



Research Article

Knowledge level and constraints of improved dairy practices by the farmers of Dharwad district

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Article Chronicle :

Received :
06.01.2012;

Revised :
12.02.2012;

Accepted :
25.02.2012

SUMMARY : Dairy farming is one of the important activities of the rural population of our country. The importance of the dairy, as a subsidiary industry to agriculture, has stressed by the National Commission on Agriculture. Most of the rural farmers, who keep dairy animals, do not follow modern dairy management practices. There is an urgent need to sensitize the dairy farmers about the improved technologies and scientific interventions in dairy production, in order to enhance milk yield and milk quality from dairy animals. The present study was taken up in Dharwad district of Karnataka state with the specific objectives to study the knowledge and constraints of the farmers in adoption of improved dairy practices. Majority of the farmers (40.00%) belonged to middle age group, obtained Middle Education (40.00%), joint family system (70.00%), majority of the farmers belonged to small and medium land holdings, 78.33 per cent of the farmers possessed bullock cart with respect to material possession, nearly half (45.83%) of the farmers belonged to medium income level groups and most of the farmers had medium level of knowledge (53.33%) regarding improved dairy practices.

How to cite this article : Binkadakatti, J.S., Biradar, B.N., Doddamani, Ashoka and Jambenal, Shivanand (2012). Knowledge level and constraints of improved dairy practices by the farmers of Dharwad district. *Agric. Update*, 7(1&2): 76-79.

Key Words :

Knowledge, Dairy,
Training, Constraints,
suggestions

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

India is predominantly an agrarian society where animal husbandry forms the backbone of national economy. The prime concern before the nation is still to improve the economic condition of the rural poor to fulfil the national commitment. Dairy enterprise, next to agriculture, not only provides continuous income and improves the dietary standards of family, but also supplements the income and reduces unemployment to a large number of the rural poor. India owns the largest livestock population in the world. It is only in the recent past that the relative importance of dairying has been realized as an instrument in changing socio-economic conditions of poorer sections of the predominantly rural India. Dairying has been identified as one of the most potential and viable occupations for small, marginal farmers and agricultural labourers. In the emerging agriculture

scenario, livestock production in general and dairying in particular has a special place as an instrument for enhancing the income of small farmers and reducing unemployment among the landless. Any attempt to tap this vast potential must depend on efficient management which, in turn, needs updated economic and technical information. Various recent studies and data suggest that dairying has enormous potential to improve the socio-economic status of the large percentage of rural population. Dairying in India has been considered to be playing a crucial role in Indian economy. The level and speed of adoption of dairy innovation by farming community has been far from satisfaction though it has direct bearing on dairy farm production. A firsthand knowledge of these factors to the extension personnel would create the speedy adoption of dairy innovations in the villages. Therefore, a study was conducted to assess the knowledge level of

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