

Socio-economic status of the dairy farmers from Wai tahsil of Satara district

S. M. KALE, S.B. ADANGALE, T. R. WALKUNDE AND D. M. CHOUDHRI

ABSTRACT

The investigation was conducted to review the situation of dairying in Wai Tahsil of Satara district with the objectives to study the socio-economic status of the dairy farmers. The survey work was carried out in the milk pocket areas of 10 villages from Wai Tahsil of Satara district. About 44.17 per cent farmers hold land ranged between 2 to 5 ha and 43.33 per cent dairy farmers kept 1 to 2 animals on their farms. However, none of the farmers had a practice of preservation of fodder as silage to feed crossbred cattle. The overall average milk production was 7.86 kg/day were observed.

KEY WORDS : Milk production, Economics, Dairy cattle, Dairy farmer

Kale, S.M., Adangale, S.B., Walkunde, T.R. and Choudhri, D.M. (2011). Socio-economic status of the dairy farmers from Wai tahsil of satara district, *Res. J. Animal Hus. & Dairy Sci.*, 2 (1&2) : 77-79.

INTRODUCTION

Dairy farming plays a very important role in improving the economy of the country. Milk has an important place in human diet. Milk production in India is predominantly the domain of small holders in mixed farming system. Indian dairying has made rapid strides, but animal productivity remained low. The average dairying assumes great significance in providing employment to rural people as well as a stable source of income to augment to their earnings from main enterprise they follow *i.e.* crop husbandry. Dairy enterprise plays a very important role in the rural economy of India. It provides income and employment not only to the workers sections of the society but also to the farming community of the country in general. The dairy farmers are facing several problems in adoption and rearing of crossbred cows.

Improved management practices should be adopted to increase the profitability of dairy farms with particular reference to selective breeding, comfortable housing, scientific milking, labour utilization, marketing, feeding and disease prevention (Sampath, 1994). Hence, management practices of dairy cattle followed by dairy farmer play a vital role in improving the milk production. In this situation, it is essential to have the information about how scientific knowledge is acquired by the farmers and constraints faced by them.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Location of research: The research site, namely, Wai Tahsil from Satara district comprised of 117 villages, out of 10 villages having higher milk production from crossbred cattle were selected for study.

Cropping pattern:

Major crops grown were cereals, pulses and sugarcane. Forage crops like maize, lucerne, napier, berseem, etc. were cultivated under irrigated areas.

Livestock situation:

The data on livestock population showed that amongst the various species of livestock, the crossbred formed the major portion even though sizable population of indigenous cattle was also observed. The main purpose of rearing indigenous cattle is for draft power, manure for soil and buffaloes were maintained for milk production.

Correspondence to:

S.B. ADANGALE, Department of Animal Science and Dairy Science, Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, AHMEDNAGAR (M.S.) INDIA

Authors' affiliations:

S.M. KALE, Department of Animal Science and Dairy Science, College of Agriculture, Maldad, Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, AHMEDNAGAR (M.S.) INDIA

T.R. WALKUNDE, Department of Animal Science and Dairy Science, K.K. Wagh College of Agriculture, NASHIK (M.S.) INDIA

D.M. CHOUDHRI, Department of Animal Science and Dairy Science, College of Agriculture, Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, AHMEDNAGAR (M.S.) INDIA

Selection of villages and livestock owners:

For the study, villages having more milk production mainly from crossbred cattle were selected. These villages were arranged in descending order according to quantity of milk produced and first 10 villages were selected.

Tools and techniques of data collection:

The basic instrument used for the study was the interview schedule. The questions were related to socio-economic status of the farmers rearing crossbred cattle.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It is observed from Table 1, that only 14.16 per cent farmers were having land holding above 5 ha. All remaining farmers comprising the land holding below 5 ha/head, most of the farmers (44.17 per cent) were medium farmer, 24.14 per cent were small farmers and 17.50 per cent were landless farmers. These results are in agreement with Chakravarti and Reddy (1982), however Ganguly and Gopal (1979) noticed 41.2 per cent landless livestock owners and 22 per cent had more than 2.0 ha of land.

