

Original Research Article

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Socio Economic Profile of Jaffrabadi Buffalo Farmers in Saurashtra Region

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ABSTRACT

The livestock survey of Jaffrabadi buffalo conducted in five districts of Saurashtra region of Gujrat state. The data collected from 1045 farmers through face to face interview from Amreli, Rajkot, Junagadh, Bhavnagar and Girsomnath districts as per farmer's population 57, 21, 12, 6 and 4 %respectively. The 50% of total farmers were practising Agricultural farming as their main occupation, the percentage fraction of farmers involved in other activities as main occupation were 31in Dairying, 12 in working as labour and 7 in service. According to land distribution, 11% were large (above 2.5 acres) farmers, the fraction of marginal, small landholders and landless was 32, 30 and 26% respectively. It was observed that 47% farming families consume boiled milk, 38% consume raw milk and 16% consume both raw and boiled milk. The pattern of animal drinking watering provision system was studied. In the study watering of animal's percentage was studied as co- manual and own. It was found that 56 were Co-manual, 41 own and 3 own and co-manual type. More than half the fraction (57%) farmers preferred Stall feeding while 43% followed grazing. For breeding animals, both natural (41 per cent) and artificial insemination method (59 per cent) were followed.

Keywords

Socio economic profile, Farmers land holding, Farmer's occupation

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Introduction

India is popular for its riverine buffaloes and these have been categorized in 5 major groups. In addition, Swamp buffaloes are also found mainly in north-eastern states of the country which are used for draught purpose. As India is one of the top most countries for milk production in the world since from last few years. As per 19th livestock census (2014)

today in India 108.70 million buffaloes produce 60% milk from the total milk production. In 2016-17 India produced 165.4 million tonnes milk. Gujarat is an important state in milk production and marketing in India on co-operative dairy system. India is the highest milk producer country in the world with an estimated quantity of 137.7 million tons in the year 2013-14 (Anonymuous, 2015). Gujarat has around

5.23% of cattle and 9.55% of buffalo population of the country (Anonymous, 2014b). It contributed around 10.3 million tonnes (7.8%) of milk to the total milk pool of India and per capita milk availability was 476 g/day during 2012-13 (Anonymous, 2014a). The livestock production potential is depending on the management practice of farmers in which they are rearing and it affects very much significantly across on the economic production of the livestock of farmers. Livestock sector is one of the best economic sources in the rural areas without much more investment. The farmers are slowly moving away from the dairy sector, due to some issues like low milk rate in market, high feeding prices, management cost and the treatment cost farmer is going so far from the dairy sector. All these parameters are involved in the economic loss or gain to the farmers. Hence farmer needs to do the livestock production in more technical way to avoid economic loss. So it is very important to study the socio economy status of these farmers to know the real situation and factor affecting the dairy farming suggest improving the economic status of the farmers. Jaffrabadi is considered one of the best dairy buffalo breed in India. They are heaviest and massive type of riverine buffalo. They are good milkers and thrive well on natural grazing due to their greater feed conversion efficiency. The native breeding tract of Jaffrabadi buffalo is Saurashtra region of Gujarat, viz. Junagadh, Bhavnagar, Jamnagar, Amreli, Gir Somnath, Rajkot and Morbi district as well as some part of Surendranagar district. The local people (Kathiravan et al., 2007) also know it as “Bhavnagri”, “Gir” or “Jaffari”.

Materials and Methods

The survey was conducted from of Amreli, Bhavnagar, Rajkot, Gir Somnath and Junagadh these five districts from Gujarat state during the year 2015 to 2017. Total 1045 farmers from 80 Villages of different locality

were included in this study. Separate software was developed in access data base forms for this survey. The data was collected by face-to-face interview and direct observation method. Farmer’s demographic parameters, viz. Occupation, total herd average, watering point, land-holding condition, Milk consumption type etc. Data collected in hard forms and entered into access database system. Then data were analysed using simple statistical tools such as averages, frequencies and percentage. Data were tabulated and analysed as per standard statistical tools (Snedecor and Cochran, 1989) to draw meaningful interference

Results and Discussion

The survey was conducted in 80 villages from Amreli, Bhavnagar, Rajkot, Gir Somnath and Junagadh districts of Gujarat state. Total 3318 animals and 1045 farmers were included in the study. The analysis is divided into two aspects i.e. some attributes of farmers and few are of animal’s parameters. The analysis of the conducted study is as follow-

Farmers and animal’s attributes (Table no. 1 & 2)

The studied parameters related to farmer’s and animal’s aspects are as follows:

Average herd size: In the studied survey from 1045 farmer’s, maximum number of farmers were having 1 to 5 number of animal’s average herd size. Farmers who were having 1 to 5 number of animals they were 527 farmers, 5 to 10 animals having farmers were 305 and more than 10 animals having farmers were 213. Similar types of findings have been reported by Prajapati *et al.*, (2016) and Sivaji *et al.*, (2018).

