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Constraints being faced by beneficiaries in adoption of recommended practices of goat farming under Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA) Project

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Abstract

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Banswara was locale of the study because initially Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA) project was implemented through KVKs in 25 states of the country. In Rajasthan, Banswara is the only district in which this project was initiated. Under, ARYA project, Goat farming is the major aspect chosen for the present study. Total 120 (60 beneficiaries and 60 non-beneficiaries) respondents were taken for the study. With this context, present study has been carried out to know the constraints being faced by beneficiaries in adoption of recommended practices of goat farming under Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA) Project. Results show that majority of the beneficiaries of ARYA project perceived "Lack of veterinary services" as most important constraints with 88.33 MPS followed by "Inadequate credit facilities in the area" with 87.22 MPS and, "Lack of marketing facilities", "Lack of training on different aspect of goat farming" "Lack of knowledge about common diseases and their preventive measures" with 83.89, 82.78 and 81.67 MPS secured their place as third, fourth and fifth respectively.

Keywords: ARYA project, constraints, goat farming, beneficiaries

Introduction

Agriculture and its all related industries are at the spirit of our country's socioeconomic development. It is essential since it provides livestock for the most of our population and contributes prominently to income of our nation and provides good jobs. Hence, there is great dependence of tribal people on animal husbandry practices (Meganathan *et al.* 2010) [6]. Goats are the poor man's cow, and they are valuable source of income and employment for rural residents. The rural population of Rajasthan's desert zone relies on cattle to meet their milk and meat needs. The majority of small ruminants in the hamlet were fed natural accessible feed resources such as tree leaves, grasses, vegetable crop wastes, and food grain crops. Livestock, mostly bovine and ovine, has a complementary, supplementary, and long-term relationship with our country's crops and mixed farming system. The bulk of agricultural households are only employed during the ploughing, planting, harvesting, and threshing seasons. In such circumstances, animals are regularly raised as a source of extra income. Despite the fact that goat farming appears to make a substantial contribution to the agricultural and national economies, goat producers are still unfamiliar with scientific management practices. The desired amount of milk and meat output could be reached if feeding, breeding, and other management procedures were integrated into the correct operations. Many agricultural institutions and research institutes are working hard to enhance the use of various technologies in the agricultural sector, but there is still a significant gap in adoption. This wide disparity could be related to a number of socioeconomic factors, as well as farmers' strong adherence to the conventional technology they have used for many years. For increasing adoption, there must be more focus on knowing the constraints which hinder the growth of farmers in adopting innovative goat farming technologies. As a result, a determination of the degree to know constraints being faced by beneficiaries in adoption of recommended practices of goat farming under Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA) Project has been made.

Research methodology

To find out the constraints that hinder the adoption of scientific goat farming practice, an interview schedule was prepared for the investigation.

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All possible constraints which might hinder the adoption of recommended practices of goat farming were included in the schedule. The possible 24 constraints were selected after thorough evaluation of literature and guidance of expert panel. After the pre-testing of the statements, necessary modifications were made. The responses obtained from the beneficiaries were recorded on a three point continuum viz., most severe, severe and least severe which were assigned 2, 1 and 0 score respectively. The collected responses were firstly counted and converted into mean per cent score for each statement and then ranked accordingly.

Mean per cent score (MPS)

Mean percent score were obtained by multiplying total

obtained score of the respondents by hundred and divided by the maximum obtainable score under each practice. Formula of MPS is given as under:

$$\text{MPS} = \frac{\text{Total score obtained by the respondent}}{\text{Maximum obtainable score}} \times 100$$

Results and discussion

An effort was made to find out the priority wise constraints faced by the ARYA project. For each statements mean per cent score was calculated and ranked accordingly. The results of each statement have been presented in the Table 1.

