

Research Note :

VETERINARY HEALTHCARE CAMPS IN VILLAGES; IT'S SCOPE AND IMPORTANCE IN TRANSFERRING DAIRY PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGIES

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Animal Husbandry and Dairy Farming considered to be the two major sources of livelihood in rural India. The maximum milk yield potential of dairy animals is yet to be exploited in our country, it is mainly due to poor health care management of dairy animals by majority of the dairy farmers. The average milk production of dairy animals in India is 987 kg/lactation/animal compared to the world average of 2038 kg/lactation/animal. The gap in milk yield is due to lack of awareness, poor scientific knowledge of the dairy farmers regarding health care and management aspects of dairy animals, improper feeding, incidence of infectious and contagious diseases due to poor hygienic conditions in the cattle shed etc. The KVK of NDRI, Karnal is organising regular one day Animal Health Care Camps (AHCC) in the villages of Karnal District. The camps are season oriented and organised based on the needs of the dairy farmers in the particular village. The main objective of the AHC camps is to create awareness regarding the importance of effective Animal health Care and Management and its role in enhancement of milk production. A study was conducted during the AHC camps with the following objectives.

- (i) To study the specific needs of the dairy farmers related to health care and management of dairy animals.
- (ii) To find out the important health problems of dairy animals in the particular area.

The dairy farmers were asked to express their specific needs in management of dairy animals; their response presented in the above table reveal that, cent percent of the respondents expressed that pregnancy diagnosis, Artificial insemination at the

Sr. No.	Specific needs of the farmers	Frequency (N=200)	Percentage
12.	Regular and periodical guidance by veterinary or dairy experts	200	100
13.	General treatment for dairy animals	100	50
14.	Practical training on Animal Health Care and Management	163	81.5
15.	Veterinary Hospital facility for the particular area	200	100
16.	Practical training on preparation of balanced, concentrated animal feeds	103	51.5
17.	Practical training on clean milk production	73	36.5
18.	Supply of good quality, improved fodder seeds	141	70.5
19.	Regular contact or visit by Extension functionaries	181	90.5
20.	Supply of scientific, technical literature related to Animal health Care and Dairy Production in local or regional language	97	48.5

right time, timely and regular supply of good quality semen, veterinary hospital for the particular area and guidance from veterinary experts at regular intervals as their immediate and specific needs. More than ninety percent of the dairy farmers felt that treatment for infertility in dairy animals (97.5 percent) supply of good quality medicines at substantial rates (95.0 percent), control of endo-parasites (95.0 percent), supply of good quality mineral mixtures (92.5 percent), Deworming of dairy animals (92.0 percent) and regular contact by veterinary extension functionaries (90.5 percent) are the other major concern. Major

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ity of the respondents revealed that regular and periodical consultancy from veterinary experts for Animal health Care (84.0 percent), vaccination for calves (73.0 percent), and supply of good quality seeds of improved fodder varieties as their needs' It was followed by practical training on preparation on balanced and concentrated animal feeds (51.5 percent), general treatment of dairy animals (50.0 percent) and supply of literature related to Animal health-Care and dairy farming in regional of local language.

Table 2. Important Health Problems of Dairy Animals

Sr. No.	Problems	Frequency (N=200)	Percentage
1.	Infertility (Reproduction problems) in dairy animals	183	91.5
2.	Repeat breeding in dairy animals	177	88.5
3.	External injuries to dairy animals	45	22.5
4.	Poor intake of dry fodders during summer	136	68
5.	Infection of Endo-parasites	159	79.5
6.	Ecto-parasites during summer season	188	94
7.	General weakness during summer season	84	42
8.	Infectious & contagious diseases	103	51.5
9.	Low feed consumption	69	34.5
10.	Mastitis	47	23.5
11.	Indigestion problem in dairy animals	113	56.5
12.	Anoestrous problem in dairy animals	181	90.5
13.	Proleptis	180	90
14.	Diarrhea in dairy animals	79	39.5
15.	Hormonal imbalance in dairy animals	108	54
16.	Nutritional deficiencies in dairy animals	116	58

From the response of dairy farmers regarding important health problems of dairy animals, as per their experience and observations it was clear that, the major health problems are infection of ecto-parasites like Ticks, flies and mites etc. (94.0 percent), infertility problems in dairy animals (91.5 percent), Anoestrous in dairy animals (90.5 percent) and proleptis (90.0 percent). Nearly ninety percent of the respondents experienced that repeat breeding in dairy animals (88.5 percent) and infection of ecto-parasites (79.5 percent) were the other major health problems leads to poor milk yield.

