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Constraints faced by farmers regarding buffalo healthcare management practices in Banaskantha district of Gujarat state

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Abstract

This study was conducted to study constraints faced by farmers in adaptation of buffalo health care management practices. A sample of 150 respondents were randomly selected from the Banaskantha district of Gujarat state of India and Data were collected through face-to-face interview and analyzed by frequency and percentage. The farmers were asked open – ended questions to enlist the constraints they were facing. Data revealed that, the majority of farmers faces the problem of high cost of feed & treatment, low milk producing animals, unavailability of green fodder in summer season, anoestrus in summer season, calving interval period is more, repeat breeding, poor heat detection and unavailability of shed.

Keywords: Constraints, dairy farmers, buffalo health care management

Introduction

India is enriched with the largest livestock population (535.78 millions) and one of the highest milk producer (195 MT) in the world (livestock census 2020). Animal Husbandry is helpful in generating gainful employment in the rural sector, particularly among the landless labourers, small and marginal farmers and women by supplementing their family incomes. India's livestock sector is one of the largest in the world with a holding of 11.6% of world livestock population which consists 57.83% of world buffalo population.

The ability of the dairy farmers to generate more income from dairying largely depends on the effective adoption of improved healthcare management practices that lead to increase in productivity but the farmers face various constraints in adoption of these practices. Constraints imply the problems or difficulties faced by dairy farmers while adopting day-today healthcare practices in their dairy enterprise. Constraints identification will help the planners and administrators in identifying the problems so that the loopholes, if any can be plugged. Thus, alleviating the constraints in buffalo healthcare management practices can definitely augment the profits. Keeping the above facts in view, the present investigation was undertaken to identify the constraints perceived by the farmers in adoption of buffalo healthcare management practices.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted purposively in the Gujarat state of Banaskantha district from July to December 2020. Three talukas viz; Kankrej, Danta and Vadgam were randomly selected for the study. Five villages from each taluka were selected randomly and from each village 10 farmers rearing buffalo were selected randomly. Thus, a total of 150 buffalo farmers were selected those having atleast one Buffalo. Data was collected through informal and friendly visits to the farmers' homes and farms in the early hours of the day. The data collected were statistically analyzed for frequency, percentage and rank.

Results and Discussion

1. Constraints faced by farmers and seek their suggestions regarding buffalo healthcare management practices

A study was made to find out the constraints faced by the dairy farmers regarding buffalo health care management practices. The farmers were asked open – ended questions to enlist the constraints they were facing. In this study total eight constraints prominently observed as per table (1) The data revealed the constraints that majority of farmers faced the main

constraints regarding Cost of feed & treatment is high 20% (30), followed by low milk producing animals 18% (27) were first and second numbers major constraints of farmers. A third constraint was Unavailability of green fodder in summer season 14% (21). Other constraints were anoestrus in summer season 14% (21), Calving interval period is more 12.67% (19), repeat breeding problems is more 8% (12), Poor heat detection 7.33% (11) and Unavailability of shed 6% (09) possessed fourth, fifth sixth seventh and eighth place

respectively. This result get support of Sarita et.al, who reported that 'high cost of treatment' was the most serious constraint (79.67%) as concerned to health care management practices. Also, as concern to feeding practices major constraint of farmers were high feed cost. Vimalkumargamit *et al.* (2021) [4], B.A. Pata *et al.* (2018) [2], Patel K. *et al.* (2017) [3] found that unavailability of green fodder, Repeat breeding, Low milk Production of animals were main constraints of dairy animals.

Table 1: Constraints faced by farmers regarding buffalo healthcare management practices

(n= 150)						
Sr. No.	Constraints	Kankrej (50)	Danta (50)	Vadgam (50)	Overall (150)	Rank
1	Cost of feed & treatment is high	11 (22.00)	09 (18.00)	10 (20.00)	30 (20.00)	I
2	Unavailability of green fodder in summer season	09 (18.00)	07 (14.00)	05 (10.00)	21 (14.00)	III
3	Low milk producing animals	09 (18.00)	13 (26.00)	05 (10.00)	27.00 (18.00)	II
4	Anestrous in summer season	07 (14.00)	05 (10.00)	09 (18.00)	21 (14.00)	III
5	Calving interval period is more	05 (10.00)	07 (14.00)	07 (14.00)	19 (12.67)	IV
6	Poor heat detection	03 (6.00)	03 (6.00)	05 (10.00)	11 (7.33)	VI
7	Repeat Breeding problems is more	04 (8.00)	02 (4.00)	06 (12.00)	12 (8.00)	V
8	Unavailability of shed	02 (4.00)	04 (8.00)	03 (6.00)	09 (6.00)	VII

2. Suggestions expressed by buffalo farmers regarding health care management practices

The data shown in table (2) clearly reveals the major suggestions expressed by the farmers to overcome the constraints in dairy farming. Their suggestions were: by veterinary services should be made available at village level and that to at affordable price and proper management of feed should be as per season was prime suggestion received from farmers. However second one is veterinary health care and fertility improvement camp should be organized time to time

for poor productive animals and supply of mineral mixture. Fodder storage depot should be there from government side and at the time of drought dairy farmers should be given fodder on rationing basis for their animals was the third major suggestion from farmers. The other suggestion likewise expert services should be made readily available at village level to treat the repeat breeder and dairy farmers should be given training on the aspects of buffalo health care management practices.

Table 2: The important suggestion of buffalo farmers to overcome the constraints in health care management practices

(n= 150)				
Sr. No.	Suggestions of dairy farmers	Number of respondents	Percent	Rank
1.	Veterinary services should be made available at village level and that to at affordable price and proper management of feed should be as per season	43.00	28.67	I
2.	Fodder storage depot should be there from government side and at the time of drought dairy farmers should be given fodder on rationing basis for their animals.	27.00	18.00	III
3.	Veterinary health care and fertility improvement camp should be organized time to time for poor productive animals and supply mineral mixture	39.00	26.00	II
4.	Expert services should be made readily available at village level to treat the repeat breeder.	22.00	14.67	IV
5.	Dairy farmers should be given training on the aspects of buffalo health care management practices.	19.00	12.66	V

Conclusion

From the above study it is concluded that the main constraint of dairy farmers regarding buffalo health care management practices are high cost of feed and treatment expenses, long calving interval period. So considering these constraints concerned Government authority, NGOs, Institutions try to mitigate the constraints regarding Buffalo Health Care Management Practices.

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