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## Constraints and suggestions for enhancing the livelihood security of livestock farmer producer groups women self-help groups

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### Abstract

The present study was conducted in Telangana state carried out in Nagarkurnool and Siddipet districts. 10 LFPGs were selected randomly from each district and from each group 6 members were selected thus a total of 120 members constituted the respondents of the study. Data was collected using a structured interview schedule which was processed, analysed and interpreted. The study revealed that major constraints expressed by women SHGs were sold of animals due to lack of feed and water scarcity (78.30%), no insurance for animals even though tagging has been done (64.17%) respectively. Majority of the women SHGs expressed that loan should be provided with 75% subsidy (69.17%), insurance should be provided after the completion of claim procedure (54.17%) respectively for upliftment of their livelihood security. Hence, for enhancing the livelihood security of livestock farmer producer groups there is dire need to remove of these constraints on priority basis with the considerable suggestions and interests of the beneficiaries.

**Keywords:** Constraints, livestock farmer producer groups, suggestions, livelihood security

### Introduction

In India, livestock is mainly in the hands of women. They contribute about 69 percent of work force engaged in livestock sector. Livestock are an important asset for women because it is often easier for many women in developing countries to acquire livestock assets either through inheritance or markets, than to purchase land or other physical asset or to control other physical assets (Rubin, Tezera & Caldwell, 2010) [8].

Women are at disadvantage when food and nutrients are distributed within a household. Improvement in household welfare depends not only on household income but also on who earns that income (Quisumbing AR, *et al.* 1995) [6]. Increase women access and control over the assets have been shown to improve household food security, child nutrition and education as well as wellbeing of women.

Women plays multiple roles in Animal Husbandry sector like care of new born and sick animals, cleaning of animals and sheds, milking, providing feed, fodder and water, taking animals for grazing. They perform supporting as well as dominating roles in decision making pertaining to various livestock farming operations. Therefore, improvement in livestock production is an important pathway for increasing the income of farm women.

Livestock Farmer Producer Groups is the primary organization of women members from existing SHGs involved in livestock rearing of sheep/goat, dairy animals or poultry. These groups shall be formed either in the same habitation or village and Livestock Farmer Producer Organisations at mandal/district/state level.

In Telangana LFPGs were commenced from January 2015 and is being implemented by SERP. As Livestock sector is one of the most important sources of livelihood in rural domain and livestock farming is mainly under the control of rural women at household level, the SERP officers identified the interested SHGs women and started LFPGs which play significant roles in empowering the poor and increasing their livelihood security.

Its main aim is to increase the income levels of the rural poor community by developing a bargaining power as a group in execution of common activities and to provide livestock-based livelihoods by at least 50 percent.

## Materials and Methods

The present study was conducted in Telangana state of the south – central region of India. The study was conducted in Nagarkurnool and Siddipet districts and from each district 10 livestock farmer producer groups were selected and from each farmer producer group 6 members were selected randomly. A total of 120 respondents were selected for the present study by using simple random sampling. Data was collected using a structured interview schedule which was processed, analysed and interpreted. Statistical tools such as frequency, percentage and ranking were used to interpret findings and draw conclusions.

## Results and Discussion

The constraints given by the respondents were presented in Table 1. The study revealed that majority of the constraints expressed by members were sale of animals due to feed and water scarcity (78.30%), no insurance for the dead animals even though tagging has been done (64.17%), high cost of medicines (50.00%), death of animals due to seasonal changes (48.30%), lack of knowledge and skills in rearing livestock as they not belong to shepherd community (43.33%), non-availability of veterinary doctor and pashumitra (35.83%), increased grazing lease rents (25.83%)no shepherds to rear the animals (18.33%), predation risk due to migration to forest for grazing (15.00%) and stray dogs attacking sheep and goat (13.33%) in decreasing order. Some of the above constraints drew support from the findings reported by Babu (2008) [2], Bhoj *et al.* (2014) [3], Sowjanya (2014) [9], Devaki *et al.* (2015), Jyoti *et al.* (2017) [5] and Akshita *et al.* (2019) [1]. In the study area, the major problem was distress sale of animals due to feed and water scarcity. Preserving fodder in the form of hay and silage from and crop residues and construction of soak pits for rain water harvesting may be some of the alternatives to mitigate the above constraint.