Table 1: Constraints being faced by the beneficiaries in adoption of recommended practices of goat farming

S. No.	Constraint	MPS	Rank
i	Inadequate knowledge provided under ARYA project	60.56	XXI
ii	Lack of feedback received by KVK staff under ARYA project	61.67	XX
iii	Non-availability of improved breeds of goat	80.00	VI
iv	Lack of marketing facilities	83.89	III
v	Lack of veterinary services	88.33	I
vi	Lack of grazing lands in the area	75.00	X
vii	Non-availability of feed and fodder seed on credit	76.11	IX
viii	Lack of knowledge about importance of mineral mixture	71.67	XIII
ix	Lack of training on different aspect of goat farming	82.78	IV
x	KVK staff is not serious about mandates of ARYA scheme	59.44	XXII
xi	Lack of knowledge about common diseases and their preventive measures	81.67	V
xii	Inadequate fund provided under scheme	56.11	XXIV
xiii	Training period is not sufficient for the beneficiaries	78.33	VII
xiv	Lack of awareness towards financial institutes	74.44	XI
xv	Lack of initial capital to start venture	77.78	VIII
xvi	Lack of training institutions nearby for training of farmers	72.22	XII
xvii	No follow-up after trainings	67.78	XV
xviii	Poor participation of Subject Matter Specialists in training under ARYA scheme	63.33	XIX
xix	Inadequate credit facilities in the area	87.22	II
xx	Poor communication between trainer and trainee	64.44	XVII
xxi	Lack of motivation among trainees	58.33	XXIII
xxii	Local language/dialect of trainees	63.89	XVIII
xxiii	Lack of guidance during initiation of activities	65.00	XVI
xxiv	Lack of transport facilities for carrying trainees to on-campus training	69.44	XIV

Mean Per cent Score

The data in the Table 1 reveal that “Lack of veterinary services” with 88.33 MPS ranked first as most perceived constraints in rank hierarchy, which was also supported by the findings of Kumar *et al.* (2010) [4], Thombre *et al.* (2010) [9] and Islam *et al.* (2018) [2] who also stated non-availability of veterinary facilities on time as most important constraint among all.

It was observed that “Inadequate credit facilities in the area” with 87.22 MPS ranked second. The next significant constraints perceived by the goat farmers were “Lack of marketing facilities”, “Lack of training on different aspect of goat farming” and “Lack of knowledge about common diseases and their preventive measures” with 83.89, 82.78 and 81.67 MPS secured their place as third, fourth and fifth respectively. These statements are also considered as most important constraints studied by Devaki and Senthikumar (2011) [1], Kathariya *et al.* (2014) [3], Raj kumar and Kavithaa (2014) [9], Tudu and Roy (2015) [10], Kumar *et al.* (2017) [5], and Sarita *et al.* (2017) [8].

The Table 1 further shows that “Non-availability of improved breeds of goat”, “Training period is not sufficient for the beneficiaries”, and “Lack of initial capital to start venture” with 80.00, 78.33 and 77.78 MPS were also considered as

important constraints by the beneficiaries and ranked as sixth, seventh and eighth respectively..

It is apparent from the table that “Unavailability of feed and fodder seed on credit”, and “Lack of grazing lands in the area” were major constraints in line with mean per cent score of 76.11 and 75.00 were given ninth and tenth ranks respectively.

Eleventh, twelfth, thirteen, fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth ranks were assigned to “Lack of awareness towards financial institutes”, “Lack of training institutions nearby for training of farmers”, “Lack of knowledge about importance of mineral mixture”, “Lack of transport facilities for carrying trainees to on-campus training”, “No follow-up after trainings”, “Lack of guidance during initiation of activities” and “Poor communication between trainer and trainee” with mean per cent score of 74.44, 72.22, 71.67, 69.44, 67.78, 65 and 64.44 respectively.

The Table 1 further reveals that “Local language/dialect of trainees”, “Poor participation of Subject Matter Specialists in training under ARYA scheme”, “Lack of feedback received by KVK staff under ARYA project”, and “Inadequate knowledge provided under ARYA project” with MPS 63.89, 63.33, 61.67, and 60.56 ranked as eighteenth, nineteenth,

twentieth and twenty first accordingly.

The statements “KVK staff is not serious about mandates of ARYA scheme”, “Lack of motivation among trainees” and “Inadequate fund provided under scheme” ranked as least constraints with MPS 59.44, 58.33 and 56.11 respectively.

Conclusion

Goats were found to play an essential role in the livelihood security of the individuals living in rural areas with limited resources. It was found to be an effective income generating choice for the rural poor. Appropriate extension programmes, availability of veterinary services, providing timely access to trainings on various aspects of goat farming, timely availability of critical inputs, remunerative price for goats and its products and easy access to institutional finance are all essential for the country's sustainable development in goat industry. Providing the farmers with timely access to information on innovative technologies, inputs, market and credit would be a critical step in overcoming various goat production obstacles.

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