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Research Note

FARMERS OPINION ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGIES

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Sustainability is defind as the ability of an agro-eco-system to maintain productivity when subjected to a major disturbing force. According to Nicodemus (1992), sustainability is the successful management of resources to satisfy changing human needs while maintaining or enhancing the quality of environment and conserving natural resouces. Sustainability in the present study has been operationalised as using the natural resouces for meeting the present needs without jeopardizing the future potenial.

In over five decades of research in crop and animal sciences, many useful technologies have been generated by the research institutes and state agricultural universities, which have been transferred to the farmers to enhance the crop and livestock production and productivity. However, technologies available with research system have not been fully percolated down and reached to the farmers and still there exists a wide gap between the production potentials of technologies and performance at farmers' fields. The general criticism is that the technologies generated are not appropriate, sustainable and suiting to farmers' micro-situations or environment. There is a need to assess and refine them, so these suit to their environment and thus, are widely accepted and adopted by them.

Therefore, the present study was undertaken to know the lievestock owners' opinion regarding the sustainability of livestock production technologies.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh. Six villages viz., Mudia ahemad nagar, Mohanpur, Indira nagar, Aspura, Kalapur and Khata from Bareilly district were selected purposively owing to their nearness to the research institute. A total of 200 livestock owners from a cluster of six villages were purposively selected, who were using the animal husbandary technologies since last five years. These livestock owners were asked to provide their opinion regarding the sustainability of lievestock production technologies. The opinion obtained were then ranked on the basis of frequency of a particular statement.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table-1 shows the opinion of livestock owners regarding the sustainable livestock production technologies. From the table, it is clear that technologies which were simple to use got the rank-I and were opined by majority of the livestock owners to be sustainable. Technologies which were cheap and easily procurable were also viewed as sustainable by most of the livestock owners and this view got the IInd rank.

According to one opinion " availability of market facilities for livestock and livestock production" was an important indicator of sustainability and got the IIIrd rank. A number of other opinions on sustainable livestock production technologies were provided by the

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livestock owners. Some felt that our traditional farming system and indigenous technical knowledge (ITK) were more sustainable than the new emerging technologies and hence, should be encouraged. A few opined that farmers' or end users should be included in the technology development process to make them more sustainable. Some livestock owners suggested that the technologies should be disseminated without bias to all the farmers. A new idea of organizing " technology dissemination camps" once a month at a public place was suggested as an effective method to make technology sustainable by a number of farmers.

Table 1: Farmers opinion about sustainability of livestock production technologies

Sl.	Opinion	Frequency	Rank
1.	Technologies should be cheap, so that we farmers are able to procure easily.	164	II
2.	Technologies should be disseminated only after proper field testing and refinement.	109	VIII
3.	Market facilities should be available for livestock and livestock production.	161	III
4.	Our traditional farming systems and indigenous technical knowledge (ITK) were more sustainable and shoule be encouraged.	159	IV
5.	Before dissemination of technologies participation of the end users (farmers) should be included in technology development.	157	V
6.	Technologies should be simple in use.	168	I
7.	Technology dissemination service should reach to all the farmers and biasness of extension system towards well off and progressive farmers must be avoided.	151	VI
8.	"Technology Dissemination Camps" should be arranged once a month at a public place.	149	VII
9.	Technology should be free from side-effects.	98	IX

Dissemination of technology after proper field testing and refinerment was another suggestion to make our livestock production technologies sustainable. Some of the livestock owners were of the view that a livestock production technology could be sustainable only if it is free from side effects, i.e., it does not harm the animal or the surrouding environment in any manner.

CONCLUSION

Sustainability means the ability of an agro-eco-system to maintain productivity when subjected to a major disturbing force. Our research system has developed several livestock production technologies among which some are sustainable and some are not. It is very necessary that we develop only such technologies which are sustainable and will not harm our environment. Farmers' views on sustainability of livestock production technologies

were obtained in this study and according to the results it is clear that only simple, cheap and easily procurable technologies will be sustainable. They have also given their views on how the technologies can be made sustainable. These views include organisation of technology dissemination camps, including end users in technology development process, unbiased dissemination of technology and field testing and refinement of technologies before making them available for the livestock owners. Such suggestions are very important and should be kept in mind by the researcher and extension workers while developing and disseminating the livestock production technologies to make them more sustainable.

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