

Original Research Article

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Adoption of Improved Dairy Farming Practices by Dairy Farmers of Haryana, India

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ABSTRACT

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Study was conducted in Haryana to assess the extent of adoption of improved dairy farming practices by the selected dairy farmers. The data were collected from four agro-climatic zone of Haryana. From each zone one district was selected purposively on the basis of milch animal population. Then from each district two blocks were selected randomly. From each block two villages were selected randomly. From each village 15 dairy farmers were selected randomly. Thus, in total, 240 dairy farmers were selected, as the respondents for this study with the help of structure interview schedule. From the study it was observed that majority of the respondents (66.25%) had medium level of adoption of breeding practices. In case of feeding practices majority of the respondents (68.34%) fell in medium level. Regarding healthcare practices most of the respondents (70.83%) were observed in medium category. As for as concerned, the management practices majority of the respondents (51.25%) in medium category. Regarding healthcare practices most of the respondents (70.83%) were observed in medium category. Majority of the respondents (62.09%) had medium level of overall adoption of improved dairy farming practices.

Introduction

Dairy farming is one of the important income generating activities of the rural population of our country. Milk production during 1950-51 was estimated at 17 million tonnes which rose to 132.4 million tonnes in 2013-14 and per capita availability of milk during 1951 was 132 gm which increased to 290 gm in 2013-14 (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, GoI). More than 70.00 per cent Indian rural

households own livestock and majority of them are with less than 5 dairy animals, particularly cow and buffaloes and derive supplementary income and nutrition by producing milk for self-consumption and for sale in the market (Birthal and Jha 2005).

India has the largest cattle and buffalo population in the world and is also the single largest milk producing country but the productivity per animal is amongst the lowest in the world. Livestock sector contribute 3.2

percent value of total GDP, whereas Agriculture contribution in total GDP is 15.18 percent (National Accounts Statistics, Central Statistical Organisation, GoI, 2013). In India, milk production contributes on an average 27 percent of the household income, its contribution varies from about 19 percent in the case of large farmers to about 53 percent in the landless category (Shukla and Brahmanekar, 1999).

Nearly two thirds of farm households in India are associated with one or the other form of livestock production and 80 percent of them are small landholders (< 2ha), livestock contribute substantially to their livelihood and provides coping mechanism during the period of crop failure. Therefore, the present investigation was undertaken with following objectives:

To elicit the extent of adoption of improved dairy farming practices among the respondents

Materials and Methods

Study was conducted in purposively selected four agro-climatic zones of Haryana, namely, Northern, Southern, Central and Western zone. From each zone one district was selected purposively on the basis of milch animal population. From each district two blocks were selected randomly. From each block two villages were selected randomly. From each village 15 dairy farmers were selected randomly.

Thus, in total, 240 dairy farmers were selected, as the respondents for this study. In the present study adoption was measured by collecting all the relevant items related to recommend dairy farming practices by NDRI and NABARD, with consultation of scientists from NDRI, and veterinarians in the study area, and also concerned literature and previous research studies. The selected items

were divided in following heads: feeding, breeding, health care and management practices. The response of the respondents were taken against each of the practice on a three point continuum representing adoption Always, Sometime and Never with scores of 2, 1 and 0 respectively.

The respondents were categorized into low, medium and high categories of adoption on the basis of mean and standard deviation of score in different aspects of adoption as well as overall adoption of improved dairy farming practices. The following formula was used to measure the adoption index of different aspects of improved dairy farming practices.

$$\text{Adoption Index} = \frac{\text{Score obtained by an individual}}{\text{Maximum obtainable score}} \times 100$$

Results and Discussion

Distribution of respondents as per level of adoption of improved breeding practices

The analysis of 240 respondents regarding breeding practices (Table 1) revealed that the first rank was given to appropriate period of A.I. after calving with adoption score of 395. While adoption of A.I. practices and watching on estrous cycle and heat symptoms were obtained 2nd and 3rd rank with adoption score of 393 and 383 respectively. Pregnancy diagnosis (379), help taken from veterinarian during parturition (365) and right time of A.I. after heat (331) were awarded 4th, 5th and 6th ranks, respectively. While the last rank was awarded to checking of buffalo during pregnancy (285).