It was followed by poor intake of dry fodders during summer season (68.0 percent), nutritional deficiency in dairy animals (58.0 percent), indigestion problems in dairy animal (56.5 percent), Hormonal imbalance in dairy animals' (54.0 percent), and infectious and/or contagious diseases (51.5 percent).

Table 3. Constraints faced by the dairy farmers while adopting recommended Animal Health Care and Management practices

Sr. No.	Constraints	Frequency (n=200)	Percentage
1.	High cost of green fodder	84	42
2.	Poor quality of commercial concentrates	66	33
3.	Lack of scientific and technical knowledge about health care aspects of dairy animals	104	52
4.	Lack of practical training regarding general treatment of dairy animals	113	56.5
5.	Poor financial and material resources	123	61.5
6.	Lack of guidance from Veterinary Extension functionaries	142	71.0
7.	High cost of veterinary medicines	136	68
8.	High cost of commercial concentrates	140	70
9.	Adulteration in commercial concentrates	153	76.5
10.	Lack of time (due to involvement in other farm operations)	77	38.5
11.	Less of frequent visits by the Veterinary Extension functionaries.	148	90
12.	Non-remunerative price for milk	180	90
13.	Non-availability of green fodders during off season	112	56
14.	Absence of land resources for cultivation of green fodder.	116	58
15.	Lack of family support	81	40.5
16.	Non-availability of quality semen	161	80.5
17.	Poor follow up of Veterinary and Dairy Extension activities by the Central and State Govt. agencies	198	99
18.	High cost of dairy animals	169	84.5
19.	Lack of transport facilities	76	38
20.	Non-availability of labour of look after the dairy animals	81	40.5

From the above table, it is clear that the major constraints faced by the dairy farmers were poor follow up of veterinary extension activities by the central and State Govt. agencies involved in dairy and cattle development programmes (99.0 percent), non-remunerative price for milk (90.0 percent), high cost of dairy animals (84.5 percent) and non-availability of quality semen (80.5 percent).

Nearly three fourth of the dairy farmers expressed that adulteration in concentrated cattle feeds (76.5 percent), poor extension agency contact (74 percent), lack of guidance from veterinary/dairy experts of both Central and State Govt. agencies (71 percent) followed by high cost of concentrated commercial feeds (90.0 percent).

More than fifty percent of the respondents clearly mentioned that poor financial and material resources (61.5 percent), high cost of veterinary medicines (68.0 percent), essences of land resources for cultivation of fodder crops (58.0 percent), lack of practical training regarding general treatment of dairy animals (56.5 percent), non-availability of green fodder during summer season (56.0 percent) and lack of scientific and technical knowledge about health care aspects of dairy animals (52.0 percent).

CONCLUSION

The Animal Health Care Camps organised by KVK of NDRI in the villages provided lot of opportunities to the farmers and experts to interact with each other. The dairy farmers benefited with free inputs like, medicines, mineral mixtures, Artificial Insemination and free consultancy in

Animal Health Care Management and dairy farming etc.

The dairy farmers expressed that, pregnancy diagnosis and artificial insemination, supply of good quality semen, veterinary hospital for the particular area, regular guidance from veterinary and dairy experts treatment for infertility, anoestrous and repeat breeding in dairy animals, supply of good quality veterinary inputs like medicines, mineral mixtures and fodder seeds etc. at substantial rates as their major specific needs to maintain the health standard as well as production level of their dairy animals.

Reproductive disorder in dairy animals, infection of ecto and endo-parasites were the major problems faced by the farmers in management of dairy animals.

The major constraints felt by the dairy farmers revealed that, poor follow-up of veterinary/dairy extension activities by the Central and State Govt. agencies, non-remunerative price for milk, high cost of milch animals, non-availability of quality semen, adulteration or poor quality of commercial concentrates and poor extension agency contact.

To improve the production potential of the dairy animals, the issues raised by the dairy farmers may be considered with more attention by which, convincing the farmers to adopt recommended technologies in health care and management. of dairy animals will be much easier. The Central may take concrete efforts and State Govt. agencies for regular and periodical follow up of ongoing Veterinary and Dairy extension activities in the villages so that problems faced by the dairy farmers can be solved at regular intervals.

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