in feeding, breeding and other routine farm operations were imparted to the beneficiaries. They were properly advised about the importance of record keeping.

Garrett's Ranking Technique:

Information relating to the major constraints perceived by the beneficiaries was enlisted based on personal interview and the constraints were ranked as per Garrett's ranking technique. Thus assigned ranks by the individual beneficiaries were counted into percent position value by using the formula.

$$\text{Per cent position} = 100(R_{ij}-0.5)/N_j$$

Where, R_{ij} stands for rank given for the i^{th} factor by the j^{th} individual.

N_j stands for number of factors ranked by j^{th} individual.

For each per cent position, scores were obtained with reference to Garrett's Ranking Conversion Table and each percent position value was converted into scores by reference to Garrett's Table (Garrett and Woodworth, 1969). Mean scores were calculated by dividing the total score by the number of respondents. Overall ranking was obtained by assigning ranks in the descending order of the mean score.

Results and Discussion

An effort was made to bring out the constraints faced by the selected beneficiaries of RKVY project supplied with sheep units. The constraints as perceived by the beneficiaries were subjected to Garrett's ranking technique and the mean scores were obtained. Further the constraints were ranked and presented in Table 1.

Those constraints encountered by the farmers are lack of veterinary care, poor credit facilities, limited availability of quality breeding stock, high lamb mortality, shrinkage of grazing lands, disease attacks, drinking water scarcity, frequent drought attacks, non-availability of farm labour and inadequate marketing facilities. Out of the 10 constraints identified, majority of the shepherds opined that poor credit facilities from the government sector with special reference to banks was their main constraint with a mean score of 70.15. Second constraint expressed by beneficiaries was lack of veterinary care with a mean score of 65.81. Limited availability of quality breeding stock was ranked 3rd with a mean score of 63.28. Most of the farmers also reported that high lamb mortality was another concern for them and ranked 4th with a mean score of 58.28. The next constraint faced by beneficiaries was shrinkage of grazing lands rearing, which was ranked 5th with a mean score of 51.94. Disease attacks was ranked 6th place with a mean score of 50.52 followed by drinking

water scarcity which was ranked 7th with a mean score of 45.65. Frequent drought attacks ranked 8th with mean score of 44.07. Inadequate marketing facilities and non-availability of farm labour ranked 9th and 10th with a mean score of 27.02 and 22.42, respectively.

A perusal of the results presented in Table 1 indicated that poor credit facility (70.15) was conceived as the major constraint among the farmers surveyed. Lack of veterinary care and limited availability of quality breeding stock were found to be the other major constraints faced by the sheep rearers.

The results in the study were corroborated by the findings of 4 in their study in semi arid region of Rajasthan in technical category. Shrinking of grazing lands was also identified as a constraint in the study area in contrary to the findings of Misra *et.al.*, in their study in Mahaboobnagar district of Andhra Pradesh, where availability of more grazing lands led to more profitable sheep farming. The scarcity of grazing lands was also found to be a serious problem as per the findings of Dinesh Kumar (2003). Non availability of farm labour was given the least ranking by the farmers followed by inadequate marketing facilities. These results clearly showed the involvement of family labour in sheep farming activity as a traditional practice which was in line with Suresh *et.al.*, in semi arid region of Rajasthan. Though the study presented a picture where marketing inadequacy was very little, the mentioning of it as a constraint still needs attention. The constraints faced might put riders on the adoption of sheep farming to improve the socio economic status of rural poor. Addressing these constraints would lead to the improvement of the conditions of sheep rearers thus pave a way for making the RKVY intervention more successful.

Table 1. Constraint analysis

S.No	Items	Sum	Mean	Garrett's Ranking
A	Lack of veterinary care	2501	65.81	II
B	Poor credit facilities	2666	70.15	I
C	Limited availability of quality breeding stock	2405	63.28	III
D	High lamb mortality	2215	58.28	IV
E	Shrinkage of grazing lands	1974	51.94	V
F	Disease attacks	1920	50.52	VI
G	Drinking water scarcity	1735	45.65	VII
H	Frequent drought attacks	1675	44.07	VIII
I	Non-availability of farm labour	852	22.42	X
J	Inadequate marketing facilities	1027	27.02	IX

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