

## Constraints in dairy farming in Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka

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### ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out to find out the constraints faced by the farmers in animal husbandry activities and dairying in Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka. The study was designed in such a way that the farmer's responses were taken in to consideration by asking them questions regarding various activities of animal husbandry and by past experience. A total of 90 respondents were taken into consideration. The study revealed that the constraints were regarding non availability of good quality fodder, fodder scarcity during summer, poor availability and high cost of agricultural labourers, many obscure diseases, lack of quality of veterinary services, high cost of inputs, lack of mechanization, low remuneration to the produced milk all resulting in reducy the interest among the farming community for animal husbandry and dairying.

**KEY WORDS :** Constraints, Dairy farming, Uttara kannada

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### INTRODUCTION

In Karnataka, Status and Systems of dairy Farming differs from one region to other. There are many differences in dairy farming activities in areas where different agriculture crops are grown, under different soil and weather conditions and economic status of the farmer.

North Kanara district of Karnataka state is located in the midst of western ghats and has more than 79 per cent forest area. It has three distinct geographic areas *viz.*, coastal belt, Northern part with largely plane land and Western Ghats. The latter region is hilly area with either evergreen or deciduous forests. Major farming activity in this region is horticulturd crops mainly consisting of areca nut. Along with this cardamom, banana, coconut etc are also grown. Paddy is grown in a fairly large area but it is reducing gradually. Number of non-descript animals is going down and crossbreeds are increasing in number in North Kanara district.

Though this area is well suited for profitable dairying, there are many inherent anomalies and problems facing animal husbandry sector. An attempt is made in this study and document them which may help in suggesting probable solutions.

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### MATERIALS AND METHODS

A total of 90 farmers were selected at random in the district of Uttara Kannada for the present study. The data were collected by semi structured interviews and group discussions. The data collected were presented in the form of number of respondents and the frequency as percentages in the order of importance perceived by them.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The constraints perceived by the dairy farmers were recorded and categorized into six groups *viz.*, nutrition, management, health care, cost of inputs, remuneration to the produced milk and interest in involving the animal husbandry activity. the data were as follows.(n=90)

#### Nutrition:

A crossbreed cattle needs about 25 kg of green fodder a day as recommended by Reddy (2001). Good green fodder was not available to 88.89 per cent of the farmers.

Also an acute shortage of both green and dry fodder was faced during summer by 81.11 per cent of farmers which forced them to purchase fodder from outside at high cost. This is in line with Ranganekar, (2006) who found feed and fodder as a major constraint. As the district has large areas of forest land, very less land is left for them to cultivate fodder. It was reflected by 78.89 per cent of respondents.

Sr. No..	constraints		no.of respondents who consider it as a restraint	Percentage
1.	Nutrition	Poor availability of good green fodder	80	88.89
		Fodder scarcity during summer	73	81.11
		Non- availability of land to grow fodder	71	78.89
		Poor quality of available fodder	88	97.78
		High cost of purchased dry fodder	90	100
2.	Management	Non -availability and high cost of labourers	79	87.78
		Adaptation to mechanization is poor	73	81.11
3.	Health care	Mastitis and repeat breeding problems	86	95.56
		Obscure diseases	64	71.11
		Lack of quality veterinary services	66	73.33
4.	High cost of inputs		90	100
5.	Low remuneration to the produced milk		90	100
6.	Interest for involvement in animal husbandry activity		68	75.56

Majority of the respondents (97.78 per cent) felt that locally available fodder quality was very low. It was due to leeching of surface minerals by leeching effect of soil due to heavy rainfall as observed by Dixit (1986).

#### Management:

As observed in rural India in the present condition, rural youth were migrating to cities for better livelihood. This resulted in lack of manpower for agricultural operations including Animal husbandry. This made the cost of labourers very high for 87.78 per cent of the farmers.

Added to this, mechanization in dairy sector like use of motorized pressure washers for cleaning, Milking machines and chaff cutters to cut fodder were not practiced by 81.11 per cent of the respondents.

#### Health care:

Majority of the dairy farmers (95.56 per cent) faced the diseases like mastitis and repeat breeding which reduces profits of dairying. It is in accordance with Dixit (1986). loc.cit. Sankhala (2010) also reported that repeat breeding was a major problem of dairy farmers in western ghats.

Along with this some obscure diseases like ticks, pot belly, perenial edema, plant poisoning, cyanide toxicity were affecting the cattle in this district. (71.11 per cent)

The health care was taken up by the state department of Animal Husbandry and veterinary services. However, 73.33 per cent of the farmers were of the opinion that the number of veterinarians was inadequate in the district. This was causing inadequate quality services. Also the number of paraveterinary staff was insufficient to carryout minor services.

#### High cost of inputs low remuneration to the produced milk :

This was a major constraint observed by all respondents.

Gadgil.(2010) observed that a rapid depletion of fodder resources, tremendous grazing pressure of hungry animals have characterized the animal husbandry scene on the western ghats tract. To get out of this vicious cycle of progressive degradation is then another challenge before the development planners. This calls for a simultaneous effort at improving the genetic quality of the livestock through cross breeding, enhancing the fodder base by a systematic cultivation of fodder as a second crop on residual moisture in paddy fields, on village grazing lands and minor-forest lands. as well as on reserved forest lands, organising grazing on a rotational basis, with the ultimate aim of completely switching over to stall feeding, as well as organising well managed milk marketing co-operatives which bring a fair price to the producer.

#### Interest for involvement in animal husbandry activity:

Because of all these reasons, more than 75 per cent of the farmers were losing interest in animal husbandry activity. Similar observations were made by Hegde and Bhat (2011) for the entire malnad region.

#### Conclusions:

It was concluded from the present study that the major constraints in animal husbandry activities and dairying perceived by the dairy farmers in utara Kannada district of Karnataka were, poor availability of good green fodder, fodder scarcity during summer, non-availability of land to

grow fodder, poor quality of available fodder, high cost of purchased dry fodder, non-availability and high cost of labourers, poor adaptation to mechanization, mastitis and repeat breeding problems, obscure diseases and lack of quality veterinary services leading to reducing interest for involvement in animal husbandry activity among the farmers. Hence, there is an acute need to find a solution for them and encourage Animal husbandry activities in the district with an aim to improve the economic status of the rural mass.

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