



# Socio personal profile of resource poor dairy farmers and constraints in dairying

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Agriculture is the backbone of our nation's economy with many urban, and most rural folk deriving their livelihoods directly or indirectly from agriculture. In our country where more than 70 per cent of the rural households directly depend upon agriculture and allied activities. Whereas as, dairying plays an important role in improving the socio-economic conditions of the farmers, 76 per cent of small/marginal and agriculture labourers are depending on dairying for their livelihood. (Karnataka Annual Plan Report 2014-15, an outline).

Owing to conducive climate and topography, animal husbandry and dairy sectors play a prominent socio-economic role in India. Farmers with marginal, small and semi-medium operational holdings (area less than 4 ha) own about 87.7 per cent of the livestock. Hence, development of livestock sector would be more inclusive (DADE, 2013-14). Dairy farming plays significant role in sustaining the rural livelihoods, although the phenomenon of farmers' suicides, migration, malnutrition and ill health are widely prevalent in rural India. Hence, animal husbandry is carried out by all farmers regardless of their

economic status and development of livestock sector would be more inclusive.

In this context, Animal husbandry and dairying is a major livelihood generating activity and livestock keeping is a livelihood option in rural India with smallholders and landless farmer's together control 75 per cent of country's livestock resources. Since the livestock wealth of India is mostly distributed among the marginal and small landholders, any growth in the sector would be beneficial to the poor people of rural India (FAO, 2009).

But there are many constraints faced by the dairy farmers which acts as barriers in the way of successful dairy farming. The constraints like identification of heat symptoms, availability of AI services at door step, low conception rate, lack of regular veterinary services, high cost of cattle feed, non-availability of green fodder, low literacy level, inadequate knowledge about the balanced feeding are the major constraints in dairying. Based on the assumption that the dairy farmers in kolar district were facing the crucial hindrance in dairying, the present research the present research was taken insight into the constraints.

Purposive sampling technique was used for selecting Kolar and Srinivaspura taluk of Kolar district on the basis of increased rate of prospective dairying, considering Kolar taluk high milk production and procurement and Srinivaspura as low milk production through the Kolar-Chickballapura Co-operative Milk Union Limited. The

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study was conducted in the present year. Two villages in each block were selected according to the percentage of the resource poor dairy farmers present in the village who belong to landless and marginal (< 1 ac of land) category of farmers, with a total of 120 respondents comprising 30 respondents in each village. A pretested semi structured interview schedule was used to collect the data by personal dialogue method. The information collected through interview schedule was analyzed through suitable statistical tools like frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation.

A resource-poor farm family is defined as one whose resources of land, water, labour and capital do not currently permit a decent and secure family livelihood. Such families include many though not all of those with marginal (0-1 ha) and small (1-2 ha) farm holdings and many others with more than 2 ha but whose land is infertile, vulnerable to floods or erosion, or subject to low and unreliable rainfall (Chambers and Ghildyal, 1984). For the purpose of study Resource poor farm family is operationalized as small and prone to higher degree of risk, who have limited access to land and capital resources and individuals not having a secure family livelihood. Resource poor dairy farmer include marginal and landless laborers who will have meagre amount from land and keep dairy animals for their livelihood and solely depend on dairy farming. The socio-personal characteristics of resource poor dairy farmers was studied and the results are presented in Table 1. The study revealed that almost half (48.33%) of the respondents were of middle aged and their age ranging from 36 to 50 years followed by the category of old (>50 yrs) and young (<35 yrs) which accounts for 34.17 and 17.50 per cent, respectively due to the reason that middle aged people involved in dairy practices to earn livelihood for their families. The findings are in conformity with the findings of Kumar (2011); Verma (2012); Porchezhiyan (2013). Further the study showed that three-fourth (75.00%) of the male respondents had dairy farms whereas only 25 per cent female respondents had dairy farm. It is due to fact that males were taken the leadership activities in running the dairy farm because the main source of income was from dairying only. The finding is in line with the result of Manivannan (2008) and Biwott and Chepchumba (2016) who showed male respondents were in more number in dairy farming.

