



# Comparative importance and effectiveness of livestock services perceived by livestock farmers of Uttar Pradesh

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**ABSTRACT :** The present investigation was carried out in two districts of Uttar Pradesh namely Bareilly and Lakhimpur Kheri to study the farmer's perception towards the comparative importance and effectiveness of different livestock services delivered to them. A total of 120 respondents were interviewed using a well-structured interview schedule constructed on the basis of responses obtained in pilot study. These respondents were selected randomly from three blocks of each district. Collected data were analyzed using statistical tools. After analysis of data it was found that most of the respondents from Bareilly, Lakhimpur Kheri and in pooled sample, respectively had given first rank to gynecological and obstetrical treatment followed by second rank to medical treatment, followed by Artificial insemination, vaccination, wound dressing etc. In terms of effectiveness livestock services delivered to the livestock farmers were average followed by poor. Their perception about the relative importance of different livestock services and effectiveness will provide a clear view to government as well as policy makers to strengthen and replicate the livestock Service provisions to make them excellent in terms of their effectiveness.

**KEY WORDS :** Effectiveness, Livestock farmer, Livestock services, Perception, Strengthen

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## INTRODUCTION

The livestock sector supports the livelihood of over 200 million rural poor in India, especially for the rural vulnerable small, marginal farmers, landless and women folk, employing over 11 million of them in principal and 8 million in subsidiary status which is about 5 per cent of total working force in the country. The productive potential of animals depends crucially on the quality of animal health system and in this respect; India has a poor record (Ahuja and Sen, 2002). Although the country has emerged as the largest milk producer in the world, the quality of livestock support services remains poor. Livestock production is growing faster than any other agricultural sub-sector and by 2020; this subsector is predicted

to produce more than half of the total agricultural output in value terms in the country. Growth in demand for livestock products is primarily expected to emanate due to human population growth, increasing urbanization and rising income, since the demand for livestock products is income elastic (Bhalla and Hazell, 1997).

Majority of livestock farmers are only marginal farmers with an average herd size of 3.7 cattle and buffaloes. There is an inverse relationship between land and livestock holdings, excluding landless category (Ravishankar and Birthal, 1999), indicating better equity of farmers with respect to livestock holding *i.e.* distribution of livestock is more equitable than that of land, with the economically weaker 60 per cent of rural households owning 65 per cent of total milch animals, leading to a much more equitable distribution of gains from livestock production (Ahuja *et al.*, 2000, World Bank, 1999; LID, 1999; de Haan *et al.*, 2001).

India has one of the largest animal health infrastructure and technical expertise in the world. Ever since the beginning of planning era, efforts have been made to reduce economic losses due to mortality and morbidity through strengthening

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the infrastructure for animal health. The provision of animal health service in India is in the domain of public sector and many health service activities like quarantine, service during disease prevalence, quality control, research and extension are mainly responsibility of government (Singh *et al.*, 1998).

Livestock services around the world are usually delivered through a system composed of government institutions and to the greater extent, organization and individual belonging to private sector (Kleeman, 1999). Effective and efficient delivery of animal health and production service is considered as vital for gainful livestock development and hence efficient livestock delivery system has become a subject of rising concern to many national and international organizations including FAO. Before delivering the livestock services it is needed to evaluate the importance of that services for the farmers, that is why this study was conducted to analyze the comparative importance of different livestock services perceived by livestock farmers in that area.

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

Present study was carried out in Lakhimpur Kheri and Bareilly district of the Uttar Pradesh. Under this study three blocks from each district were selected randomly. Two villages from each block of both districts were selected. In this way total 6 blocks and 12 villages were selected for the study. From each village 10 livestock farmers were interviewed with the help of interview schedule keeping in view the objectives of the study. Thus total respondents for the study were 120 livestock farmers. Structured interview schedule was developed on the basis of objectives by incorporating all the variables required for the study. Before using the final interview schedule with the actual respondent, pre-testing of the schedule

was done with non sample respondent. On the basis of the experience gained, appropriate modifications were done to improve the clarity and understandability of the interview schedule.