It may be concluded that high adoption of appropriate period of A.I. and watching on oestrous cycle and heat symptoms by the respondents may be due to the fact that the respondents have more knowledge about these

practices because these practices are very essential in cattle rearing. Poor adoption of pregnancy checking in cattle was observed among the respondents because in some cases farmer even do not allow to touch the reproductive organs of his animal due to their ignorance about these practices. Raisen (1994) and Menon (2009) also reported the same result.

Distribution of respondents as per level of adoption of improved feeding practices

The analysis of 240 respondents (Table 2) observed that the first rank was awarded to colostrums feeding with highest adoption score of (426). Similarly, continuous feeding of colostrums (410), chaffing of green fodder (393), feeding of concentrate mixture to animal on the basis of milk production (390), regular feeding of recommended green fodder to animal (386) and application of recommended dose of manure and fertilizers in the fodder crops (376) were occupied the ranks of 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th, respectively. Among all the eleven feeding items, the lowest adoption was recorded by the respondents regarding feeding of prepared hay (278).

The results so appeared may be due to the fact that farmers know the importance of colostrums feeding to newly born calf because it develops antibodies and laxative for newly born calf. Whereas the farmers are not given priority to preparation of hay due to unawareness about importance and method of hay making. These results are supported by the observation of Srivastava *et al.*, (2010) and Shinde *et al.*, (2001).

Distribution of respondents as per level of adoption of improved health care practices

It is observed from the data given in Table 3 regarding adoption of all the nine health care

practices that cattle owners had vaccinated their animals to control F.M.D. at proper time and accordingly this practices was found to have the highest adoption score (440) followed by timely treatment of sick and weak animal by Veterinary Doctors (430) and Timely vaccination of H.S. (418), respectively. Similarly, protection of animals from severe cold (405), segregation of diseased animals suffering from contagious diseases (403), treatment of sick animals/repeat breeders and anoestrus by veterinary doctors (400).

Among all the nine health care items, the lowest adoption was recorded by the respondents regarding burying of the dead body of animals dies of contagious diseases (392), segregation of sick animals from healthy ones (390) and applying of pesticides for prevention of ticks and mites (342).

From the above mention results, it can be concluded that timely vaccination of F.M.D. was found to have highest adoption score and placed on first priority which might be due to the fact that farmers are more attentive for taking care of their animal against F.M.D. whereas the farmers were least bothered about ticks and mites. So, adoption of this practice was found low. These findings are in line with the findings of Lomani (1996), Shukla and Pathak (1995), Shiraj (2000) and Srivastava *et al.*, (2010).

Distribution of respondents as per level of adoption of improved management practices

The response of 240 respondents were recorded the adoption of management practices (Table 4). Keeping of animals in ventilated house was found to have maximum adoption score i.e. 439 followed by adequate water facility and feed to the animal (432) and adequate open space for the animal (418).

Table.1 Distribution of respondents as per level of adoption of improved breeding practices

N=240

Sl. No.	Practices	Adopted	Partially Adopted	Not Adopted	Score	Rank
A. BREEDING						
1	Appropriate period of A.I. after calving	180 (75.00)	35 (14.58)	25 (10.42)	395	I
2	Adoption of A.I. practices	169 (70.42)	55 (22.92)	16 (6.66)	393	II
3	Watching on oestrous cycle and heat symptoms	165 (68.75)	53 (22.09)	22 (9.16)	383	III
4	Pregnancy diagnosis	181 (75.41)	17 (7.09)	42 (17.50)	379	IV
5	Help taken from veterinarian during parturition	160 (66.66)	45 (18.76)	35 (14.58)	365	V
6	Right time of A.I. after heat	116 (48.33)	99 (41.25)	25 (10.42)	331	VI
7	Checking of buffalo during pregnancy	98 (40.83)	89 (37.09)	53 (22.08)	285	VII