Establishment of fodder banks, supply of fodder seeds may be the alternate strategies to be adopted by SERP and AHD. More than half of the respondents reported lack of insurance for the dead animals even though tagging has been done which can be overcome by providing the insurance to dead animals immediately after completion of claim procedure. Use of information technology such as RFID tags or sensor band identification mechanisms to be explored for speedy identification of animals and settlement of insurance claims. High cost of medicines constraint can be overcome by enhancing the budgetary provisions for purchase of medicines and vaccines to provide at a subsidized cost to farmers. Death of animals due to seasonal diseases and lack of knowledge and skills in rearing livestock can be overcome by providing training to the members and importance of vaccination for seasonal diseases. In Telangana state shortage of qualified veterinary man power was a serious constraint and the study area is not an exemption to this. Because of the vacant positions in Veterinary Dispensaries, the members expressed non on time availability of veterinary doctors as a constraint. The Animal Husbandry Department shall take up the man power planning and initiate required steps for recruitment of veterinary doctors. Pashumitra is the trained women at the veterinary university in order to deliver the doorstep services to the LFPG members. Non on time availability of Pashumitra can be resolved by providing them with monthly wage. Many of the LFPGs members were possessing marginal land and they cultivate their land to meet the household requirements and take land for lease for animal grazing. (25.83%) respondents reported increased grazing lease rents as their constraint which may be overcome by raising community fodder plots. Predation risk constraint faced by the LFPGs members can be overcome by Gram Panchayats by taking proper measures to combat the stray dog menace.

**Table 1:** Constraints in livestock rearing faced by members of LFPGs

S. No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Sale of animals due to feed and water scarcity	94	78.30	1 <sup>st</sup>
2.	No insurance for the dead animals even though tagging has been done	77	64.17	2 <sup>nd</sup>
3.	High cost of medicines	60	50.00	3 <sup>rd</sup>
4.	Death of animals due to seasonal diseases	58	48.30	4 <sup>th</sup>
5.	Lack of knowledge and skills in rearing livestock as they not belong to the shepherd community	52	43.33	5 <sup>th</sup>
6.	Non availability of veterinary doctor and pashumitra	43	35.83	6 <sup>th</sup>
7.	Increased grazing lease rents	31	25.83	7 <sup>th</sup>
8.	No shepherds to rear the animals	22	18.33	8 <sup>th</sup>
9.	Predation risk due to migration to forest for grazing	18	15.00	9 <sup>th</sup>
10.	Stray dogs attacking sheep and goat	16	13.33	10 <sup>th</sup>

The suggestions given by the respondents were presented in Table 2. The suggestions were *viz.* Loan should be provided with 75 percent subsidy (69.17%), Insurance should be provided immediately after the completion of claim procedure (54.17%), Availability of Veterinary Assistant Surgeon and pashumitra (24×7) (46.67%), Creating awareness about

seasonal diseases (39.17%), Raising of community based fodder plots (26.67%), Training is required before animal purchase (17.50%), Provide feed on subsidy (15.00%) and Control of stray dogs (11.67%) in descending order with percentage of respondents in parenthesis.

**Table 2:** Suggestions given by members of LFPGs

S. No.	Suggestions	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Loan should be provided with 75 percent subsidy	83	69.17	1 <sup>st</sup>
2.	Insurance should be provided after the completion of claim procedure	65	54.17	2 <sup>nd</sup>
3.	Availability of Veterinary Assistant Surgeon and pashumitra	56	46.67	3 <sup>rd</sup>
4.	Creating awareness about seasonal diseases	47	39.17	4 <sup>th</sup>
5.	Raising of community based fodder plots	32	26.67	5 <sup>th</sup>
6.	Training is required before animal purchase	21	17.50	6 <sup>th</sup>
7.	Provide feed on subsidy	18	15.00	7 <sup>th</sup>
8.	Control of stray dogs	14	11.67	8 <sup>th</sup>

## Conclusion

On the basis of findings of the study, it may be concluded that the higher percent of the respondents were of the opinion that lack of sufficient feed and water leads to the selling of animals, no insurance for animals even though tagging has been done, High cost of medicines, Death of animals due to seasonal diseases etc. were some of important problems. To overcome the above problems, majority of the respondents suggested that Loan should be provided with 75 percent subsidy, Insurance should be provided immediately after the completion of claim procedure, Availability of Veterinary Assistant Surgeon and pashumitra, creating awareness about seasonal diseases, raising of community-based fodder plots, Training is required before animal purchase, Provide feed on subsidy. Green fodder and concentrate should be available throughout the year at low cost, vaccination facilities should be provided by the Government in proper time, medicine should be available at low cost and training should be given for better livestock management. By following these suggestions, the income of the livestock farmer producer group members increases which in turn increases the livelihood security.

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