After collection, data were compiled, tabulated and analyzed keeping in view the objective of the study.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A perusal of Table 1 shows that 86.6 per cent, 80 per cent and 83.3 per cent respondents from Bareilly, Lakhimpur Kheri and in pooled sample, respectively had given first rank to gynecological and obstetrical treatment followed by second rank (68.3 %, 71.7% and 70.0 %, respectively) to medical treatment, third rank (53.3%, 46.7 % and 50.0 %, respectively) to Artificial insemination, fourth rank (45.0 %, 43.3 % and 44.2 %, respectively) to vaccination, fifth rank (41.7 %, 38.3 % and 40.0 %, respectively) to wound dressing, sixth rank (38.3 %, 35.0 % and 36.7 %, respectively) to minor surgical treatment, seventh rank (25.0 %, 30.0 % and 26.7 %) to disbudding and castration, eighth rank to issuing of health certificate and ninth rank to post-mortem services in order of requirement of livestock services. This ranking of livestock services is reflecting the importance of service as well as the need of the livestock farmers as in psychology the perception of an individual about any service depends up on their experience and need of that service for individual.

Effectiveness of livestock services perceived by farmers could be observed from the Table 2, data revealed that majority (53.33 %) of the livestock farmers of Bareilly district rated the services as average in terms of their effectiveness followed by poor (26.67 %) and excellent (20.00 %) whereas in case of Lakhimpur Kheri district 50.00 per cent livestock farmers rated

**Table 1 : Distribution of respondents on the basis of main livestock services in order of importance**

Type of service	Frequency (Percentage)			Rank
	Bareilly (n=60)	Lakhimpur (n=60)	Pooled (n=120)	
Gynecological and obstetrical treatment	52 (86.7)	48 (80.0)	100 (83.33)	I
Medical treatment	41 (68.3)	43 (71.7)	84 (70.0)	II
Artificial insemination	32 (53.3)	28 (46.7)	60 (50.0)	III
Vaccination	27 (45.0)	26 (43.3)	53 (44.2)	IV
Wound dressing	25 (41.7)	23 (38.3)	48 (40.0)	V
Minor surgical treatment	23 (38.3)	21 (35.0)	44 (36.7)	VI
Disbudding and castration	15 (25.0)	18 (30.0)	32 (26.7)	VII
Issuing of health certificate	6 (10.0)	9 (15.0)	15 (12.5)	VIII
Post mortem	3 (5.0)	4 (6.7)	7 (5.8)	IX

**Table 2 : Distribution of respondents according to effectiveness of livestock services**

Category	Bareilly (n=60)	Lakhimpur (n=60)	Pooled (n=120)
Poor (16-38)	16 (26.67)	19 (31.67)	35 (29.17)
Average (38-60)	32 (53.33)	30 (50.00)	62 (51.67)
Excellent (60-80)	12 (20.00)	11 (18.33)	23 (19.16)

services as average in terms of their effectiveness followed by poor (31.67 %) and excellent (18.33 %). The table further indicated that in pooled data (51.67 %) of the livestock farmers rated the services as average in terms of their effectiveness followed by poor (29.17 %) and excellent (19.16 %).

### Conclusion :

The most important source of rural economy and income is livestock sector. It serves as a means of employment generation to millions of poor households across the country. Animal husbandry and dairying play an important role in national economy and in socio-economic development of the nation. Livestock diseases have been described as one of the major constraints to both economic development of country and well being of millions of poor livestock keepers. Livestock services delivered to the livestock farmers were average in effectiveness. So by strengthen the livestock service delivery system, specially preventive and curative services we can enhance the effectiveness of livestock services and can improve the status of livestock sector as well as farmers engaged in livestock rearing.

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