

CONSTRAINTS IN DAIRY FARMING: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS AMONG THE DAIRY FARMERS OF TAMIL NADU

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Abstract: The present study was conducted in Erode, Tirupur and Coimbatore districts of Tamil Nadu. By adopting multi stage random sampling technique, 60 respondents were selected for the study. A schedule consisting of all anticipated constraints was constructed to identify the constraints being faced by the farmers in accordance with objectives of the study and it was pre tested and the data were collected through face to face interview technique. The results of the study revealed that majority (53.34 %) of the respondents were found to have medium level of constraints followed by high (33.33 %) and low (13.33 %) level constraints in dairying farming activities. unavailability of green fodder round the year, high cost of cattle feed and mineral mixture and lack of community grazing land were the top three constraints in feeding management of dairy cattle as perceived by the respondents with the mean per cent score of 72.80, 62.53 and 61.33 respectively. With respect to breeding, respondents perceived distance to AI centre/Hospital as the most important constraint (81.30). With regard to the health care management of dairy animals, the respondents reported that the vulnerability of cross bred animals to diseases was the most critical constraint (70.75) followed by their lack of knowledge about disease prevention (64.20) and high cost of medicine (62.25). Lack of availability of labour (87.65), lack of insurance facility (76.45) and distance to dairy co-operative societies were the top three constraints under infrastructural constraints. With regard to financial constraints, high cost of cross breed dairy animal (78.20) was the prime one followed by non availability of capital and loan at proper time (69.50) and high interest rate (65.00). Regarding marketing, un remunerative price for milk (70.75), distance to the milk societies (64.75) and exploitation by middle man / milkman (62.50) were the most important constraints as perceived by the respondents. Lack of purchasing power (77.20) and less risk bearing capacity (62.30) were the most important constraints under socio psychological domain. The study suggested that creation of mobile veterinary units and capacity building of farmers should be undertaken by the government and extension institutions

Keywords: Constraint analysis, dairy farmers

Introduction

Dairying, either as primary or an alternative enterprise promises food and nutritional security to the millions of people living in India. This dairy sector poses an important place in the agricultural economy of India as the fluid milk and its by products are the second largest

agricultural commodity in contributing to GNP, next only to rice. Although the contribution of agriculture to National GDP is declining over the years, the contribution of livestock sub-sector to agricultural GDP has increased impressively from less than 15% in the late 70s to over 33% in 2009 in the last 20 years (Economic Survey, India, 2011-12; Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Govt. of India).

Tamil Nadu, possessing 4.56% of India's livestock population, contributes 4.39% to country's milk production. The estimated milk production, which was 54.74 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) during 2005-06 in Tamil Nadu, increased to 83.62 LMT during 2018-19. (Policy note 2020-2021, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, 2020)

In spite of the remarkable growth in milk production during the past few decades, productivity of dairy animals continues to remain very low and dairy farmers face different challenges in infrastructural, technical, socio-psychological, economic and marketing operations which are a major concern hindering further development of the industry. Hence, the present study was carried out with an objective to explore various constraints perceived by dairy farmers in dairy management practices

Materials and Methods

The ex-post facto research design was followed in this study. Out of 38 districts in Tamil Nadu, Erode, Tirupur and Coimbatore districts were selected purposively as dairying is the major activity along with agriculture. One revenue taluk from each of these districts was randomly selected and one village was selected randomly from these three taluks. From these three selected villages, twenty dairy farmers having more than two dairy animals (cattle/buffalo/both) at the time of enquiry were chosen randomly with the help of local Veterinarian / members of village dairy cooperative, which constituted a total of 60 respondents for the study. A schedule consisting of all anticipated constraints was constructed to identify the constraints being faced by the farmers in accordance with objectives of the study and it was pre tested and the data were collected through face to face interview technique. Thereafter, all the constraints were categorized under six major heads *viz.*, feeding management, breeding management, health care, infrastructural, financial, marketing and socio-psychological constraints. The Statistical measures such as percentage analysis and rank order methods were employed to derive conclusions.

Results and Discussion

1. Distribution of farmers according to the constraints perceived by them in dairying

Table1. Distribution of farmers according to the constraints perceived by them in dairying

Sl.No	Category	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
1.	Low (<28.62)	8	13.33
2.	Medium (28.63 – 41.87)	32	53.34
3.	High (> 53.93)	20	33.33

N = 60s

Mean = 32.25

SD =6.62

Table 1 explained that majority (53.34 %) of the respondents were found to have medium level of constraints followed by high (33.33 %) and low (13.33 %) level constraints in dairying farming activities. The trend from medium to high level of constraints indicated that over and above three fourth of the dairy farmers are struggling a lot to pursue their farming operations. This is in line with the findings of Chaudhary and Panwar (2004).

