



Studies on adoption of improved practices of cattle rearing

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ABSTRACT: The literacy percentage among dairy farmers of sikar district was high irrespective of organized or unorganized dairy farmers. In organized farmers, 75 per cent of dairy farmers were literate while in unorganized dairies, 72.2 per cents farmers were literate. The maximum adoption gap was 90.31 per cent for adoption of healthcare practices, followed by the breeding (79.55%), management (77.80%) and feeding (72.39%). minimum technological gap of 45.72 per cent about adoption of feeding practices followed by breeding (54.27), management (61.31) and healthcare (60.05) in organized dairy group where as, in case of unorganized dairy group the maximum. The overall minimum technological adoption gap *i.e.* 59.55 per cent was obtained in case of feeding practices followed by the improved breeding (66.91%), management (69.55%) and healthcare (77.68%). The cattle owners of organized and unorganized groups had a mean score 10.85 and 5.52, respectively with regard to extent of adoption of different feeding practices. The significant difference was observed between the organized and unorganized groups with respect to housing practices. There was significant difference in adoption of health care practices between the two groups.

KEY WORDS : Cattle, Breeding, Feeding, Health care

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INTRODUCTION

Live stock sector plays an important role in the livelihood security and employment generation for rural areas in Rajasthan. Dairy farming converts available feed and fodder material in to milk and other products. The population of bovine in the state had positive growth rate of 0.43 per cent per annum mainly due to high growth in the buffalo and crossbred cattle population (Gupta *et al.*, 2007). Apart from genetic potential of cattle, its production depends mostly on managerial practices, which exhibit variation in different parts of the state. There is a large gap between the technologies generated and adoption by the dairy farmers. The present investigation was carried out to assess the adoption of different management practices by the dairy farmers.

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present investigation was conducted in four Tehsils of Sikar district of Rajasthan. These Tehsils were divided into two groups of organized and unorganized dairy farmers. Each group possessed two Tehsils each for the study. For selection of villages, three villages were selected from each identified Tehsil. Thus, a total of 12 villages were included for the present investigation (six from organized group and six from unorganized group). To select respondents, 30 dairy cattle owners were randomly selected from each selected village. Therefore, 360 respondents were identified from the selected villages. Data were collected through structured scheduled from the identified respondents by applying personal interest technique. Collected data were analyzed, tabulated and interpreted in the light of the objective of the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The literacy percentage among dairy farmers of Sikar district was high irrespective of organized or unorganized dairy farmers. In organized farmers, 75 per cent of dairy farmers were literate while in unorganized dairies, 72.2 per cent farmers were literate (Table 1). Only 27.32 per cent were dairy farmers in