IMPACT: International Journal of Research in Applied, Natural and Social Sciences (IMPACT: IJRANSS)
ISSN(P): 2347-4580; ISSN(E): 2321-8851
Vol. 4, Issue 11, Nov 2016, 21-24

A STUDY ON AWARENESS OF WOMEN LIVESTOCK FARMERS ON LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

ROSHAN BAIG[1], K PRAVEEN KUMAR[2] & G R K SHARMA[3]

[1]Department of Veterinary & A.H. Extension Education, College of Veterinary Science, Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India.

[2]Shreeja Mahila Milk Producer Company, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India

[3]Department of Veterinary & A.H. Extension Education, College of Veterinary Science, Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India

ABSTRACT

An ex-post-facto research was conducted to study the awareness of women livestock farmers on livestock management practices by administering a pretested structured interview schedule. The results revealed that farm women are more aware of practices like deworming, vaccination, housing and balanced feed. The research recommended a focus on conducting awareness programmes on teat dips, record keeping, enrichment of paddy straw and hydroponics as the urgent need for improvement of milk production and thus for the development of dairy women.

KEYWORDS: Andhra Pradesh, Chittoor, Dairy, Farmer, Livestock, Women

INTRODUCTION

Indians started livestock farming thousands of years ago and women were the most important holders of dairy animals since the history of civilization in India. Women play an impeccable role in dairy animal management starting the day with cleaning the sheds to taking the care of new born and handling the milk related activities. To escalate the farm economics and to make the dairy farming sustainable and profitable one has to be well aware of the different management practices which will alter the income and expenditure due to their adoption and continued usage. Adoption stage is the final stage of adoption process which starts with a stage of awareness. Several programmes were being conducted for women and livestock development by both public and private organizations for the adoption of technologies but focus on the awareness of grass root farm women was given a meager importance. So, an attempt was made by systematically planning and conducting a research entitled "A study on awareness of women livestock farmers on livestock management practices".

METHODOLOGY

Ex-post-facto research design was followed in the study. Chittoor district was purposively selected due to more number of progressive women dairy farmers. 30 women farmers each holding a minimum of 2 dairy animals were randomly selected each from Kuppam, Kambhamvaripalle, Pileru and Varadaiahpalem mandals of Chittoor district. The primary data was collected through the administration of a pretested structured interview schedule and the same was coded and subjected to suitable statistical tools for obtaining results for interpretation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

From Table 1 it was clearly evident that the livestock farm women were well aware with the animal shed management followed by an awareness on free movement housing, chaff cutter, biogas plant, milking machines and record keeping with 65.83, 55.83, 35.83, 23.33, 19.67 and 9.17 per cent, respectively. General awareness on animal shed management and housing systems are mandatory for the livestock farmers. But awareness about farm machines like chaff cutter and milking machines will help in reducing both work and cost of labour. Record keeping was found to be one of the least stressed areas which is very important for the maintenance and future assessment of the farm. Due to lack of proper maintenance many budding livestock entrepreneurs had started their farms with high initial costs and end up with huge loses as they were not able to predict the farm economics and progress of the dairy farms.

Table 1: General Management Practices

S. No.	Practice	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Animal shed management	79	65.83	I
2.	Free Movement Housing	67	55.83	II
3.	Chaff cutter	43	35.83	III
4.	Biogas Plant	28	23.33	IV
5.	Milking machines	23	19.67	V
5.	Record Keeping	11	9.17	VI

Table 2: Nutritional Management Practices

S. No.	Practice	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Mineral Mixture	49	40.33	I
2.	Balanced Ration	47	39.16	II
3.	Azolla	24	20.00	III
4.	Silage Making	15	12.50	IV
5.	Hydroponics	12	10.00	V
6.	Enrichment of Paddy straw	11	9.17	VI
7.	Milk Replacer and Calf Starter	3	2.5	VII

The results from Table 2 revealed that nearly 40 per cent of the livestock farm women were aware of mineral mixture and balanced ration while 20 percent of them were aware of azolla and awareness on silage making, hydroponics and enrichment of paddy straw were 12.5 per cent, 10 per cent and 9.17 per cent, respectively. The awareness on milk replacer and calf starter was only 2.5 per cent among the livestock farm women.