The study indicated that majority of the respondents were illiterate (39.17%) followed by matriculation

**Table 1: Socio-personal profile of dairy farmers (n=120)**

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	<b>Age in years</b>		
	Young (Upto 35)	21	17.50
	Middle (36-50)	58	48.33
	Old (Above 50)	41	34.17
2.	<b>Gender</b>		
	Male	90	75.00
	Female	30	25.00
3.	<b>Education</b>		
	Illiterate	47	39.17
	Can read	11	9.17
	Can read and write	7	5.83
	Primary	12	10.00
	Middle	14	11.67
	Matriculation	24	20.00
	Intermediate and above	5	4.17
4.	<b>Family type</b>		
	Nuclear	46	38.33
	Joint	74	61.67
5.	<b>Family size (Range: 3-8)</b>		
	Small (<3)	6	5.00
	Medium(3-6)	105	87.50
	Large( >6)	9	7.50
6.	<b>Occupation</b>		
	Dairy + Labour	55	45.83
	Dairy +Agriculture and allied activities	36	30.00
	Dairy + other activities	29	24.17
7.	<b>Experience in dairying (in years)</b>		
	Less than 9	17	14.17
	9 to 23	79	65.83
	More than 23	24	20.00

(20.00%), middle school (11.67%), primary (10.00%), can read (9.17%), can read and write (5.83%) and Intermediate and above (4.17%), respectively. The finding is in line with the finding of Devaki *et al.* (2015) who noticed that large number of the respondents were illiterate. The study exhibited that large number of the respondents (61.67%) had joint type family, followed by 38.33 per cent of the respondents had nuclear type family since, joint family is more prominent only in rural areas. The findings are in opposition with findings of Porchezhiyan (2013). Regarding family size study found that majority (87.50%) of the respondents had medium

family size (3-6 family members) followed by large family size (7.50%) and small family size (5.00%), respectively due to the increasing awareness among the people about the ill-effect of growing population such as high expenses required for mere survival as well as for basic needs like good education for kids, standard of living and shrinking resources as well. Midhun (2009); Sathyanarayan and Jagadeeswary (2010) and Gopi (2012) also reported similar findings. The study showed that majority (45.83%) had occupation of Dairy + daily labour, followed by Dairy + agriculture and allied activities (30.00%) and Dairy + other job activities (24.17%), respectively. It indicates

that dairying was serving as the main occupation along with the subsidiary activities for winning a daily bread. Similar findings were reported by Sah (2005). Regarding experience in dairying majority (65.83%) of the farmers have medium experience in dairying, followed by high and low experience in dairying 20.00 per cent and 14.17 per cent, respectively. Gaikwad (2010) and Karthikeyan (2013) reported the similar findings who reported that majority of the respondents has medium experience in dairying.

Constraints faced by the dairy farmers were recorded and presented in the Table 2. Constraints were

Table 2 : Constraints faced by the farmers			(n=120)
Sr.No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage
1.	<b>Breeding constraints</b>		
	Identification of heat symptoms	74	61.67
	Timely availability of AI services	82	68.33
	Lack of regular veterinary services	90	75.00
	Repeat breeding / reproductive problems	60	50.00
2.	<b>Health care constraints</b>		
	Availability of veterinary medicines	57	47.50
	Availability of vaccines	59	49.17
	Timely vaccination for preventive measures	47	39.16
	Costly medicine and vaccination charges	74	61.67
3.	<b>Feeding constraints</b>		
	High cost of cattle feed	118	98.33
	Non-availability of subsidized feed, fodder and other supplements	49	40.83
	Non-availability of the green fodder round the year	120	100
	Lack of awareness about recommended feeding practices	77	64.17
4.	<b>Marketing constraints</b>		
	Low procurement price for milk	37	30.83
	Irregularity / delay in payment	12	10.00
	Unsuitable timings of milk collection	26	21.67
	Milk rejection due to mal-practices	26	21.67
5.	<b>Know-how and accessibility constraints</b>		
	Lack of awareness about developmental programmes and schemes	68	56.67
	Difficulty in acquiring knowledge and skills	60	50.00
	Accessibility to officials and organizations	59	49.17
	Target group oriented development programmes	45	37.50
6.	<b>Personal constraints</b>		
	Low literacy level	83	69.17
	Lack of communication skills	48	40.00
	Lack of training	66	55.00
	Lack of rewards and recognition	25	20.83
	Lack of aptitude for work	60	50.00

