

KNOWLEDGE OF DAIRY ANIMAL OWNERS IN IMPROVED DAIRY HUSBANDRY PRACTICES IN KADAPA DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

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Abstract: To assess the knowledge of dairy animal owners in improved dairy husbandry practices a field study was undertaken in Kadapa District of Andhra Pradesh and the information was collected. Simple random sampling method was used to select 120 dairy farmers as respondents from 4 villages. From each selected village thirty dairy animal owners were randomly selected for filling the questionnaire related to the study. The present study revealed that majority of dairy farmers had medium knowledge on different component of improved dairy husbandry practices viz. 71.66% for feeding, 76.66% for breeding, 65% for general management and 81.66% for healthcare. The overall knowledge levels of the respondents in improved dairy husbandry practices fall under low, medium and high categories are 08%, 87% and 05% respectively. The knowledge index of different aspect of improved dairy husbandry practices of feeding, breeding, general management and healthcare practices were 52.88, 74.63, 56.80 and 62.17%, respectively and overall knowledge index of improved dairy husbandry practices were 61.62% which indicated medium knowledge level of dairy farmers in the study area.

Keywords: Dairy animals-Knowledge-Management-practices.

Introduction

Livestock rearing is the integral part of agriculture in India as well as many developing countries since centuries. Animal husbandry signifies as the second largest economical activity next to agriculture in rural India. Dairying plays a prominent role in upliftment of socio-economic status of dairy farmers. In India, Majority of the dairy farmers are small holders and landless who are illiterate and unaware of economic aspect of milk production. Thus, dairying being an important means of income and employment for these farmers, it helps to alleviate poverty assuring a balanced development of the rural economy. India has emerged as leading milk producer country in the world, however productivity per milking animal is very low i.e. wet average kg/day in indigenous cows, crossbred cows and buffalo as

1.98, 6.75 and 4.50 respectively. This low production in India is mainly due to lack/ low level of knowledge about improved dairy husbandry practices by dairy farmers. The latest scientific knowledge of dairy farming is based on the main pillars of innovative balanced feeding, breeding, proper management and health control, which are the major elements to create ideal and expected conditions in animal husbandry. The present study was therefore undertaken with the objective of ascertaining the knowledge status of the dairy farmers regarding improved animal husbandry practices.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh, by selecting 4 villages because of the presence of more number of dairy farmers in those areas. Nakkaladinne, Gopavaram, Kamanuru and Yerraguntla were the villages selected for the study. After the selection of the villages, a village wise list of dairy farmers was prepared and 30 dairy farmers from each village were randomly selected with the help of simple random sampling methods. Thus, the total sample consisted of 120 dairy farmers as respondents. The selected dairy farmers were interviewed and desired information was collected with the help of pre-designed and pre-tested schedule. Data was tabulated and analyzed as per standard statistical tools like frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation to draw meaningful interference.

Results and discussion

Knowledge about improved dairy husbandry practices is pre-requisite for its adoption which ultimately improves the dairy production.

Feeding practices: The analysis of data indicates that the majority of respondents (71.66%) had medium level of knowledge regarding recommended practices, whereas 15.00% and 13.33% had high and low level of knowledge regarding recommended feeding practices respectively (Table1). These findings are in line with findings of Meena *et al.*, (2009).

Breeding practices: Majority of dairy farmers (76.66%) were found to have medium knowledge in breeding practices. However only 13.33 per cent of them had high level followed by low (10%) level of knowledge (Table 1) indicates that in overall dairy farmers had medium level of knowledge regarding recommended breeding practices. These findings are in line with findings of Aulakh *et al.*, (2011).

Management practices: A perusal of data from Table1 revealed that majority of respondents

(65.00%) had medium knowledge followed by high (18.33%) and low (16.66%) levels of knowledge regarding general management practices. These findings are in line with the findings of Aulakh *et al.*, (2011) and Kumar *et al.*, (2011).

Healthcare practices: It is clear from the results that majority of respondents (81.66%) had medium knowledge, followed by low knowledge (10.00%) and only 08.33% of the respondents had high knowledge about improved healthcare practices in the area under study. These findings were in accordance with findings of Kumar *et al.*, (2011).

Table 1: Distribution of the dairy animal owners according to their knowledge in different areas of improved dairy husbandry practices (N= 120).

Area	Frequency	Per cent
Feeding		
Low (<2.16score)	16	13.33
Medium (2.16-3.84 score)	86	71.66
High (>3.84 score)	18	15.00
Breeding		
Low (<3.26 score)	12	10.00
Medium (3.26-5.62 score)	92	76.66
High (>5.62 score)	16	13.33
Management		
Low (<2.08 score)	20	16.66
Medium (2.08-6.70 score)	78	65.00
High (>6.70 score)	22	18.33
Health care		
Low (<3.28 score)	12	10.00
Medium (3.28-6.12 score)	98	81.66
High (>6.12 score)	10	08.33

Overall knowledge level: Overall knowledge levels of the respondents in improved dairy husbandry practices are depicted in Table 2. Majority (87.00%) of the respondents had medium knowledge whereas 08% had low knowledge and only 5.00% had high knowledge. So, overall dairy farmers possess medium level of knowledge in the study area. The results of the study were similar to the findings reported by Kumar *et al.*, (2011). The extension agency has to strive hard to spread the information regarding improved dairy husbandry practices in the study area to increase farmer's knowledge level which ultimately increase milk production and rural economy.

Table 2: Distribution of the dairy animal owners on the basis of overall knowledge regarding improved dairy husbandry practices (N= 120).

Categories	Frequency	Per cent
Low (<10.70 score)	10	08.00
Medium (10.70-14.62 score)	104	87.00
High (>14.62 score)	06	05.00

Knowledge index: Table 3 revealed that the knowledge index of different aspect of improved dairy husbandry practices of feeding, breeding, management and healthcare were 52.88, 74.63, 56.80 and 62.17%, respectively and overall knowledge index of improved dairy husbandry practices were 61.62% which indicated that knowledge level were medium in the studied area. It clearly indicates that overall knowledge possessed by dairy animal owners is inadequate to carry out dairy farming scientifically. The reason may be the education level of the respondents. Whereas, Kumar *et al.*, (2011) reported that maximum extent of knowledge in dairy animal owners in the area of breeding (42%) followed by management (41.73%), healthcare (39.75%) and feeding (37.84%), respectively, in Banka district of Bihar. These results can be attributed to different knowledge levels of various localities studied.

Table 3: Knowledge indices of improved dairy husbandry practices

S. No	Area	Knowledge index (%)	Rank
1	Feeding	52.88	IV
2	Breeding	74.63	I
3	General management	56.80	II
4	Health care	62.17	III
5	Over all knowledge	61.62	

Conclusion

Based on findings of present study, it can be concluded that majority of the dairy farmers had medium level of knowledge regarding improved dairy husbandry practices. So there is lot of scope for improvement in dairy husbandry practices through increasing the existing level of knowledge of dairy farmers. Particularly in the area of feeding, general management and healthcare practices which can be improved through organized training programmes, demonstrations, Kisan mela, exposure visits and camps organized by various government organizations and NGOs.

References

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