A STUDY ON CONSTRAINTS AND SUGGESTIONS REGARDING ADOPTION OF IMPROVED ANIMAL HUSBANDRY PRACTICES IN CHHATTISGARH PLAINS

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Animal husbandry practices have a crucial role to play in Indian economy. After several year of planning, the picture in the area of milk production is not very much encouraging. It is a fact that milk production is carried out in a traditional way. There is a considerable gap between the present practice of dairy farmers and available animal husbandry technology. It is mainly because of nondescript of feed and fodder resources and following improper management practices (Shinde et al. 1998). This posses a serious problem to dairy industry. The recent advances in animal husbandry practices have demonstrated that scientist management and high yielding breeds have great potential for increasing the milk production. Animal husbandry extension services in Chhattisgarh state today have a large number of professional extension workers at district, block and village level. Several animal husbandry development programmes to help dairy farmers to adopt improved practices are in operation throughout the state still there exists a wide gap between the technology available at the research and its adoption particularly in animal rearing. In order to assess the constraints faced by dairy farmers and their suggestions given by respondents in improving the milk production in the state, the present study was undertaken with the following objectives:

1. To find out the relationship between the socio economic characteristics and adoption of improved animal husbandry practices.
2. To find out the constraints of cattle farmers and ways to overcome these problems for increasing the adoption level.

METHODOLOGY

A study was undertaken in Dharsiwa block of Raipur district of Chhattisgarh state. Dharsiwa block was purposively selected because dairy farming in concentrated in this block as compared to other blocks. For the selection of villages a stratified random sampling method was followed and whole block was divided into three strata, according to the distance from the block headquarters. Ten percent RAEO circle from each stratum were selected randomly. Then 10 per cent farmers (who have five or more milch animals) from each RAEO circle were selected randomly as respondents, which make a total of 106.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

(A) Relationship between the socio economic characteristics and adoption of improved animal husbandry practices–Coefficient of correlation between the in dependent variable and the adoption of improved animal husbandry practices is shown in the Table 1. It reveals that the age and family type are negatively correlated with the improved animal husbandry practices in which age is significant at 1 per cent level. Some other independent variables like education, knowledge, total number of animal shed were found to be positively significantly (1% level) correlated with the adoption of improved animal husbandry practices while other variables like land holding, social participation, family type, family size and caste was found not significantly correlated with the adoption of improved animal husbandry practices. John (1974) observed that the no

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significant relationship between age, family size and milk production, but education of the respondents was highly associated with milk production.

Table 1. Coefficient of correlation between the socioeconomic characteristics and adoption of improved animal husbandry practices

Variable Code	Independent variables	'r' value
X1	Age	-0.301**
X2	Education	0.461**
X3	Caste	0.059
X4	Family type	-0.001
X5	Family size	0.097
X6	Social participation	0.153
X7	Land holding	0.534**
X8	Annual income	0.242*
X9	Animal Shed	0.437**
X10	Total No. of animals	0.363**
X11	Knowledge of improved animal	0.930**

** Significant at 0.01 *Significant at 0.5 level

(B) Constraints faced by the respondents– Practice wise constraints given in the Table 2. reveals that the majority of respondents i.e. 79.24 per cent felt that improved feed is costly and green fodder is also not adequately available especially in the summer season for the animal feed. Also 37.73 per cent respondents were not using improving feeding due to lack of knowledge about the same. Similar findings were also reported by Dubey and Singh (1975). Some other constraints like lack of good quality feed in the market, lack of availability of improved animal feed, lack of knowledge etc. were also found as important

Table 2. Constraints as perceived by the dairy farmers regarding adoption of improved Animal husbandry practices (n = 106)

S. No.	Constraints related to	No. of respon-dents	Per-centage
A	**Improved Feeding**		
1.	Lack of green fodder in the village	42	39.62
2	Improved feed is costly	42	39.62
3.	Lack of knowledge about the balanced of animals	40	37.73
4.	Lack of knowledge about the preservation the fodder (hay and silage)	34	32.07
5.	Green fodder like Berseem are costly and lack of its availability	30	28.30
6.	Lack of good quality feed in the market	12	11.32
B.	**Improved breeding**		
1.	High cost of improved animals	57	53.77
2.	Artificial insemination facilities are not available	46	43.39
3.	Unfavourable climate for exotic breeds	41	38.67
4.	Non availability of improved breeding bull	35	33.01
5.	Non availability of semen for AI timely	28	26.41
6.	Improved breeds management are costly	21	19.81
C.	**Disease control**		
1.	Lack of veterinary hospital in the village	71	66.98
2.	Lack of knowledge	53	50.00
3.	Fees of veterinary doctor is too much	40	37.73
4.	Medicines are costly	35	33.01
5.	Improved breeds are most susceptible the various infection and disease	29	27.36
D.	**Marketing**		
1.	Lack of proper marketing facilities of animal produces	52	49.05
2.	Low price of milk in the village	52	49.05
3.	Lack of milk co-operative societies in the village	45	42.45
4.	Lack of conveyance facilities in the village	35	33.01
5.	Difficulties in purchasing and selling of improved animals due to lack of nearby animal fairs	25	23.58
6.	Institutional credit are not easily available specially for dairying	21	19.81
E.	**Management**		
1.	Proper cleaning of animal shed is difficult due to its traditional design	56	52.83
2.	There is no facility to save the animal during winter and rainy season	47	44.33
3.	Low economic status	47	44.33
4.	Lack of clean water in sufficient quantity around the year	41	38.68
5.	Lack of knowledge about proper management of animals	31	29.24
6.	Lack of encouragement from the Government for dairy farming	20	18.86

