

CONSTRAINTS FACED BY FARMERS IN ADOPTION OF DAIRY AS ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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Received: 25.04.2015; Accepted: 27.05.2015

ABSTRACT

To study the constraints faced by farmers in adoption of dairy as an entrepreneurship, 45 commercial dairy farmers of Punjab were selected through stratified random sampling technique and interviewed with a pre-tested questionnaire. The study revealed that all farmers entered into profession after getting training in dairy farming. The problems associated with adoption of feeding and health care practices were ranked first (61.8%) followed by constraints in adoption of milking practices (58.3%), breeding practices (51.0%) and housing practices (48.8%). Inadequate facilities of artificial insemination centre (71.1%), high price of concentrate mixture (84.4%), lack of capital for housing (66.7%), low economic gains (80.0%) and non-availability of adequate veterinary services (77.8%) were major stumbling block in adoption of the improved breeding, feeding, housing, milking and health care practices, respectively. There is dire need to frame policy at government level to remove bottlenecks faced by commercial dairy farmers in order to adopt dairy as entrepreneurship.

Key words: Constraints, dairy, entrepreneurship, commercial dairy farmers

Punjab is one of the leading state in dairying and milk production in the country (Kumar, 2009), contributing 9.7 MT (NDDB, 2015) towards national milk grid. As agricultural technology has shown signs of fatigue with slow down of income growth and reduced employment, the farmers of the state are willing to adopt dairy as entrepreneurship (Laldinpuii, 2013). However, constraints associated with dairy farming limit its adoption. Constraints are the circumstances or the causes which prohibit the dairy farmers from adoption of the improved management practices (Rathod *et al.*, 2011). Hence efforts have been made to study the various problems faced by farmers in adoption of dairy as entrepreneurship in Punjab.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The constraints in adoption of dairy as entrepreneurship were studied through pre- designed and pre-tested questionnaire. Forty five commercial dairy farmers were selected with stratified random sampling method from all three regions of Punjab (Majha, Malwa and Doaba). From each region five each small sized farms (20-49 milch animals), medium sized farms (50-99 milch animals) and large sized farms (above 100 milch animals) were selected randomly i.e. a total number of 45 dairy farms. A list of recommended practices under different categories i.e. breeding, feeding, housing, milking and health care practices was obtained from 'Package

of Practices in Veterinary and Animal Husbandry for Livestock and Poultry' published by GADVASU, Ludhiana (Verma, 2008). It was cross checked with experts from the Department. The information regarding constraints faced by dairy farmers in adoption of recommended practices as well as their general constraint perceptions were collected through personal interview method. The data was analyzed with standard statistical methods to drawn the results.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study revealed that 46.7% of the farmers were middle aged, 33.4% were old aged and the remaining 20% belonged to young age group. Majority of the dairy farmers (40%) had education level upto higher secondary followed by 33.3 % up to matriculation level and 26.7 % of the farmers were graduates. It was observed that all the commercial dairy farmers have got the training in dairy farming either from Punjab Dairy Development Board or GADVASU, Ludhiana before they entered into profession. It may be due to two reasons; first a good practical training and experience in dairy farming will be highly desirable and secondly training is mandatory to get subsidized loan to set up a commercial dairy farm.

The constraints experienced by commercial dairy farmers of Punjab are discussed in two ways: domain wise and item wise. The study revealed (Table 1) that problems related to adoption of feeding and health care

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Table 1
Domain-wise distribution of constraints experienced by commercial dairy farmers of Punjab

Domain	Percentage	Rank
Constraints in adoption of feeding practices	61.7	I
Constraints in adoption of health care practices	61.7	I
Constraints in adoption of milking practices	58.3	II
Constraints in adoption of breeding practices	51.9	III
Constraints in adoption of housing practices	48.8	IV

practices ranked first (61.7%) followed by constraints in adoption of milking practices (58.3%), breeding practices (51.9%) and housing practices (48.8%). The item wise distribution of constraints experienced by commercial dairy farmers of Punjab are given in Table 2. Inadequate facilities of artificial insemination (AI) centre were the major constraint faced by 71.1% of farmers, hence allotted the first rank. The second rank was accorded to the high prices of the imported semen straw (62.2%) followed by unsatisfactory results of AI (48.8%), lack of staff at Government hospital (44.4%) and inexperienced staff at

