

Research Article

Socio-economic characteristics and suggestions of the women members of farmers- scientists forum in dairy farming

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SUMMARY : The Kolhapur district is one of the unique district of Maharashtra having fertile land and high potentialities for the dairy development. There are, five major co-operative milk unions working in the Kolhapur district having total milk collection are 15-lack lits/day. In this district, the efforts of women contribute a lot in the production of milk. Hence, it is imperative to study the dairy occupation run by women farmers. The study was undertaken in purposively selected Kolhapur district of the Maharashtra State in the year 2008-2009. All the 60 women members of the Farmers-Scientists Forum working under National Agricultural Research Project, Shenda Park, Kolhapur were treated as a sample of the study. More than half of the respondents (55.00 %) having age from 36 to 50 years and secondary education. Majority (61.67 %) of the respondents are having medium sized family. Majority (68.34%) of the respondents are having milch animals up to 3. 26.67 per cent respondents are having H.F. breed of cow and 75.00 per cent of them had Pandharpuri breed of buffalo. A semen of Pandharpuri bull should be made available at village level (58.33 %) is the major suggestion.

KEY WORDS :

Socio-economic characteristics, Suggestions, Dairy farming

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

At National or International level dairy as a subsidiary occupation has proved its significant role and contribution in the economy not only for the farming community but also the national economy of various countries. Dairy is one of the important occupations in the rural areas. It provides a subsidiary occupation to the rural people; relieves them of the hazards of under employment to some extent; provides a balanced food to the growing generation and flow of regular income to the farmers.

The Kolhapur district is one of the unique district of Maharashtra having fertile land and high potentialities for the dairy development. There are five major co-operative milk unions working in the Kolhapur district having total milk collection are 15-lack lits/day. In this district,

the efforts of women contribute a lot in the production of milk. Hence, it is imperative to study the dairy occupation run by women farmers. The women Farmers-Scientists Forum was started at NARP, Shenda Park, Kolhapur from January 2006 under Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, Dist. Ahmednagar. All 60 women members of the Farmers-Scientists Forum are engaged in dairy business. Hence, the present study was undertaken to study the personal and socio-economic characteristics of the women members of Farmers - Scientists Forum and the suggestions made by them for the betterment of the dairy farming.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The study was undertaken in purposively selected Kolhapur district of the Maharashtra

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State in the year 2008-2009. All the 60 women members of the Farmers-Scientists Forum working under National Agricultural Research Project, Shenda Park, Kolhapur were treated as a sample of the study. The data was collected personally with the help of structured interview schedule. The same was analyzed and is presented in the table under observation and analysis.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results of the present study as well as relevant discussions have been presented under following sub heads:

Personal and socio-economic characteristics of the women members of farmers - scientists forum:

From Table 1, it is observed that, more than half of the respondents (55.00 %) having age from 36 to 50 years and secondary education. Majority (61.67 %) of the respondents are having medium sized family and above 10 years experience of dairy farming (51.67 %). In case of land

holding, 60.00 per cent of the respondents having 1 to 2 ha. of land in possession and annual income of Rs. 1 to 2 lack (53.34 %).

Availability of milch animals:

The information regarding the availability of milch animals with the women dairy farmers under study has been presented in the Table 2.

Table 2 reveals that majority (68.34 %) of the respondents are having milch animals up to 3. Only 18.33 percent of the respondents had 4 to 6 milch animals.

Availability of breeds with the dairy farmers:

The information regarding the availability of breeds with the women dairy farmers under study has been presented in the Table 3.

Table 3 reveals that 26.67 per cent respondents are having H.F. breed of cow and 75.00 per cent of them had Pandharpuri breed of buffalo.

Table 1 : Distribution of the respondents according to their personal and socio-economic characteristics

Sr. No.	Characteristics	No. of respondents (n=60)	Per cent
1.	Age		
	Upto 35 years	21	35.00
	36 to 50 years	33	55.00
	Above 51 years	6	10.00
2.	Education		
	Primary (Upto 4 th Std.)	12	20.00
	Secondary (5 th to 10 th Std.)	33	55.00
	College (Above 11 th Std.)	15	25.00
3.	Size of family		
	Small (Upto 5 members)	15	25.00
	Medium (6 to 9 members)	37	61.67
	Large (9 and above members)	08	13.33
4.	Experience in dairy farming		
	Upto 5 years	12	20.00
	5 to 10 years	17	28.33
	Above 10 years	31	51.67
5.	Land holding		
	Upto 1 ha.	16	26.67
	1 to 2 ha.	36	60.00
	Above 2 ha.	08	13.33
6.	Annual income		
	Upto Rs.1.00 lakh	17	28.33
	Rs.1.1 to 2 lakh	32	53.34
	Above 2 lakh	11	18.33

Table 2: Availability of milch animals

Sr. No.	Availability of milch animals	No. of respondents (n=60)	Per cent
1.	Up to 3 animals	41	68.34
2.	4 to 6 animals	11	18.33
3.	7 and above animals	08	13.33

Table 3: Availability of breeds with the respondents

Sr. No.	Breed	No. of respondents (n=60)	Per cent
1.	Cow		
	Jersey	07	11.66
	H. F.	16	26.67
2.	Non-descript	13	21.67
	Buffalo		
	Pandharpuri	45	75.00
	Surti	09	15.00
	Mehasana	14	23.33
	Murrha	18	30.00
	Jafarabadi	02	03.33

Table 4 : Distribution of the respondents according to their suggestions

Sr. No.	Suggestion made	No. of respondents (n=60)	Per cent
1.	A semen of Pandharpuri bull should be made available at village level	35	58.33
2.	Milk price should be increased	37	61.67
3.	Cost of feeds should be reduced	41	68.33
4.	Veterinary facilities at village level should be strengthened	27	45.00
5.	Credit facility should be made available with no interest	43	71.67

Suggestions made by the respondents for betterment of dairy farming:

The information in respect of suggestions made by the respondents for the betterment of dairy farming is presented in Table 4.

Table 4 revealed that, the suggestions made by the respondents were, credit facility should be made available with no interest (71.67 %), cost of feeds should be reduced (68.33 %), milk price should be increased (61.67 %) and a semen of Pandharpuri bull should be made available at village level (58.33 %).

Conclusion:

It was observed that more than half of the respondents (55.00 %) were 36 to 50 years old, having medium sized family (61.67 %) and above 10 years experience of dairy farming (51.67 %). Majority (60.00 %) of them owned 1 to 2 ha of land and annual income of Rs. 1 to 2 lack (53.34 %).

Majority (68.34 %) of the respondents having up to 3 milch animals, 75.00 per cent of them had Pandharpuri buffalo breed and H.F. cow (26.67 %).

The major suggestions made by the respondents were, credit facility should be made available with no interest (71.67 %) cost of feeds should be reduced (68.33 %), milk price should be increased (61.67 %) and a semen of Pandharpuri buffalo bull may be made available at village level (58.33 %).

Recommendation:

A semen of Pandharpuri bull may be made available to

the members of Farmers-Scientist Forum at village level.

Non-descript cows of the women dairy farmers may be replaced by high yielding cows.

Credit facility should be made available with minimum interest as per the need of the women dairy farmers.

Veterinary facilities at village level may be strengthened.

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