categorized under different heads like breeding, health care, feeding, marketing and personal constraints, accordingly responses was recorded. Here categorization is made but responses were collected as yes or no and coded 1 and 0 for each response comprising 25 constraints. Among breeding constraints majority of them responded (75.00%) lack of regular veterinary services is the major constraint following timely availability of AI services (68.33%), identification of heat symptoms (61.67%), repeat breeding / reproductive problems (50.00%) due to limited availability of veterinary facilities and personnel and low level of awareness and training among the farmers about dairy animal management practices. The findings are in conformity with the findings of Rathore *et al.* (2009); Subhadra *et al.* (2009); Jaya Varathan *et al.* (2012); Mohapatra *et al.* (2012); Porchezhiyan (2013) and Kunte *et al.* (2015).

Among the health care constraints majority of the respondents reported costly medicines (61.61%) as major constraint due to resource poor condition. Biradar (2009) and Rathod (2012) reported the similar findings. Followed by availability of medicines (47.50%), vaccines (49.17%) due to lack of pharmaceutical shops in the villages and timely vaccination for preventive measures (39.16%), respectively. The study is in line with the findings of Biradar (2009) and Saravana Kumar (2006).

The study revealed that complete number of the respondents (100 %) identified non- availability of the green fodder round the year as the major constraint in the area as the selected district is completely rainfed and also the average rainfall is low (about 650 mm) in the district. The finding is in line with the Rathod *et al.* (2011); Sonpasare *et al.* (2011) and Manjunatha (2014). Followed by high cost of cattle feed (98.33%) complete number of the respondents (100 %) identified non- availability of the green fodder round the year as the major constraint in the area as the selected district is completely rainfed and also the average rainfall is low (about 650 mm) in the district. The finding is in line with the Rathod *et al.* (2011); Sonpasare *et al.* (2011) and Manjunatha (2014). Followed by high cost of cattle feed. The findings are in agreement with the findings of Bulbuli *et al.* (2015). About 65 per cent of the farmers reported that lack of awareness about recommended feeding practices which was in line with the findings of Turkson (2008). Followed by non-availability of subsidized feed, fodder and other supplements is the constraint reported by 40.83 per cent of the farmers among the constraints as the subsidy facility

is available only through the co-operative and government but not from the private dairies.

In the district marketing constraints were reported less than 50.00 per cent of the farmers. Unsuitable timings of milk collection (21.67%) and milk rejection due to malpractices (21.67%) were reported by the farmers due to low fat content in milk. Rathod (2011) also reported the similar findings. Followed by low procurement price for milk (30.83%) and irregularity or delay in payment (10.00%) were perceived as the constraint by less number of the farmers and this category of the farmers were belonging to the private dairy pourer members who were affecting by this. This finding is in agreement with the findings of Mugerwa *et al.* (2014) who reported unstable price of the milk reported as the second major constraint in his study.

Among the know-how and accessibility of the constraints majority (56.67%) of them responded lack of awareness about developmental programmes and schemes is the major constraint. The present study is in line with the findings of Sasidhar *et al.* (2001). Followed by difficulty in acquiring knowledge and skills (50.00%), accessibility to officials and organizations (49.17%), target group oriented development programmes (37.50%), respectively.

Among the personal constraints majority (69.17%) of the respondents reported that low literacy level is the major constraint followed by lack of training (55.00%), lack of aptitude for work (50.00%), lack of communication skills (40.00%), respectively. As the people live in the rural area and due to resource poor condition farmers are possessing the low literacy level but farmers perceive trainings should be given to this particular group so that they can cope up with the above hindering factors which are in agreement with the findings of Anand *et al.* (2012).

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