constraints faced by a good number of respondents. About 53.77 and 43.39 per cent respondents respectively reported that the improved animal was costly and artificial insemination facilities were not available for improving the existing breeds of animals. The 38.67 per cent respondents uttered that the climatic condition of this region is not suitable for exotic breed of animals. Non-availability of improved breeding bull, semen for timely artificial

insemination and costly nature of improved breed management were the constraints faced by the 33.01, 26.41 and 19.81 per cent respondents, respectively. Regarding the adoption of improved disease control measure the constraints like lack of veterinary hospital and the 66.98 and 50 per cent respondents reported lack of knowledge respectively. The 33.73 and 33.01 per cent respondents reported that veterinary doctor fee is too much and costly medicines of animals are the inhibitors for adopting the improved disease control practices. Also 27.36 per cent respondents perceived that improved breeds are more susceptible to the disease. The problems of respondents regarding the marketing facilities is also shown in the above table which shows that lack of proper marketing facilities of animals produce is a constraints to them while 49.05 and 42.45 per cent respondents faced the constraints of low price of milk in the village and lack of milk cooperative societies in the village respectively. Lack of appropriate convenience facilities, and difficulties in institutional credit perceived by the 33.01 and 19.81 respondent's respectively as a constraint. With regards to management practices, 52.83 per cent respondents feel that proper cleaning and maintenance of existing traditionally designed animal sheds are not possible. Lack of facilities to save the animals from extreme winter and summer and low economic status of dairy farmer were the other constraints faced by 43.33 per cent (each) respondents respectively. Lack of clean water supply for animal husbandry purposes and lack of knowledge for better management of animals were faced by the 38.68 and 29.24 per cent respondents, respectively.(Similar findings were also reported by Gill and Singh 1977).

Suggestion perceived by the respondents–It is evident from the Table-3 that majority of dairy farmers (65.09%) suggested that improved breeding bull should be provided by the Government at panchayat level for up gradation of local breeds. Fifty per cent respondents perceived the need of training and appropriate information about the modern methods of animal husbandry. Timely and locally availability of different animal husbandry practices was needed by the 43.22 per cent of respondents. About 40 per cent of respondents reported that subsidy based supply of animals feed in the village through cooperative society is essential. Timely and easy availability of various inputs were required for efficient and profitable animal husbandry business. Shortage of green fodder and feel especially in the summer season has been reported by 38.67 per cent of respondents. The need for appropriate transportation facilities and animals' fairs were needed by the 32.07 and 34.90 percent respondents, respectively.

Table 3. Distribution of respondents by their suggestion for improving the animal Rearing (n = 106)

S. No.	Suggestion	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Milk rate should be increased.	31	29.24
2.	Veterinary hospital should be nearby the village	14	13.20
3.	Treatment of animals should be free of cost	17	16.03
4.	Efficient milk cooperative society should be established	13	12.26
5.	Green fodder and feeding concentrate should be available throughout the year at low cost	41	38.67
6.	Transportation facilities should be given above improved animal husbandry practices	34	32.07
7.	Training and information should be given above improved animal husbandry practices	53	50.00
8.	Improved breeding bull should be provided by the Government at Panchayat level for up gradation of local animal breeds	69	65.09
9.	Suitable arrangement of clean water should be available in the village for dairying at co-operative basis	33	31.13
10.	Timely and locally availability of vaccination castration and other essential practices	49	46.22
11.	Pasture land should be demarcated for grazing the animals	21	19.81
12.	Animals fairs should be Organised at least one's in a year to purchase and sale the animals	37	34.90
13.	Subsidy based supply of animal feeds in village through co-operative society	43	40.56
14.	Loan facilities should be available at minimum interest rate for animal husbandry purpose	19	17.92

CONCLUSION

In the light of above finding the knowledge of improved animal husbandry practices, education and some other factors were found highly contributing to the adoption of improved animal husbandry practices. The low level of socio economic status of villagers is the major hindrance and less number of improved breeds, lack of appropriate feeding of animal and good management points were the inhibitors for the higher production of animal produce i.e. milk. The majority of respondents were demanding the improved breeding bull at Panchayat level to be supplied by the government. Training and good arrangement of vaccination, animal feed, transport facilities were also suggested by a sufficient number of respondents.

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