

Constraints Causing Concern to Animal Keepers Associated with “ GOPAL YOJANA”

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India holds 4th rank in the world with respect to livestock population. Whereas the animal milk production of the country is approximately 66.00 million tons. The target for the year 2000 AD is estimated to be the 70 million tons (Dairy India ,1997). The state of Rajasthan is known as the Denmark of India. The state possesses about 47.7 million live stock (Anon., 1992) and contribute with an annual milk production of 4.47 million tons. Thus, contributing approximately 9% to the country's total milk production. The development of farmers dealing with animal husbandry depends to a large extent on the improved wealth of animal husbandry. Animal husbandry is under going rapid scientific advancement during present days. A number of extension programs are introduced by the government to boost up milk production of our country. The most complex and significant problem of our age seems to be the blocks in effective dissemination of technology and its adoption at the individual animal- keepers level. Considering the severity of the problems, state of Rajasthan introduced an animal husbandry upliftment program in the name of the “GOPAL YOJANA” on Oct., 1990. The main objective of the yojana is to raise the economic status of the animal keepers by improving animal breeds. The yojana includes transfer of scientific and recent technical knowledge regarding nutritive fodder, utility of green fodder and improve breeds. Initially, the activities of the yojana were executed in 12 districts of south east Rajasthan. Almost a decade is over since this yojana was introduced in the state. In order to find out the problems perceived by the animal keepers in getting benefit of yojana a study was conducted. The study aimed at to identify the constraints as perceived by the beneficiary and non-beneficiary animal keepers in getting benefits of ‘GOPAL YOJANA’.

Methodology

The present study was undertaken in purposively selected Girwa panchayat samiti of Udaipur district, the selection of said panchayat samiti was done considering comparatively higher livestock population among all the other panchayat samiti. The Gopal Yojana under study was introduced in the said panchayat samiti well ahead during its introduction to Udaipur district of Rajasthan. Two Gopal one each the best performer and poor performer were selected based on their performance. A sample of 120 respondents, 60 each beneficiary (30 from each circle) and non-beneficiary of yojana were selected by the employing a simple random technique. Thus, the total sample of respondents consisted of 120 respondents from the study area.

Results and Discussions

To identify the constraints perceived by the animal keepers, a suitable schedule was developed for the study purpose. A perusal of data incorporated in Table -1 indicate that high prices charged by Gopal for A.I. was one of the severest constraints (MPS 67.50) perceived by the beneficiary of yojana. Likewise, less chances of success through A.I. done by the animal keepers. The other constraints viz., ignorance about cross breed cattle (MPS 50.80) failure in detecting the animal in heat (MPS 46.80) were also causing much concern to animal keepers who were availing benefits of Gopal yojana in the study area.

Table-1 Constraints perceived by animal keepers pertaining to breeding aspects of livestock management.

A. Breeding Aspect:

S.No.	Aspects	BN MPS	BN Rank	NBN MPS	NBN Rank
1	Ignorance about crossbreed cattle	50.80	3	87.50	7
2	Non availability of improved breeding bull in the village	36.60	6	90.00	6
3	Non availability of improved breeding bull in the village	38.30	5	100.00	4
4	Less chances of success through AI practices	53.30	2	109.10	3
5	Charging of high prices for AI	67.50	1	150.01	1
6	Unhygienic instruments possessed by Gopal	33.30	7	120.80	2
7	Lack of skills in performing AI operations on the part of Gopal	30.00	8	92.50	5
8	Failure in detecting the animal in heat	46.80	4	86.60	8

BN- Beneficiary, NBN – Non beneficiary

On the other hand, high prices for AI were a major constraint causing concern to non-beneficiary animal keepers of the area with (MPS-150). Unhygienic instruments possessed by the Gopal was also considered as second priority constraints by the non-beneficiary respondents. This was followed by less chances of success through AI (MPS- 109.1) and non-availability of improved breeding bull in the villages (MPS-100) with III and IV ranked constraints respectively in the rank order of constraints. The results are in line with the results of Sawant and Dhole (1997) who reported that inaccessibility of AI centers impracticability of taking cows to AI and high fee charged for AI were the major constraints faced by the respondents.