2. Category wise constraints faced by dairy farmers dairy farming practices

Table.2 Category wise constraints faced by dairy farmers dairy farming practices

Sl.No	Type of constraints	Mean Percent Score (MPS)	Rank
A	Feeding management		
1	Unavailability of green fodder round the year	72.80	I
2	Lack of community grazing land	61.33	III
3	High cost of cattle feed and mineral mixture	62.53	II
4	Lack of knowledge about balanced diet	59.60	IV
5	Lack of clean water	48.40	V
B	Breeding management		
1	Unable to detect heat	42.21	V
2	Distance to AI centre/Hospital	81.30	I
3	Poor conception rate of AI	67.25	III
4	Problem of abortion	51.30	IV
5	Infertility problem	78.60	II

N=60

C	Health care		
1	Lack of knowledge about disease prevention	64.20	II
2	Non availability of veterinary service at the needy hour	26.20	V
3	High cost of medicines	62.25	III
4	Vulnerability of cross bred animals to diseases	70.75	I
5	Difficulty in following correct and timely vaccination schedule	57.55	IV
D	Infrastructural constraints		
1	Dairy co-operative society is far away from home	69.50	III
2	Lack of availability of labour	87.65	I
3	Lack of land and irrigation facilities for fodder production	57.66	V
4	Distance to Veterinary Hospital	59.40	IV
5	Lack of Insurance facility	76.45	II
E	Financial constraints		
1	High cost of cross breed dairy animal	78.20	I
2	Non availability of capital and loan at proper time	69.50	II
3	High cost of treatment	59.33	IV
4	High interest rates on loan	65.00	III
5	Delayed payment / incentives from milk co-operatives	55.21	V
F	Marketing constraints		
1	Un remunerative price for milk	70.75	I
2	Distance to the milk societies	64.75	II
3	Exploitation by middle man / milk man	62.50	III
4	Problems of transportation	59.30	IV
5	Lack of awareness in marketing strategy	55.45	V
G	Socio-psychological constraints		
1	Lack of purchasing power	77.20	I
2	Lack of time due to busy in domestic / agricultural work	48.55	V
3	Less risk bearing capacity of the farmers	62.30	II
4	Lack of training	57.65	III
5	Lack of information sources	51.00	IV

MPS = Mean Per cent Score

It could be inferred from Table 2 that unavailability of green fodder round the year, high cost of cattle feed and mineral mixture and lack of community grazing land were the top three constraints in feeding management of dairy cattle as perceived by the respondents with the mean per cent score of 72.80, 62.53 and 61.33 respectively. With regard to breeding management, they considered the distance to AI centre/Hospital as the most important constraint (81.30) followed by infertility problem (78.60) and poor conception rate of AI (67.25). Problem of abortion (51.30) and unable to detect heat symptoms (42.21) were least bothered.

With regard to the health care management of dairy animals, the respondents reported that the vulnerability of cross bred animals to diseases was the most critical constraint (70.75) followed by their lack of knowledge about disease prevention (64.20) and high cost of medicine (62.25).

Lack of availability of labour (87.65), lack of insurance facility (76.45) and distance to dairy co-operative societies were the top three constraints under infrastructural constraints. With regard to financial constraints, high cost of cross breed dairy animal (78.20) was the prime one followed by non availability of capital and loan at proper time (69.50) and high interest rate (65.00).

Regarding marketing, un remunerative price for milk (70.75), distance to the milk societies (64.75) and exploitation by middle man / milkman (62.50) were the most important constraints as perceived by the respondents. Lack of purchasing power (77.20) and less risk bearing capacity (62.30) were the most important constraints under socio psychological domain.

Conclusion

The findings of the study has led to the conclusion that majority of the respondents were found to have medium level of constraints followed by high and low level constraints in dairying farming activities. The trend from medium to high level of constraints indicated that over and above three fourth of the dairy farmers are struggling a lot to pursue their farming operations. Creation of mobile veterinary units, capacity building of farmers in the areas of feed formulation, heat detection, disease prevention, value addition and marketing strategies should be undertaken by the extension institutions to make the dairying as a lucrative one so as to achieve the motto of “doubling the farmer’s income”.

References

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