Table 2
Item-wise distribution of constraints experienced by commercial dairy farmers of Punjab

Items	Percentage	Rank
Constraints in adoption of breeding practices		
Inadequate facilities of AI centre	71.1	I
High prices of the imported semen straw	62.2	II
Unsatisfactory results of AI	48.8	III
Lack of staff at Government hospitals	44.4	IV
Inexperienced staff at AI centres	33.3	V
Constraints in adoption of feeding practices		
High price of concentrate mixture	84.4	I
Non remunerative price of milk	82.2	II
Shortage of feed and fodders	66.6	III
Non-availability of input for production and enrichment of green fodder	40.0	IV
Non-availability of concentrates and mineral mixture in villages	35.5	V
Constraints in adoption of housing practices		
Lack of capital	66.7	I
High cost of construction	55.6	II
Lack of sufficient space	44.4	III
Inconvenience practice	28.8	IV
Constraints in adoption of milking practices		
Low economic gains	80.0	I
Problem of labour	60.0	II
Time consuming	55.6	III
Lack of knowledge	37.8	IV
Constraints in adoption of health care practices		
Non-availability of adequate veterinary services	77.8	I
Non-availability and high cost of medicines	66.7	II
Less economic returns	57.8	III
No provision for testing of animals	44.4	IV

AI centres (33.3%) which were ranked III, IV and V, respectively. The results are in agreement with Podikunju *et al.* (2001) and Dabas *et al.* (2004).

The study (Table 2) indicated that high price of concentrate mixture was the main constraint faced by majority (84.4%) of farmers followed by non remunerative price of milk (82.2%), shortage of feed and fodders (66.6%), non availability of input for production and enrichment of green fodder (40.0%) and non availability of concentrates and mineral mixture in villages (35.5%). These results are in conformity with the findings of Rathod *et al.* (2011). There is a need to educate the farmers about enrichment of fodder as well as balanced and economical feed preparation.

The reasons for low adoption of improved housing practices for dairy farming were lack of capital followed by high cost of construction, lack of sufficient space and inconvenience practices in descending order (Table 2). Narmatha *et al.* (2010) also found high capital demand as major constraint in adoption of modern housing practices. Sharma *et al.* (2000) also reported that low knowledge level, high cost of construction and lack of sufficient space were main constraints in adoption of improved housing practices. High capital and high cost of construction are always an issue for farmers when they want to start a dairy as enterprise.

In respect of adoption of milking practices, major perceived constraint was low economic gains, hence ranked first. It was followed by problem of labour, time consuming and lack of knowledge (Table 2). The findings are in agreement with Maity and Sidhu (2001). Jayalaxami *et al.* (1997) also reported low price of milk as a major constraint.

Among the constraints in adoption of health care practices, the majority of farmers admitted that non-availability of adequate veterinary services was the major problem. It was followed by non-availability and high cost of medicines, less economic returns and no provision for testing of animals (Table 2). Rathod *et al.* (2011) also highlighted the non-availability of adequate veterinary services and high cost of medicine as major constraints among health care services.

The study conclusively revealed that inadequate facilities of AI centre, high price of concentrate mixture, lack of capital for housing, low economic gains and non availability of adequate veterinary services were major stumbling block in adoption of the improved breeding, feeding, housing, milking and health care practices, respectively. There is dire need to frame policy at

government level to remove bottlenecks faced by commercial dairy farmers in order to adopt dairy as entrepreneurship.

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Editors/Editorial Board Members are highly thankful to all the distinguished referees who helped us in the evaluation of articles. We request them to continue to extend their co-operation and be prompt in future to give their comments on the articles for timely publication of the journal.