B. Feeding Aspect:

Table 2 Constraints perceived by the animal keepers pertaining to feeding aspect of livestock management:

S.No.	Aspect	BN MPS	BN Rank	NBN MPS	NBN Rank
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1	Unavailability of mineral mixture	80.80	7	109.10	6
2	Ignorance of nutritive fodder crops	73.30	6	112.50	4
3	Lack of drinking water for animals	40.00	12	95.00	10
4	Lack of nutrition after calving	58.30	9	104.10	7
5	Unavailability of cost-effective green fodder in the area	79.16	3	121.60	1
6	Lack of land for fodder production	47.50	10	59.10	11
7	Lack of irrigation water for fodder production during summer	46.60	11	120.80	2
8	Lack of timely and cheap concentration	80.00	2	100.80	8
9	Lack of technical guidance for green fodder	61.60	7	108.30	5
10	General shortage of feed and fodder	76.60	5	117.50	3
11	Expensive dry fodder in summer	77.60	5	100.00	9
12	Ignorance about nutritive fodder crops	59.16	8	100.00	8

BN- Beneficiary, NBN – Non beneficiary

The data presented in table 2 shows that un-availability of mineral mixture in the area was considered critical constraints by the beneficiary respondents of yojana. The beneficiaries have also reported that they are facing the problem of lack of timely and cheap concentrates (MPS 80) together with the unavailability of cost-effective green fodder (MPS 79.16) for feeding to their animals. This was followed by general shortage of feed and fodder (MPS 77.50) and expensive dry fodder in summer season (MPS 76.60) respectively. A close observation of data in table visualizes a variation in according the ranks to various constraints pertaining feeding aspect by the beneficiary and non-beneficiary respondents. The findings are in agreement with the findings of Soni and Khaerde (1998) who reported that cost was the main reason for not providing balanced and commercial feeds to animals. The results were further supported by Sharma (1981) who found that problem of cheap and timely availability of fodder was most important problem for tribals under MADA.

C. Heading and Weeding aspect:

Table-3 Constraints perceived by Animal Keepers pertaining to heading/weeding aspects of livestock management

S.No.	Aspect	BN MPS	BN Rank	NBN MPS	NBN Rank
1	Unhygienic conditions in village	47.50	3	83.50	5
2	Lack of regular vaccination facilities	38.30	4	100.00	4
3	Un awareness	35.00	5	106.6	3
4	High charges for treatment of animals	76.60	1	119.10	1
5	High cost of medicines	53.30	2	116.60	2

BN- Beneficiary, NBN – Non beneficiary

The data in table 3 depicts the constraints faced by the animal keepers pertaining to heading/weeding aspect of livestock management. A high charge for treatment of animals (MPS 76.60) coupled high cost of medicines (MPS 53.30) were reported to be most

important constraints causing concern to beneficiary animal keepers of Gopal yojana. Unhygienic conditions have also restricted them (MPS 47.50) to get more benefits from yojana. This was followed by lack of regular vaccination facility and general un awareness for animal care which were accorded IV and V ranks in the rank order. Non-beneficiary respondents were somewhat similar in according the ranks to the aspects under study through the ranks to the aspects under study through the MPS very greatly with that of MPS assigned by beneficiary respondents of yojana. Somewhat similar results were reported by Sath (1977) where he found that 67.00% of respondent did not have hygienic cattle sheds for rearing cattle.

D. Overall constraints perceived by Animal Keepers

S.No.	Major aspect	Bn MPS	Bn Rank	NBn MPS	NBn Rank	Z Value
1	Breeding	45.50	2	104.33	2	15.67**
2	Feeding	65.00	1	104.10	3	16.95**
3	Heading/Weeding	41.16	3	105.33	1	16.6**
	Overall	55.40		104.53		21.18**

** Significant at 1 per cent level

BN- Beneficiary, NBN – Non beneficiary

The data incorporated in table 4 shows that constraints pertaining to feeding aspect of livestock management were perceived at top priority and accorded 1st rank by the beneficiary respondents. This was followed by constraints pertaining to breeding (MPS 45.00) and heading/weeding (MPS 41.16) with IInd and IIIrd position in the rank order. In case of non-beneficiary respondents the observation of data in table indicate that the constraints pertaining to heading/weeding were perceived with high severity (MPS 105.33) followed by constraints pertaining to breeding (MPS104.33) and feeding aspects (MPS 104.10) of livestock management.

Analysis of the table further indicate that the calculated ‘Z’ value for all the three major aspects were found to be greater than the tabulated value at 1% level of significance. It could be inferred therefore that there existed a difference in the constraints perceived by the beneficiaries and non - beneficiaries in getting the benefits of “Gopal Yojna” in the study.

Conclusion

It could be concluded from the above discussion that charging of high prices for AI, unavailability cost effective green fodder in the area, and high charges for treatment of animals were the priority constraints experienced by both beneficiary and non-beneficiary animal keepers in Girwa panchayat samiti of Udaipur district of Rajasthan. It is, therefore, recommended that frequent training programs on breeding, feeding heading and weeding aspect of livestock management conducted by the institutions for animal keepers so the constraints can be minimized. Barring this, it is also suggested that government should take steps themselves the responsibilities to supply the needed inputs and fodder at village level. Regular training of Gopal is necessary to make the Gopal Yojana effective so that they may acquire necessary skills in performing various operations.

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