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

Table.2 Distribution of respondents as per level of adoption of improved feeding practices

N=240

Sl. No.	Practices	Adopted	Partially Adopted	Not Adopted	Score	Rank
B. FEEDING						
1	Colostrums feeding	200 (83.34)	26 (10.83)	14 (5.83)	426	I
2	Continuous feeding of colostrums	183 (76.25)	44 (18.33)	13 (5.42)	410	II
3	Chaffing of green fodder	179 (74.58)	35 (14.58)	26 (10.84)	393	III
4	Feeding concentrate mixture to animal on the basis of milk production	168 (70.00)	54 (22.50)	18 (7.50)	390	IV
5	Regular feeding of recommended green fodder to animal	170 (70.83)	46 (19.17)	24 (10.00)	386	V
6	Application of recommended dose of manure and fertilizers in the fodder crops	162 (67.50)	52 (21.66)	26 (10.84)	376	VI
7	Regular grazing	120 (50.00)	100 (41.66)	20 (8.34)	340	VII
8	Feeding advance pregnant buffalo with extra concentrate	104 (43.33)	80 (33.33)	56 (23.34)	288	VIII
9	Feeding of mineral mixture	120 (50.00)	43 (17.91)	77 (32.09)	283	IX
10	Cultivation of high yielding varieties of fodder	110 (45.83)	60 (25.00)	70 (29.17)	280	X
11	Feeding of prepared hay	94 (39.16)	90 (37.50)	56 (23.34)	278	XI

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

Table.3 Distribution of respondents as per level of adoption of improved health care practices
N=240

Sl. No.	Practices	Adopted	Partially Adopted	Not Adopted	Score	Rank
C. HEALTH CARE						
1	Timely vaccination of FMD	213 (88.75)	14 (5.82)	13 (5.43)	440	I
2	Timely treatment of sick and weak animal by Veterinary Doctors	205 (85.42)	20 (8.33)	15 (6.25)	430	II
3	Timely vaccination of H.S.	190 (79.17)	38 (15.83)	12 (5.00)	418	III
4	Protection of animals from severe cold	185 (77.09)	35 (14.58)	20 (8.33)	405	IV
5	Segregation of diseased animals suffering from contagious diseases	174 (72.50)	55 (22.92)	11 (4.58)	403	V
6	Treatment of sick animals/repeat breeders and anoestrus by veterinary doctors	180 (75.00)	40 (16.66)	20 (8.34)	400	VI
7	Burying of the dead body of animals dies of contagious diseases	188 (78.34)	16 (6.66)	36 (15.00)	392	VII
8	Segregation of sick animals from healthy ones	169 (70.42)	52 (21.66)	19 (7.92)	390	VIII
9	Applying of pesticides for prevention of ticks and mites etc.	120 (50.00)	102 (42.50)	18 (7.50)	342	IX

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

Table.4 Distribution of respondents as per level of adoption of improved management practices
N=240

Sl. No.	Practices	Adopted	Partially Adopted	Not Adopted	Score	Rank
D. MANAGEMENT						
1	Keeping of animals in ventilated house	212 (88.33)	15 (6.25)	13 (5.42)	439	I
2	Adequate water facility and feed to the animal	206 (85.83)	20 (8.34)	14 (5.83)	432	II
3	Adequate open space for the animal	190 (79.16)	38 (15.84)	12 (5.00)	418	III
4	Wallowing of animal in pond	184 (76.67)	35 (14.58)	21 (8.75)	403	IV
5	Practicing de-worming in calf	173 (72.09)	55 (22.91)	12 (5.00)	401	V
6	Help taken from veterinarians during the sickness of animals	188 (78.34)	22 (9.16)	30 (12.50)	398	VI
7	Keeping the animal on a concrete floor	186 (77.50)	16 (6.66)	38 (15.84)	388	VII
8	Application of tincture iodine to the belly of calf after parturition	166 (69.16)	52 (21.67)	22 (9.17)	384	VIII
9	Practicing de-horning in calf on proper time	121 (50.41)	102 (42.50)	17 (7.09)	344	IX
10	Keeping the animal and newly born calf at warm place just after calving	104 (43.34)	80 (33.33)	56 (23.33)	288	X
11	Keeping of animal loose in the shed	130 (54.16)	25 (10.42)	85 (35.42)	285	XI
12	Animal castration	116 (48.34)	48 (20.00)	76 (31.66)	280	XII
13	Separation of pregnant animal from the herd	93 (38.75)	90 (37.50)	57 (23.75)	276	XIII
14	Practicing weaning in calves	98 (40.83)	78 (32.50)	64 (26.67)	274	XIV

