



Constraints identified in livestock rearing in hilly areas

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Abstract: Livestock farming is an important occupation in hilly rural areas. Livestock plays an important role in livelihood for the farmers of hilly areas. Animal acts as the capital reserve for these farmers. The hilly area farmers face lot of constraints in animal rearing which affect their animals' productivity. In order to identify the constraints faced by the farmers of hilly areas, the present study was conducted in hilly district Reasi of Jammu and Kashmir which was selected purposively. A sample of 20 per cent farmers (200) was selected randomly from the selected villages. The major constraints identified were lack of green fodder in the off season of the year, lack of improved breeds of the animals and lack of animal health aid. Majority of livestock rearers opined that there was need to encourage the farmers to grow the fodder even in off season of the year, improved breeds of the animals and training –cum-awareness for the better health care of animals.

Keywords: Livestock rearing, Hilly areas, Animal health

Introduction

India contributes nearly 19% of world livestock and is in first position in livestock production. Livestock contributes 26.4 % of agricultural income in the country. Livestock sector occupies an important place in the economy of India as this sector contributes immensely in the national GDP. Milk production in India, is by far the domain of small farmers in a mixed farming system (Patel, 1994). In order to maximize the milk production and thereby profit, the dairy farmers depend on their limited resources. Scientific management and skill of the livestock rearers can definitely augment the profit. After agriculture, there major occupation is animal farming. The economic status of the farmers can be improved by improving the animal husbandry practices in addition to agricultural practices, fish farming, poultry farming etc. Farmers residing in hilly areas mostly rear buffaloes, sheep and goats. Livestock rearers of the hilly areas face a lot of constraints for milk production, breeding, feeding, health management, infrastructural, technical, socio-psychological, economic and marketing etc. (Patil et al, 2009). Keeping in view the important bottlenecks faced by the farmers of hilly areas, a study on "Constraints identified in livestock rearing in hilly areas" has been undertaken with the specific objective: Constraints identified in livestock rearing in hilly areas.

Materials and Methods

The present study was conducted in hilly district Reasi of Jammu and Kashmir which was selected purposively as the investigator was serving in the district and was having good rapport with the livestock rearers. Moreover, the district is having large tribal population whose major occupation is animal rearing. Out of 4

C.D Blocks only 2 C.D. Blocks namely Reasi and Pouni were selected randomly. A sample of 20 per cent Gram Panchayats from each selected block was selected randomly. A sample of 20 per cent villages was selected randomly from the selected Gram Panchayats. A sample of 20 per cent (200) farmers was selected randomly from the selected villages. The constraints in rearing of livestock were identified. The data from the selected farmers were collected through the schedules prepared for the study purpose. Farmers' opinions were taken regarding the constraints faced by the farmers in animal rearing and solutions of the bottlenecks faced by the farmers of selected areas. The respondents were interviewed with the help of well-structured and pre-tested interview schedule developed for the investigation. The data collected for the study purpose were classified; tabulated and required statistical tools were used for interpretation.

Results and Discussion

The table-1, reveals that out of 200 livestock rearers, 46.00 per cent were buffaloes rearers (rank I), 18.00 per cent were cows rearers (rank III), 23.00 per cent reared both cows and buffaloes (rank II), 7.33 per cent were goats rearers (rank IV), 3.50 were sheep rearers (rank V) and 3.00 reared both sheep and buffaloes (rank VI).

The figures in table-2, reveals that 88.00 per cent respondents (rank III) said that there was no animal health aid in their areas, 28.00 per cent farmers (rank VI) said that there was high infestation of animal diseases in their areas and they did not find any animal expert for the treatment of their animals. 91.00 per cent respondents (rank II) were of the opinion that there was lack of improved breeds of the animals which caused low productivity in

Table-1: Livestock rearers

Type of animal	Frequency	%	Rank
Buffaloes	93	46	I
Cows	37	18	III
Both(cows and buffaloes)	46	23	II
Goats	11	7.33	IV
Sheep	7	3.5	V
Both(sheep and goats)	6	3	VI

Table-3: Farmers' response for the solution of the problems in livestock rearing in hilly areas

Farmers opinion	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Awareness-cum-training for proper animal health care	170	85	III
Training for preparing the low cost balanced feed for the animals	50	25	VI
Availability of improved breed of animals	179	89.5	II
Subsidy on quality feed	165	82.5	IV
Encourage the farmers for growing the green fodder even in off season	190	95	I
Provide market channel for the products	90	45	V

the animal products.80.50 per cent farmers(IV) opined that they faced the high cost of animal feed. Due to high cost of feed and their low income they were unable to provide the balance feed to their animals.96.50 farmers(rank I) faced the problem green fodder in some months (May, June) of the year. They responded that in May-June months they didn't get the green fodder on the hills due to which their animals' milk yield was reduced drastically. 46.50% animal rearers (rank V) opined that were getting less market prices for their animal products. They said that the middlemen was always involved who facilitated in selling animal products resulting less prices for their animal products. The finding is in line with the findings of Sandu and Singh(1995), Rajendran and Parbaharan (1998), Sawarkar *et al.* (2001), Mohi and Bhatti (2006), Pawar *et al.* (2006), Singh and Chauhan (2006), Patil *et al.* (2009), Rathore *et al.* (2009), Umar *et al.* (2011).

The table-3 reveals that 95.00 per cent farmers (rank I) said that there was need to encourage the farmers for growing the green fodder in off season of the year.89.50 respondents (rank II) said that there was need to made availability of improved breeds of animals while 85.00 farmers (rank III) said that there was dire need for the awareness-cum-training for proper animal health care. 82.50 farmers(rank IV) said that there should be subsidy for the quality feed for the animals.45.00 per cent farmers(rank V) said that government agencies should provide proper market channel so they can fetch maximum output from the animal products.25.00 per cent farmers(VI) said that training to prepare the low cost balanced feed should be imparted to them.

It can be concluded that majority (46.00%) of respondents were rearing the buffaloes.96.50 per cent respondents said that lack of fodder in off seasons of the year was the major constraint in rearing the animals in hilly areas. 91.00 per cent respondents opined that lack of improved breeds was another major constraint in rearing the livestock in the hilly areas. Majority (95.00%) of

Table-2: Constraints identified in livestock rearing in hilly areas

Constraints identified	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Lack of animal health aid	176	88	III
High infestation of diseases	56	28	VI
Lack of improved breed of animals	182	91	II
High cost of feed	161	80.5	IV
Lack of green fodder in some months of the year	193	96.5	III
Less market prices for the products	93	46.5	V

respondents said that the farmers should be encouraged to grow the green fodder in off season of the year.89.50 per cent respondents suggested that the improved breed of the animals should be provided to the farmers of hilly areas.

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