Watering point: The animals were watering in the three methods i.e. Manual, Own or Own as well as co- manual. The farmers who

used the watering as co- manual those were more in numbers. Around 56 %farmers were using co-manual, 41 by own and 3 %own as well as co- manual type of watering point used by farmers.

As similar it was observed that majority of the respondents depend on Bore well (68.67%) followed by Pond (21.33%) and Bore well as well as Pond (10%) as a source of drinking water to their dairy animals. (G. P. Sabapara 2016).

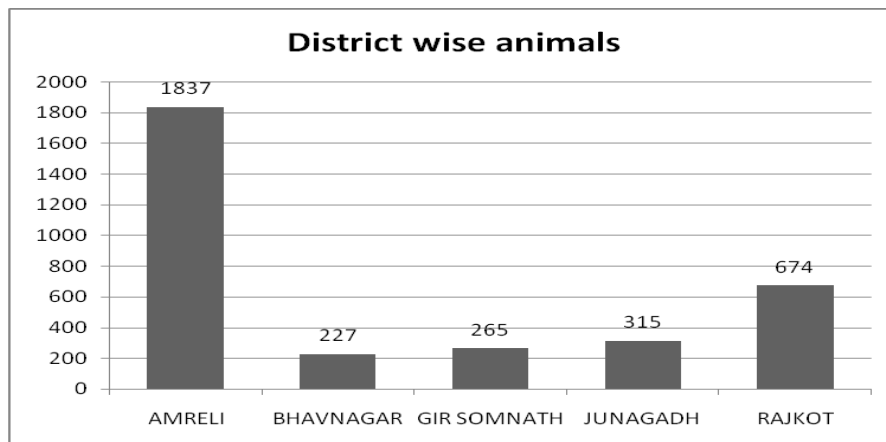
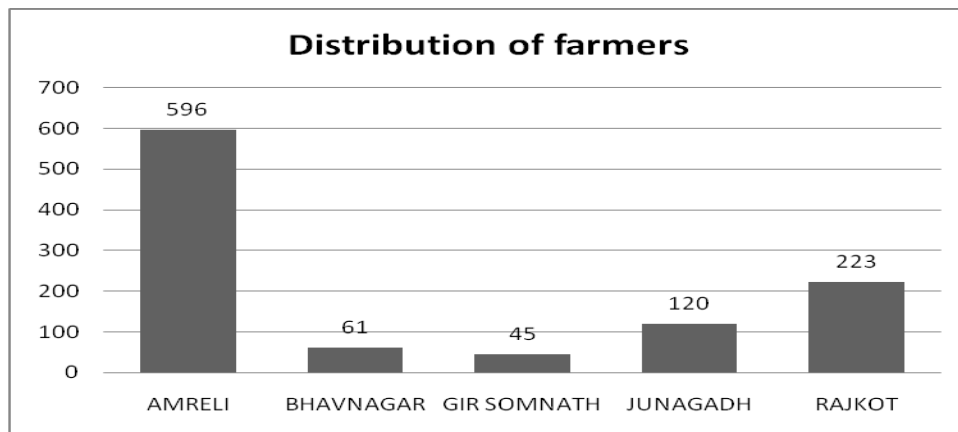
Land holding farmers: In the survey as per the land holding of famers, they were grouped in four types' i.e. large land holding (above 2.5 acres), Marginal (1.5 to 2.5 Acres) and small (upto 1.5 Acres) and Landless. As per the data it was observed that Marginal land having farmers were 32 %and after that small land holding farmers were 30 per cent, 26 %landless and 11 %were having the large land holding farmers. The same groups are also as like Prajapati *et al.*, (2016), Gautam *et al.*, (2007) and Nagrale (2016).

