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Studies on gap between recommended feeding practices and adopted feeding practices by buffalo owners

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Abstract
The present investigation entitled "Studies on Gap between Recommended Feeding Practices and Adopted Feeding Practices of Buffalo owners in Latur tahsil of Latur district" was undertaken to study the gap between recommended feeding practices and adopted feeding practices by dairy farmers. The 120 farmers of 9 villages were selected to study in Latur tahsil of Latur district and gap of feeding has been observed during feeding of buffaloes. In case of feeding of buffaloes 16.25 percent overall dry fodders fed more than recommend and wide gap has also observed at 22.71 percent of green fodder and 33.20 percent of concentrates, respectively.

Keywords: Gap feeding, buffalo, respondents, dairy animal, Latur

Introduction
In the livestock farming feeding constitutes the largest item of cost for milk production. Therefore, it is important that feed costs are to be possible at lowest level in order to make production profitable. Selection of proper feed using right combination of feeds, feeding the adequate quantity with other related practices are some of the ways which will enable the farmer to feed his cows and buffaloes more economically, increase their efficiency and make the dairy more paying. The lack of understanding of the farmer about the importance of the feeding livestock has also contributed intensify situation more severely [1]. The dairy farmers need to be convinced to accept and change the new package of not recommended practices being followed by them this is important thing which requires for transformation. Extension education had played an important role in improving milk production in the country which needs no further emphasis. Still there exists a wide gap between the technologies available with the research system and its adaptation at farmer's field particularly in the sphere of livestock feeding. A large number of constraints has been identified which was responsible for the low production in cattle and buffaloes as reported by the different categories of the livestock farmers [3].

The feeding practices of buffaloes in the nine agro climatic zones of Maharashtra state. Group feeding seems to be more adoptive in the state. The type of roughages fed includes both green and dry in all the zones. Grazing was the major practice of feeding buffaloes. Feeding of mineral mixture was not found in majority of cases. Group feeding seems to be more adoptive in the area, the proportion of households (HHs) feeding their animals in group ranged between 98.00 percent in Eastern Vidarbha Zone (EVZ) to 42.00 percent in Sub Mountain Zone (SMZ). The type of roughages fed includes both green and dry in all the zones. It was fed in chaffed as well as unchaffed forms. Grazing was the major practice of feeding buffaloes while rests were adopted to stall feeding. The period of grazing was greater than 4 hour. Concentrates are fed as dry as well as in the form of water-soaked form [2].

Materials and Methods
The data for present investigation entitled "Studies on Gap between Recommended Feeding Practices and Adopted Feeding Practices by Buffalo Owner in Latur tahsil of Latur district" was collected from different farmers especially who are rearing the cattle and buffaloes in a Latur tahsil of Latur District in Maharashtra State.

A Comprehensive Questionnaire was prepared to collect the information by personal interview with individual farmers.

Methods of sampling and size of sample: The data obtained for the study was collected by multistage random sampling technique from Latur tahsil of Latur district.

Selection of villages: Random selection of nine villages from Latur tahsil was made.

Selection of farmers: The farmers were selected randomly from each village and the total sample size is comprised of 120 farmers from Latur tahsil of Latur district. The collection of above information of each dairy farmer, by method of 'Personal Interview' through questionnaire was followed. For these questionnaires, a standard Profarma of questionnaire as adopted by National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR), Karnal was prepared and taken for survey.

Results and Discussion

Gap between recommended feeding practices and adopted feeding practices of buffalo

In India, livestock feeding is largely depending upon coarse and non nutritious feed i.e. dry grass, crop waste and by products of agricultural crops. The animals require balanced diet, nutrients for their body maintenance and milk production, due to this it is necessary to find out the adopted feeding practices by dairy farmers in case of buffalo. [4] revealed that the overall gap between adopted feeding practices by dairy farmers and recommended feeding practices. It has been found that dairy farmers fed overall 6.50 kg of green fodder, 7.26 kg of dry fodder and 0.98 kg of concentrates daily. The livestock owners fed dry fodder 3.71 percent more than recommended feeding practices, and wide gap also observed in case of feeding of green fodder as 56.66 percent and as 72.00 percent concentrates.

Table 1: Gap between recommended feeding practices and adopted feeding practices of buffalo in case of landless farmers

Sr. no	Type of feed	Recommended feeding practices	Adopted feeding practices by dairy farmers	Gap between feeding practices
		Quantity/animal (kg)	Quantity/ animal (kg)	Quantity/ animal (kg)
1	Green fodder	15.50 (100.00)	5.00 (32.25)	-10.50 (67.75)
2	Dry fodder	8.00 (100.00)	3.00 (37.50)	-5.00 (62.50)
3	Concentrates	2.50 (100.00)	0.50 (20.00)	-2.00 (80.00)

From table 1 it was found that feeding practices adopted by landless farmers i.e. 5.00 kg green fodder, 3.00 kg dry fodder and 0.50 kg concentrate to their buffalo. Whereas recommended feeding practices were 15.50 kg of green fodder, 8.00 kg of dry fodder and 2.50 kg of concentrates, respectively. From this it was concluded that there was wide gap has been observed in feeding of green fodder 67.75 percent, dry fodder 62.50 percent and concentrates 80.00 percent to the buffalo.

