



Constraints faced by farm women in dairy farming

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ABSTRACT : The present study on constraints faced by farm women in dairy farming was undertaken in Kalmeshwar Tahsil of Nagpur district of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra state with sample size of 100 dairy farm women from 15 villages. The exploratory research design of social research was used in the present investigation. Dairy farming plays an important role in social and economical livelihood of the farmers. The constraints faced by farm women while dairy farming were; high cost of quality concentrate feeds (98.00%) and high cost needed for purchasing crossbred animals and veterinary medicine (95.00%), followed by decline in performance of exotic animals due to the high temperature (94.00%) and low water profile and lack of irrigation facilities (85.00%), inadequacy of green fodder round the year (82.00%) and non-remunerative price for milk (80.00%), Based on the assumption that the dairy farmers in Kalmeshwar Tahsil of Nagpur district were facing the crucial hindrance in the adoption of the scientific dairying. So the present research was taken to get an insight into the constraints and the gravity of these factors affecting the dairy farmers of this region.

KEY WORDS : Constraints, Farm women, Dairy farming

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INTRODUCTION

Dairying is one of the important enterprises, which supports the rural households by providing gainful employment and steady income. Development of dairy through the application of modern science and training technology will greatly contribute in improving socio-economic conditions of rural masses by making dairy farming more productive and remunerative. In India, women's involvement in livestock management is a longstanding tradition and dairy farming has been an integral part of homestead farming system. Much of the work related to livestock farming is carried out by women, so it is important to find out the constraints faced by the farm women in dairy activities and livelihood of the farmers. Constraints are the circumstances or the causes which prohibit the dairy farmers from adoption of the improved management practices (Rathod *et al.*, 2011).

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The present study was planned with the objective to study the constraints faced by farm women in dairy farming.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in 15 villages of Kalmeshwar tahsil of Nagpur district of Maharashtra state. A sample of 100 dairy farm women from these villages was selected by using random sampling technique in this study. The 15 villages was selected on the basis of maximum milk supplier's villages of Kalmeshwar tahsil. The house wives of the farmers who having minimum love of milch animal was considered. Thus, from 15 villages 100 farm women practicing dairy were selected by proportionate random sampling methods and these 100 women were considered as sample in present study. An interview schedule was prepared in view of the objective of the study and data were collected by personal interview from the selected dairy women.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Total 33 constraints were listed out under important areas like breeding practices, feeding, health care, fodder production practices, general management practices, selling of milk and procurement of loan.

In case of breeding practices majority (65.00%) of the respondents faced the problem of non-availability of quality crossbred bulls, followed by timely unavailability of AI (artificial insemination) services (62.00). This finding is in line with that of Sankhala *et al.* (2006). In case of feeding practices, the great majority of the respondents (98.00%) faced the constraint of high cost of quality concentrate feed because most of the farmers are poor in India. So, the high cost of concentrates might have compelled the farm women to know and learn the mixing of locally available ingredients which in

Table 1 : Distribution of respondents according to constraints faced by farm women while performing various operations			(n=100)
Sr. No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage
A	Breeding practices		
1.	Timely unavailability of AI services	62	62.00
2.	Improper detection of heat	06	06.00
3.	Non-availability of quality crossbred bulls	65	65.00
B	Feeding		
1.	High cost of quality concentrate feeds	98	98.00
2.	Inadequacy of green fodder round the year	82	82.00
3.	Non-availability of feed on credit basis	55	55.00
4.	Non-availability of feed on subsidized basis	43	43.00
C	Health care		
1.	Non-availability of veterinary services especially during night times	70	70.00
2.	Non-availability of supply of FMD and HS vaccines even on payment	40	40.00
3.	High cost of veterinary medicines	95	95.00
D	Fodder production practices		
1.	Non-availability of land for fodder production	37	37.00
2.	Non-availability of fodder seeds at proper time	14	14.00
3.	Lack of technical guidance for fodder products	23	23.00
E	General management practices		
1.	High cost needed for purchasing crossbred animals	95	95.00
2.	Non-availability of credit facilities	28	28.00
3.	Higher initial investment for proper housing	70	70.00
4.	Non-availability of daily wage, labourers during cropping season	40	40.00
5.	High cost of labour	44	44.00
6.	Distantly located veterinary dispensary	55	55.00
7.	Non-availability of space for proper housing	30	30.00
8.	Wastage of milk due to non availability of cold storage	38	38.00
9.	Non-availability of good dairy animals	82	82.00
10.	Decline in performance of exotic animals due to high temperature	94	94.00
11.	Lack of knowledge about improved dairy farming practices	64	64.00
12.	Low water profile and lack of irrigation facilities	85	85.00
F	Selling of milk		
1.	Non-remunerative price for milk	80	80.00
2.	Consumers preference for buffalo milk	56	56.00
3.	Irregular payment of procuring agency	40	40.00
4.	Lack of transport facilities	30	30.00
G	Procurement of loan		
1.	Banks are not co-operative	33	33.00
2.	Non-availability of guarantee of loan	47	47.00
3.	Loaning procedure is lengthy, tedious and cumbersome	62	62.00
4.	Influence is required to get loan	34	34.00

turn would reduce the feed cost and 82 per cent the respondents faced the constraint of inadequacy of green fodder round the year. This finding is supported by Rathod *et al.* (2011).

In case of health care, great majority of the respondents (95.00%) faced the constraint of high cost of veterinary medicine because most of the farmers are poor in india, while the inadequacy of veterinary services at night and inadequate supply of FMD and HS vaccine even on payment were faced by 70 and 40 per cent respondents, respectively. This finding is in line with that of Durgga Rani *et al.* (2009).

In case of general management practices, great majority of farm women (95.00%) faced the constraints of high cost needed for purchasing crossbred animals, followed by decline in performance of exotic animals due to high temperature (94.00%). This finding is supported by Punde (2008). The constraints of low water profile and irrigation water facilities were faced by 85 per cent of them, followed by non-availability good diary animals (82.00%).

In case of selling of milk, great majority of the farm women (80.00%) faced the problem of non-remunerative price of milk, followed by consumers preference for buffalo milk (56.00%), irregular payment of procuring agency (40.00%) and only 30 per cent of farm women faced the constraints of lack of transport facilities.

Conclusion :

The constraints faced by farm women while dairy farming were; high cost of quality concentrate feeds (98.00%) and high cost needed for purchasing crossbred animals and veterinary medicine (95.00%), followed by decline in performance of exotic animals due to the high temperature (94.00%), then low water profile and lack of irrigation facilities (85.00%), inadequacy of green fodder round the year (82.00%), non-remunerative price for milk (80.00%) and higher initial investment for proper housing and dairy animals (70.00%), other constraints were lack of knowledge about improved dairy farming practices.

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