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Adoption level of improved health care and management practices among dairy farmers in Vellore district of Tamil Nadu

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Abstract

The study was undertaken to assess the adoption level of improved health care and management practices among dairy farmers. The data was collected through personal interview method with the help of well-structured interview schedule from 50 dairy farmers randomly selected in Sathuperi village of Vellore district of Tamilnadu. The recommended practices in the areas health care and management dairy practices are selected on the basis of expert opinion and evaluated the adoption level in the field condition. The study recommends that innovations in technological interventions on scientific cattle farming shall be supported with vocational training to the cattle farmers to optimize the herd size with extension support and services might help them to adopt improved recommended health care technologies and sustainable cattle production thereby increasing the farmers income.

Keywords: Adoption level- health care and management practices – dairy farmers

Introduction

India is a country with vast resources of livestock and poultry, thus playing a vital role in improving the socio economic status of rural people. Country leads in cattle and buffalo population in the world, with total bovine population 302.79 million ^[1]. The female cattle population alone accounts for 145.12 million with over 18% increase over the previous census ^[1]. The total milch animal in both cow and buffalo is 125.34 million, with the rise of 6.0% over the previous census ^[1]. From the reports of 20th livestock census it is evident that people are more and more depending on the livestock population for their livelihood. The National Commission on Agriculture also observed that next to agriculture, dairying is the most important subsidiary occupation i.e. mixed farming is best suited under Indian conditions. Considering the dynamism of above stated facts, the present study entitled “Adoption level of improved health care and management practices among dairy farmers” was taken up with specific objective, To find out the extent of adoption of improved dairy husbandry practices by the dairy livestock owners.

Materials and Methods

The data was collected through personal interview method with the help of well structured interview schedule from randomly selected 50 cattle farmers in Sathuperi village of Vellore district of Tamilnadu. The respondents were asked to give their opinion about adoption/use of these technologies on three point continuum i.e. ‘always’, ‘sometimes’ and ‘never’ adopted and scores of ‘2’, ‘1’ and ‘0’ were allotted respectively. The overall adoption score for each respondent was then calculated by dividing respondents total score with total possible score (adoption index) under each sub areas.

$$\text{Adoption index} = \left[\frac{\text{Total adoption score}}{\text{Total possible score}} \right] \times 100$$

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Results and Discussion

Table 1: Shows that majority of the dairy farmers adopting vaccination practice against Foot and Mouth disease is with highest mean score

S. No	Healthcare and Management practices	Adoption level			Adoption index	Mean score	Rank
		Always	Sometimes	Never			
1.	Deworming practice	35	15	0	85	1.74	II
2.	Vaccination practice against Foot and Mouth disease	42	8	0	92	1.84	I
3.	Isolation of sick animal	12	16	22	40	0.8	X
4.	Treatment of sick animal by veterinarian	28	14	8	70	1.4	V
5.	Washing of the hand before and after milking	26	17	7	69	1.38	VI
6.	Disinfection of shed	32	12	6	76	1.52	III
7.	Cleaning of milk utensils with disinfectant	22	22	6	66	1.32	VII
8.	Use of Potassium permanganate before and after milking	16	24	10	56	1.12	VIII
9.	Use of ethno veterinary practices as first aid	30	14	6	74	1.48	IV
10.	Use of full hand method of milking	13	28	9	54	1.08	IX

Above result shows that majority of the dairy farmers adopting vaccination practice against Foot and Mouth disease is with highest mean score (1.84) ranked I this similar with finding ^[2] this because in Tamil Nadu the people were aware vaccination against Foot and Mouth disease (FMD) is carried out twice in a year, during the month of march and September, Regular vaccination will prevent animal affecting from FMD prevent the dairy farmers from production loss Its followed by Deworming (II) with mean score (1.74) this is partial agreement with ^[3] finding and contradictory with ^[4] finding. Likewise regular deworming will also reduce the parasitic load in animals and prevent the calves from roundworm and tapeworm infections which resulting in rearing of healthy animals. Disinfection of sheds ranks (III) with mean score (1.52) this periodic disinfection and cleaning of shed will reduce the tick and other mites affecting animal and also will protect dairy calves from other infections. Mean score of (1.48) Use of ethnoveterinary practices as first aid ranks (IV) position its due to easy availability of locally indigenous herbal product for the treatment of ailing animals from this finding usage of ethno veterinary practices are now gaining importance among farmers through awareness campaigns conducted by veterinary extension workers is a sign of appreciation. Treatment of sick animal by veterinarian (V) with mean score (1.4) is contradictory with finding of ^[4] because the dairy farmers nowadays knowing the importance of veterinarians and their service to the society. Farmers not having that much importance of Washing of the hand before and after milking so it ranked (VI) with mean score of (1.38) and practice Cleaning of milk utensils (VII) with mean score (1.32). Use of Potassium permanganate before and after milking practice having a mean score (1.12) ranked (VIII) position followed by mean score of (1.08) Use of full hand method of milking ranked (IX) position this result is contradictory with finding of ^[3] because the farmers were lacking knowledge about correct method of milking and finally with mean score of (0.8) Isolation of sick animal (X) is partial agreement with finding of ^[3]. Hence, the study recommends that innovations in technological interventions on scientific cattle farming shall be supported with vocational training, demonstration of efficient technologies and motivating the dairy farmers to optimize the herd size with extension support and services might help them to adopt recommended improved technologies and sustainable dairy production thereby enhancing the farmers income.

In Tamil Nadu, vaccination against Foot and Mouth disease (FMD) is carried out twice in a year, during the month of march and September. Regular vaccination will prevent

animal affecting from FMD. FMD vaccination has a mean score of 1.84, These findings were in line with the findings conducted in Bikaner districts of Rajasthan ^[2]. Likewise regular deworming with a mean score 1.7 helps reduce the parasitic load in animals and prevent the calves from roundworm and tapeworm infections. Periodic disinfection and cleaning of shed will reduce the tick and other mites affecting animal and also will protect dairy calves from other infections. Besides, clean milk production with a poor mean score 1.32 is an important area in dairy animal management. Farmers are less aware of the infections via teat through milking agents. Regular washing of hands, teats and utensil are given less importance among farmers of Vellore similar to farmers of Andhra Pradesh ^[3]. Milking agents on the other hand consider these practices useless are few reasons of udder disease like mastitis. In line with the farmers of Mizoram, usage of ethno veterinary practices are now gaining importance among farmers in Vellore through awareness campaigns conducted by veterinary extension workers is a sign of appreciation ^[4]. On contrary to the management practices followed by the dairy farmers of Mizoram ^[5], the farmers in Vellore district are poor in sick animal management with a mean score 0.8. Hence, extension agents should be employed to work in areas where there is poor knowledge among farmers.

Conclusion

On the basis of the findings of the study it can be concluded that higher adoption was observed in periodic deworming and vaccination of calves whereas poor adoption in isolation of sick animals and performing full hand milking. The dairy farmers have more awareness about treatment of sick animals and identification of ailing animals because of the availability of veterinary services in the study area, but farmers were not taking proper care about inclement weather conditions. Farmers have given top priority to keep the animal sheds in good hygienic and sanitary condition for disease free environment. Dairy farmers have average awareness about milking methods, the practice of cleaning of udder before milking occupied sixth rank leaving farmers with less awareness and of preventive measures against mastitis and udder infections. Hence, it can be concluded that the extension agencies in study area need to take initiatives to carry out extension programmes for enhancing adoption level of the dairy farmers through different modern and folk media and also need to increase the rate of contact with the dairy farmers which may increase knowledge about scientific dairy farming practices.

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