

A study of awareness of recommended dairy practices among farmers

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted on 150 farmers of Ludhiana distt. of Punjab to study the awareness of the dairy farmers about the recommended dairy practices in the areas of animal breeding, feeding, health care and management of animals. Results revealed that area-wise awareness was low in keeping record of pedigree of bull, insemination at proper time in case of cows in the area of animal breeding; use of straw to prevent tympany, preparation of silage and hay, use of balanced feed according to milk yield and green fodder according to body weight in case of cows in the area of feeding; vaccination against rinderpest and brucellosis, testing of milk and care during mastitis in the area of health care. In the area of management awareness was low in practices of methods to prevent souring of milk, use of milking machine, care of neonates etc.

Key words : Dairy, Farmers, Awareness

INTRODUCTION

Today India is the largest producer of milk with a share of 16 per cent of the total production of milk worldwide. Milk production in India has been growing at an average of 5 per cent per annum and it is estimated to touch 87 million tonnes in the current year (Patel 2003). Till a few years, dairy farming was considered as an important subsidiary occupation, but these days it is becoming a major alternative to agriculture. Dairy farming can be a profitable enterprise if established in the right method, strengthened by awareness of various dairy practices as feeding, breeding, health care, management etc.

Keeping in view those fact the study entitled, "A Study of Awareness of Recommended Dairy Practices among Farmers" was under taken with following specific objectives :

1. To study the profile of dairy farmers.
2. To study the awareness of the dairy farmers about recommended dairy practices.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Five blocks of Ludhiana district namely Pakhowal, Doraha, Dehlon, Machhiwara and Ludhiana-II were selected randomly. Lists of villages in the five selected blocks were procured from concerned Block

Development and Panchayat Officer. Two villages from each block were selected randomly. Lists of dairy farmers possessing three or more milch animals in each village were prepared and 15 farmers were selected randomly from each village. Thus a total number of 150 farmers formed the sample of the study. Data were collected from the respondents with the help of an interview schedule prepared for the purpose.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Profile of the respondents:

Table 1 shows the profile of the respondents. Data revealed that an equal number of respondents *i.e.* 45.33% fell in the age groups 36-50 years and 51 years & above. Only 9.34% respondents belonged to the age group of 20-35 yrs. It reveals that younger farmers are less willing to take dairy farming as a profession which was supported by Natchimuthu *et al.*(2003).Regarding educational level highest percentage (52.67) was of individuals having education up to (10+2) level, followed by illiterates (28.67) and primary level (17.33) respectively whereas 1.33 per cent were graduates and none was post-graduate. The individuals having higher qualification did not engage in dairy farming. Majority of farmers were having medium (6-10 acres) followed by small (1-5 acres) and large (more than 10 acres) land holding. About one-third of farmers irrespective of their size of land holding adopted dairy farming. Only 0.67% were landless farmers.

The landless farmers do not engage themselves in

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