Table.1 Farmers recorded attributes in survey

Variables	Constraints	Total Numbers	Percentage (%)
Farmer	Amreli	596	57
	Bhavnagar	61	6
	Girsomnath	45	4
	Junagadh	120	11
	Rajkot	223	21
Occupation	Agriculture	525	50
	Dairy	321	31
	Labour	125	12
	Service	74	7
Animal herd Size	1 (0 to 5 animals)	527	50
	2 (5-10 animals)	305	29
	3(above 10 animals)	213	21
Watering Point	Co-Manual	590	56
	Own	427	41
	Own + Co-Manual	28	3
land group	Landless	269	26
	Large (above 2.5 acres)	119	11
	Marginal (1.5 to 2.5 acres)	339	32
	Small (up to 1.5 acres)	318	30
Type of Milk Consumption	Boiled	489	47
	Raw + Boiled	162	16
	Raw	394	38
Feeding Type	Grazing	454	43
	Stall feeding	591	57
	Grand Total	3318	100

Table.2 Animals recorded attributes in survey

Variables	Constraints	Total Numbers	Percentage (%)
District	Amreli	1837	55
	Bhavnagar	227	7
	Girsomnath	265	8
	Junagadh	315	9
	Rajkot	674	20
Animal Age Group	1(1 to 12)	506	15
	2(13 to 36)	693	21
	3(37 to 60)	630	19
	4(61 to 84)	554	17
	5(85 to 108)	436	13
	6(> 108)	499	15
Type of Insemination	AI	1346	41
	Natural Service	1972	59
	Grand Total	3318	100



Type of milk consumption: In the study the type of milk consumption by the farmers were also recorded i.e. boiled type, Raw and Raw as well as boiled. It was observed that 47 %farmers consume boiled milk, 38 %use raw milk and 16 %farmers consume milk as raw and boiled type. As in some studies, it is found that up to a third of all raw milk samples contained pathogens, even when sourced from clinically healthy animals or from milk that appeared to be of good quality (John Lucey, 2015).

Feeding type: The feeding patterns of all 3318 animals by 1045 farmers were also studied in the survey. Stall feeding preferred by 57 %farmers and 43 %farmers were grazing their animals. The findings feeding is contradictory of practices majority of respondents (84.67%) followed stall-feeding as well as grazing system, while only 15.33% of the respondents followed stall feeding system for their animals (Sabapara, 2016).

Farmer occupation: In the observed study of 1045 farmers, maximum no of farmers was having agriculture as a main economic source followed by the dairy sector. 50 %farmers were having Agriculture, 31 %having Dairy, 14 %labour and 7 %farmers were service as their main economic source in rural area. The same types of finding were recorded by Sivaji *et al.*, (2018) as well as Gautam *et al.*, (2007).

Animal population: Total 3318 number of animals was studied in the survey. From all animals more than half animal population from Amreli district. Animal 55 %from Amreli, 20 Rajkot, 9 Junagadh, 8 Gir Somnath and 7 %from Bhavnagar in the total population.

Age group wise animals: Animals were recorded as per the age group. Six type of animals age group were recorded i.e. up to 1year age, 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 and >9 yr. In the

result it observed that 693 number of animals were from 1 to 3 year, 630 of 4 to 5 year, 554 in between 6 to 7 years, 506 up to 1 year and 499 from more than 9 years age and 436 animals in age group of 8 to 9 year.

Service type: Artificial and natural service was used to inseminate the field animals. 59 %animals were inseminated by natural service and 41 %animals were inseminated by artificial insemination. The result was as like Bainwad *et al.*, (2007) found that all animals were breed by natural services.

In conclusion, the field survey was conducted to know the first hand information of dairy husbandry practices in Saurashtra region of Gujarat with the objectives to study farmer's dairy husbandry practices and management, social and economic characteristics of dairy animal owners and knowledge level of dairy animal owners about modern dairy husbandry practices. The results showed that buffalo farming is an occupation of large respondents with no formal schooling and small land owners. The study can be concluded that clearly reveals that in Saurashtra region buffalo farming was more of agriculture linked and also one of the major source of income. Generally maximum numbers of farmers adopt natural breeding method for their buffaloes. Farmers around 59 %farmers use natural breeding and 41 %done the artificial insemination.

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