



Constraints and suggestions of cattle tail-hair producers in Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

For the study, Udgir tehsil of Latur district was selected and from five villages in all ninety cattle tail-hair producers were selected. Data pertained for the year 2007-08. The results revealed that mostly cattle tail-hair producers were from middle age group with education level up to Secondary School. Mostly herd size of cattle was low in the study area. Intensively, cattle tail-hair rope was used for seed drill and offspring's *palana*. Lack of skill of industrial products of cattle tail-hair can be solved by training to youth on manufactured products. All the suggestions can be considered in policy making for solving the problems of cattle tail-hair producers.

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INTRODUCTION

Animal by-products are important component of agricultural production. There are many waste products in agriculture which are not paid due attention as source for adding to farm income. For example, the hide, horns, bones are such products and the cattle tail-hair is one of them. Apparently, use of cattle tail-hair seem to be very minor. Considering the animal wealth in India, it may be considered a source of income to cattle owners (Thombre and Chole, 1996). The country has 187 million cattle heads and that is the highest in the world. On an average, 20 grams of tail-hair could be harvested annually from a single cattle head. Generally, trimming of cattle tail-hair can be done before on set of monsoon. About 187 million cattle heads can produce 3.47 million kg of tail-hair. Even if it is sold at the rate of Rs. 200 per kg, it may add to national income to the tune of Rs. 69.48 crore per annum. If industry with appropriate technology can be established to utilize cattle tail-hair, it may bring better income to cattle owners. Similarly, cattle owners have to trim tail-hair in time and use for different purposes. By keeping in view above aspects, the present study has been undertaken.

METHODOLOGY

Multistage sampling design was used in selection of district, tehsil, villages and cattle owners. In the first stage, Latur district was purposively selected on the basis of the highest livestock population. In the second stage, Udgir tehsil was purposively selected on the basis of the highest cattle population. In the third stage, five villages namely Borul, Dawangaon, Danegaon, Patoda (BK) and Wadvana were randomly selected. In the fourth stage, eighteen cattle owners were randomly selected from each of the selected villages. Thus, in all 90 cattle owners were selected from five villages for the present study. Data were collected by personal interview method with the help of pretested schedule for the year 2007-08. The collected data were related to socio-economic characteristics of cattle owners, use of cattle tail-hair, constraints and suggestions of cattle tail-hair producers. Thus, data were analyzed by tabular as well as frequency and percentage method.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the present study have been presented under the following heads:

Key words :

Tail-hair, Cattle, Constraints, Suggestions

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