

KNOWLEDGE LEVEL OF DAIRY FARMERS REGARDING RECOMMENDED DAIRY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

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ABSTRACT

The knowledge level of dairy farmers about recommended practices in four major areas of dairy farming such as breeding, feeding, general management and health care practices were studied in Navsari districts of South Gujarat. The distribution of respondents according to their knowledge on modern dairy husbandry practices revealed that 69.5 per cent of the respondents of Navsari district of south Gujarat were having medium level of knowledge whereas remaining 15 and 15.5 per cent of them were having low and high levels of knowledge, respectively.

Keywords: knowledge level, dairy farmers, recommended practices

INTRODUCTION

Livestock is an integrated part of farming and rural life in our country. Dairy as a subsidiary enterprise is an instrument of great importance for improving socio-economic status of rural population. The cattle and buffalo have remained as corner stone of Indian farming. Knowledge about modern dairy husbandry practices is pre-requisite for adoption of it which ultimately improves the dairy production. The distribution of respondents according to their knowledge on modern dairy husbandry practices revealed that 69.5 per cent of the respondents of Navsari district of south Gujarat were having medium level of knowledge whereas remaining 15.5 and 15 per cent of them were having low and high levels of knowledge, respectively. Findings of this study were comparable with the findings of^{1, 7, 12, 13}. Who observed that majority of the dairy farmers in their study had medium level of knowledge in various aspects of dairy animal management. It might be due to the fact that Navsari district is well covered under the co-operative network and probably dairy co-operative workers and livestock inspectors were more associated with breeding and health of the animals than the general management and feeding practices.

OBJECTIVE

To know the knowledge level of dairy farmers regarding recommended dairy management practices.

METHODOLOGY

A field survey was conducted to collect information on array of knowledge about modern dairy husbandry practices followed by dairy animal owners of this region. The

Navsari district is situated at 20°51'N (latitude) and 72°55'E (longitude) in the South Eastern part of Gujarat state. Navsari district is spread over five talukas, 366 gram panchayats and 374 villages. Majority of the population live in rural areas (72.6%), who are mostly engaged in agriculture, animal husbandry, floriculture and horticulture, small scale and cottage industry, sugar industry, agro and food processing. Out of the five talukas under Navasari district four of them namely Navsari, Jalalpore, Gandevi and Chikhli were selected for the purpose of this study. Ten rural villages were selected randomly from each taluka and from each selected village five respondents having more than two dairy animals (cattle/buffalo/both) were chosen with the help of Talati cum Mantri (Tehasildar)/members of village dairy cooperative, which constituted a total of 200 respondents from rural area. Hence, finally 200 selected respondents were interviewed and the desired information was collected with the help of pre-designed and pre-tested questionnaire. The knowledge level of the farmers was ascertained through a interview schedule, comprising of eight each of breeding, feeding and general management practices and health care practices recommended by Vanbandhu Veterinary and Animal Husbandry College, Navsari. The respondents were asked to answer the questions mentioned in the interview schedule. The scores of 2, 1 and 0 were assigned to correct, partially correct and wrong answer, respectively and accordingly scores obtained were calculated. The respondents were categorized as low, medium and high levels of knowledge by using mean and one standard deviation formulae. The data on knowledge level was confined to four dimensions of dairy farming i.e. breeding, feeding, general management and health care practices.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**Table 1: Distribution of the dairy animal owners from rural area as per their knowledge level in modern husbandry practices n=200**

Sr. No.	Aspects	Category	Frequency	Per cent (%)
1	Breeding	Low	40	20
		Medium	102	51
		High	58	29
2	Feeding	Low	15	7.5
		Medium	163	81.5
		High	22	11
3	Management	Low	34	17
		Medium	144	72
		High	22	11
4	Healthcare	Low	41	20.5
		Medium	127	63.5
		High	32	16
5	Over all	Low	31	15.5
		Medium	139	69.5
		High	30	15

(1) Breeding practices

The analysis of 200 respondents indicated that the majority (51%) had medium level of knowledge regarding recommended practices, whereas 29.00 and 20.00 per cent had high and low level of knowledge about recommended breeding practices, respectively (Table 1). So over all dairy farmers had medium level of knowledge regarding recommended breeding practices.

(2) Feeding practices

It is clear from the results that 81.5 per cent of the respondents had medium followed by high (11%) and low (7.5%) level of knowledge regarding recommended feeding practices (Table 1).

(3) General management practices

The majority of the respondents (72%) were found to have medium level. However only 11 per cent of them had high level followed by low (17%) level of knowledge (Table 1). These figures indicate that overall dairy farmers had medium level of knowledge regarding recommended general management practices.

(4) Health care practices

Results (Table 1) indicated that majority (63.5%) of the respondents had medium whereas 16 and 20.5 percent of the respondents had high and low level of knowledge about recommended health care practices.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that dairy farmers had medium level of knowledge regarding recommended management practices. So, there is lot of scope for increasing the existing level of knowledge of dairy farmers about improved animal husbandry practices. More training programmes, demonstrations, field days, exhibitions, camps, radio/TV talks should be organized to increase the knowhow of the farmers.

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