Table 1: Number of crossbred cattle reared by dairy farmers according to size of land

Sr. No.	Size of land	No. of farmers	No. of cattle	Avg. no. of cattle owned by farmer
1.	0 ha	21 (17.50)	27	1.28
2.	0.1 to 2.0 ha	29 (24.14)	84	2.89
3.	2.1 to 5.0 ha	53 (44.17)	137	2.58
4.	Above 5.0 ha	47 (14.16)	76	4.47
Total		120	324	2.70

From Table 2, it was seen that 43.33 per cent farmers have maintained hardly one to two crossbred animals. About 36.33 per cent farmers maintained 3 to 5 animals and only 20 per cent farmers maintained more than 5 animals. It shows that milk producers were not doing dairy business on commercial basis. Similar findings were reported by Jagtap (1997).

Table 2: Distribution of number of crossbred cattle reared by livestock owners

Sr. No.	Frequency of crossbred cattle	No. of farmers	Percentage
1.	1	34	28.33
2.	2	18	15.00
3.	3	13	10.83
4.	4 to 5	31	25.83
5.	Above 5	24	20.00
6.	Total	120	100.00

The result indicated from Table 3 that, the majority of crossbred cattle owner had grazing facility (61.67 per cent), growing forage crops (77.50 per cent), very few farmers possessed a chaff-cutter (19.17 per cent), feeding of readymade concentrate (90 per cent) and preserved hay as dry fodder (100 per cent). However, none of the farmer had a practice of preservation of fodder as silage to feed the crossbred cattle.

Table 3: Distribution of milk producers according to response towards feeding practices

Sr. No.	Particulars	No. of farmers	Per cent
1	Grazing facility	74	61.67
2	Growing of forage crops	93	77.50
3	Knowledge of improved varieties	25	20.83
4	Use of chaff-cutter	23	19.17
5	Feeding readymade concentrate	108	90.00
6	Preservation of fodder,		
	Hay	120	100.00
	Silage	00	00.00

The data (Table 4) regarding milk production indicated the performance of crossbred cattle. Only 40.74 per cent farmers had production of more than 7kg milk and about 59.26 per cent owner harvest less than 7kg milk per day per animals. Handa *et al.* (1985) reported average milk yield of crossbred cow under field condition 5.07 lit/day/cow. Venkatsubramaniam and Fulzele (1996) reported that production performance of animal was influenced by feeding, breeding, housing and calf management followed on farm. No farmer was found to adopt machine milking. All 81.67 per cent farmers were practicing knuckling method of hand milking.

Table 4: Distribution of milk production per day per animal

Sr. No.	Frequency	No. of farmers	No. of animals	Avg. milk production/cow/day(kg)
1.	Up to 4.00	22	44 (13.58)	3.36
2.	4.1 to 7.00	56	148 (45.68)	6.50
3.	7.1 to 10.00	28	70 (21.60)	8.72
4.	Above 10.00	14	62 (19.14)	12.84
Total		120	324	7.86

LITERATURE CITED

- Chakravarti, T.K. and Reddy, C.D. (1982). Dairy development programme. Process and impact study of village level in Anantpur. *J. Rural Devel.*, **1**(4):409-412.
- Ganguly, B. K. and Gopal, S. (1979). Indian milk shed. Part- I. *Indian Dairyman J.*, **31**(11):758.

Handa, M.C., Gill, R.S. and Gill, S.S.(1985). Studies on performance of buffaloes and cows kept by different categories of farmers in Ludhiana district of Punjab. *Indian J. Anim. Prod. Mgmt.*, **4**(1):13-17.

Jagtap, G.K. (1997). Feeding and management practices adopted for milch animal by livestock owner in Akot Tahsil of Akola district. M.Sc (Agri.) Thesis, Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, AKOLA, M.S. (India).

Sampath, K.T.(1994), Key factors for profitable milk production. *Indian J. Dairy and Bio Sciences*, **5**:58-60.

Venkatsubramaniam, V. and Fulzele, R.M. (1996). Factors influencing production performance of crossbred and indigenous cattle under field condition. *Indian J. Dairy Sci.*, **49**(5):301-306.