Table 2: Gap between recommended feeding practices and adopted feeding practices of buffalo in case of marginal farmers

Sr. no	Type of feed	Recommended feeding practices	Adopted feeding practices by dairy farmers	Gap between feeding practices
		Quantity/animal (kg)	Quantity/ animal (kg)	Quantity/ animal (kg)
1	Green fodder	15.50 (100.00)	7.10 (45.80)	-8.40 (54.20)
2	Dry fodder	8.00 (100.00)	5.38 (67.25)	-2.62 (32.75)
3	Concentrates	2.50 (100.00)	1.38 (55.20)	-1.12 (44.80)

It was indicated from the table 2 that marginal farmers were fed their buffalo with 7.10 kg of green fodder, 5.38 kg of dry fodder and 1.38 kg of concentrates. There was a wide gap has been observed in adopted feeding practices and recommended feeding practices i.e. 54.20 percent in green fodder, 32.75 percent of dry fodder and 44.80 percent in case of concentrates

Table 3: Gap between recommended feeding practices and adopted feeding practices of buffalo in case of medium farmers

Sr. no	Type of feed	Recommended feeding practices	Adopted feeding practices by dairy farmers	Gap between feeding practices
		Quantity/animal (kg)	Quantity/ animal (kg)	Quantity/ animal (kg)
1	Green fodder	15.50 (100.00)	12.41 (80.06)	-2.59 (19.94)
2	Dry fodder	8.00 (100.00)	9.66 (120.75)	+1.66 (20.75)
3	Concentrates	2.50 (100.00)	2.25 (90.00)	-0.25 (10.00)

From the table 3, it was observed that the medium farmers fed their buffalo with 12.41 kg of green fodder, 9.66 kg of dry fodder and 2.25 kg of concentrates, respectively. These farmers fed 20.75 percent extra dry fodder to their cows, while there was a wide gap observed during feeding of green fodder 19.94 percent and 10.00 percent in concentrates, respectively.

Table 4: Gap between recommended feeding practices and adopted feeding practices of buffalo in case of large farmers

Sr. no	Type of feed	Recommended feeding practices	Adopted feeding practices by dairy farmers	Gap between feeding practices
		Quantity/animal (kg)	Quantity/ animal (kg)	Quantity/ animal (kg)
1	Green fodder	15.50 (100.00)	23.41 (151.03)	+7.91 (51.03)
2	Dry fodder	8.00 (100.00)	19.16 (239.50)	+11.16 (139.50)
3	Concentrates	2.50 (100.00)	2.58 (103.20)	+0.08 (3.20)

The large category of farmers exist the feeding practices was mentioned in table 4. They fed their buffalo with 23.41 kg of green fodder, 19.16 kg of dry fodder and 2.58 kg of concentrates, respectively. It has been observed from above table that the dairy farmers fed dry fodder and concentrates 11.16 per and 0.08 percent more than recommended feeding practices. While the wide gap has also observed, 51.03 percent in feeding of green fodder.

Table 5: Overall gap between recommended feeding practices and adopted feeding practices of buffalo

Sr. no	Type of feed	Recommended feeding practices	Adopted feeding practices by dairy farmers	Gap between feeding practices
		Quantity/animal (kg)	Quantity/ animal (kg)	Quantity/ animal (kg)
1	Green fodder	15.50 (100.00)	11.98 (77.29)	-3.52 (22.71)
2	Dry fodder	8.00 (100.00)	9.30 (116.25)	+1.30 (16.25)
3	Concentrates	2.50 (100.00)	1.67 (66.80)	-0.83 (33.20)

On an average body weight of 300kg)

It was indicated that from table 5, that the dairy farmers fed their buffalo with overall 11.98 kg of green fodder, 9.30 kg of dry fodder and 1.67 kg of concentrates, respectively. They fed 16.25 percent overall extra dry fodder and wide gap has also observed in 22.71 percent of green fodder and 33.20 percent of concentrates to fulfill this gap the dairy farmers should be aware about importance of balanced diet, cultivation of fodder crops etc. The above finding was similar with [4, 3].

Conclusion

The present investigation was carried out to study entitled "Studies on Gap between Recommended Feeding Practices and Adopted Feeding Practices of Buffalo owners in Latur tahsil of Latur district" of Maharashtra state. The farmers were randomly selected from given villages. It was concluded from the results of this investigation as; The dairy farmers fed their buffalo with overall 11.98 kg of green fodder, 9.30 kg of dry fodder and 1.67 kg of concentrates, respectively. They fed 16.25 percent extra dry fodders and wide gap has als o observed in 22.71 percent of green fodder and 33.20 percent of concentrates, respectively.

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