Nutrition of dairy animals itself will consume 70 per cent of the farm expenditure. This highlights the importance of nutrition management in order to reduce farm expenditure so as to gain good margin on dairy farming. Due to their awareness on relation between feed and reproduction along with production, the farmers are well aware of mineral mixture and balanced ration. But awareness on low cost protein supplements like azolla and enrichment of paddy straw to improve NPN content is also equally important. Hydroponics is the technology of the day for dairy farmers of rain-fed regions like Chittoor district. The ICT tools like, android mobile application on Hydroponics developed by Department of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Extension Education, College of Veterinary Science, SVVU, Tirupati have the potential to bring awareness on Hydroponics among the livestock farmers. Regarding the usage of calf starter and milk replacer the results suggest that serious and sincere efforts are to be done.

Table 3: Health Care Practices

S. No.	Practice	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Deworming	105	87.50	I
2.	Vaccination	93	77.50	II
3.	Mastitis and its causes	59	49.17	III
4.	Teat dips	12	10.00	IV

It was apparent from Table 3 that a great majority of the women farmers were aware of deworming (87.50%), followed by vaccination (77.50%), mastitis and its causes (49.17%). But only 10 per cent of them were aware of teat dips. Worm burden and diseases will adversely affect the health status and it is reflected on the lactation yield of the dairy animals. Good awareness on the deworming and vaccination practices will facilitate to maintain health and milk production Mastitis is the most important and recurring problem in the dairy animals which affects the farm economics to a greater extent. So, farmers are generally expected to be well aware of the effects of mastitis and its causes. Even sometimes the subclinical mastitis also affects the milk production which farmer cannot recognize that easily. So, an insight into making farmers aware of the different diagnostic tools and procedures to identify mastitis in initial stages is of paramount importance. Though the teat dips were invented long back and they are already in practice by dairy farmers in other countries, Indian dairy farmers were lagging behind in its use due to lack of awareness. Conducting awareness programmes on teat dips will improve the situation. The results of research were in accordance with the findings of Arshad et al (2013), Lahoti et al (2012) and were in contradictory with the findings of Neethu Lazar (2014).

CONCLUSIONS

It was evident from the research results that the women livestock farmers were more aware of the aspects like, deworming, vaccination, animal shed management, free movement housing, balanced ration, mineral mixture and chaff cutter when compared to general management practices like, record keeping, milking machines, biogas plant and nutrition management practices like milk replacer, calf starter, hydroponics and silage making and using teat dips as a check to mastitis. Hence, it could be concluded that a genuine insight into the issue and special focus on the less addressed issues like teat dips, record keeping, enrichment of paddy straw and hydroponics will improve awareness which will lead to the adoption of these practices sequentially leading to the improvement in milk production and sustainability of the women dairy farmers.

REFERENCES

1. Arshad, S., Muhammad, S., & Ashraf, I. (2013). Women's participation in livestock farming activities. *J. Anim. Plant Sci*, *23*(1), 304-308.
2. Gour, A K. (2002). Factors influencing adoption of some improved animal husbandry practices of dairying in Anand and Vadodara districts of Gujarat state. Ph.D. Thesis, Gujarat Agricultural University, S.K. Nagar, GUJARAT (INDIA).
3. Kerlinger Fred, N. (2008). Foundations of behavioural research. Surjeet Publications 2nd edition. Page- 151-153.
4. Lahoti, S. R., Chole, S. R., & Rathi, N. S. (2012). Role of women in dairy farming. Indian Journal of Dairy Science, 65(5).

5. Neethu Lazar (2014) Role of women entrepreneurs in dairy sector with special reference to Thrissur district of Kerala, Indian *Journal of applied Research*, *4*(11) 296-298.

6. Rogers, Everett M. *Diffusion of innovations*. Simon and Schuster, 2010.