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

Table.5 Distribution of different categories of respondents according to their adoption level of improved dairy farming practices

N=240

Level of adoption	Adoption level of different IDFPs				
	Breeding	Feeding	Health care	Management	Overall IDFPs
Low	44 (18.34)	48 (20.00)	38 (15.84)	57 (23.75)	47 (19.58)
Medium	159 (66.25)	164 (68.34)	170 (70.83)	123 (51.25)	149 (62.09)
High	37 (15.41)	28 (11.66)	32 (13.33)	60 (25.00)	44 (18.33)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

Similarly, Wallowing of animal in pond (403), practicing de-worming in calf (401), help taken from veterinarians during the sickness of animals (398), keeping the animal on a concrete floor (388), application of tincture iodine to the belly of calf after parturition (384) and practicing de-horning in calf on proper time (344) were occupied the ranks of 4nd, 5rd, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th respectively. The last 14th rank was awarded to practicing weaning in calves with lowest adoption score (274). It may be concluded that almost all the respondents were having knowledge about importance of ventilated houses and adopted this practice with higher adoption score. While they had never taken care of artificial nurturing of newly born calf. Similar findings are reported by Satyarthi *et al.*, (2003), Shiraj (2000) and Choudhary (1997).

Distribution of different categories of respondents according to their adoption level of improved dairy farming practices

Table 5 displays the result of level of adoption of improved dairy farming practices, the respondents were classified into low, medium and high adoption categories on the basis of cumulative square root frequency method. The data in Table 4.4.5 indicated that among dairy farmers the majority of the respondents (66.25%) had medium level of adoption of breeding practices followed by (15.41%) of the respondents and (18.34%) of the respondents who had high level and low level of adoption of

improved breeding practices. In case of feeding practices majority of the respondents (68.34%) fell in medium level, followed by, low (20.00%) and high (11.66%) level of adoption. Regarding healthcare practices most of the respondents (70.83%) were observed in medium category followed by low (15.84%) and high (13.33%) level of adoption of improved healthcare practices. As for as concerned the management practices majority of the respondents (51.25%) in medium category, followed by high (25.00%) and low (23.75%) level of adoption. Majority of the respondents (62.09%) had medium level of overall adoption of improved dairy farming practices, whereas, remaining respondents were 19.58 per cent in low and 18.33 per cent high level of adoption of overall improved dairy farming practices. The similar findings also reported by Imali *et al.*, (1993), Kulshetra and Gawaskar (1994), Chaturvedi *et al.*, (1997), Pandey and Yadav (2002), Satyarthi *et al.*, (2003) and Srivastava *et al.*, (2010).

It can be concluded from the above findings that majority of the respondents (62.09 per cent) had medium level of overall adoption. Extent of adoption of the improved dairy practices viz., Breeding Feeding, Healthcare and Management were found to be medium category 66.25, 68.34, 70.83 and 51.25 respectively. Maximum adoption was found in case of management practices, whereas minimum adoption was found in case of healthcare practices. Therefore, recommended on the basis of findings that efforts should be made to convince the dairy

farmers about the adoption of artificial insemination, pregnancy diagnosis, deworming, castration of male calves and other selected improved dairy farming practices. Besides, dairy farmers should be motivated for more adoption by organizing educational programmes, training classes and demonstrations. Simultaneously, avenues must be open in this area for efficient and economic marketing of milk at good price

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