

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Studies on buffaloes milk production in the vicinity of Akola city

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ABSTRACT : For the present study, 10 city areas and 10 villages were selected by random sampling method. Maximum (42 per cent) dairy farmers maintained the herd size of 6 to 10 milking buffalo. Among the different buffalo breeds, Nagpuri (52.53 per cent), Surti (13 per cent) and Murrah (34.47 per cent) were possessed by 100 dairy farmers and preferred Nagpuri as compared to Surti and Murrah. Majority of Nagpuri buffaloes (75.48 per cent) and Surti buffaloes (47.58 per cent) produced the milk between 4.1 to 6 lit. with an average of 5.15 lit. and 5.48 lit. per day per buffalo, respectively. Majority of Murrah buffalo (71.08 per cent) produced the milk above 6 lit. with an average of 7.36 lit. per day per buffalo. The average milk production of Nagpuri, Surti and Murrah buffaloes was found 5.03, 5.59, 6.68 lit. per day per buffalo, respectively. The milk production of buffaloes from all breeds in city was found more than rural area around Akola city. The herd size had positive and significant relationship with milk production while education of buffalo owners had no significant relationship with milk production.

Key words : Buffaloes, Milk production, Herd size, Education of buffalo owners

How to cite this article - Patil, Rahul Vinayak, Chopade, Abhimanyu Arjun, Desale, Rahul Jagannath and Parate, Pradip Raghobari (2011). Studies on buffaloes milk production in the vicinity of Akola city. *Asian J. Animal Sci.*, 6(2): 121-127.

Article chronicle - Received : 20.5.2011; **Sent for revision:** 12.6.2011; **Accepted :** 29.8.2011

INTRODUCTION

India is an agricultural country and most of the people live in rural areas. They are mainly dependent on agriculture and its allied business for their livelihood. India's milk production according to Food and Agricultural Organization for 2008 has reached a record 102 million tonnes displacing the United States as the world's largest milk producing country. In the year of independence it was started with base line milk production of 17 million tonnes per year and today it has passed 100 million tonnes, which amount to almost one million tonnes increase every year (Bhasin, 2004) with the present growth rate of 4-5 per cent per annum. India is expected to produce 220 to 250 million tonnes of milk by the year 2020, which would be more than one third of projected global production of 520 to 650 million tonnes. At present, India produces half of Asia's milk output.

Buffalo milk has a special advantage for preparation of several products such as khoa, burfi, pedha, paneer, dahi, butter, ghee etc. Buffalo milk has the superior fat and calcium content and has less cholesterol and more tocopherol, a natural antioxidant. The composition of milk

may vary due to influence of different factors like season, food, inter milking period, frequency of milking, species, breed, age of the Buffalo and stage of lactation.

The objective was to study milk production of buffaloes in the vicinity of Akola city.

RESEARCH METHODS

The present investigation was undertaken in Akola city and the villages located around the city boundaries. A comprehensive elaborative questionnaire was prepared for interview of Buffalo owners. The survey was carried out in 10 villages and 10 city areas of Akola city and rural areas around Akola city during a period from January 2009 to April 2009.

From Akola Tahsil 10 villages located on the boundaries of Akola city were selected randomly by stratified sampling technique for study. Similarly, 10 city areas were selected for study from Akola city. It included the information about milk yield, lactation period, lactation number, stage of lactation, total and average milk production per day and lactation of individual buffalo kept by the buffalo owners.