A STUDY OF ADOPTION OF MILKING AND HEALTHCARE PRACTICES OF DAIRY ANIMALS UNDER CO-OPERATIVE NETWORK OF BANAS MILK UNION OF NORTH GUJARAT*

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ABSTRACT

A survey was undertaken to find out the dairy animal management practices followed by the member farmers of dairy co-operative society in randomly selected five talukas of Banaskantha district in north Gujarat. In each taluka two villages and in each village ten respondents were selected. It was observed that all the respondents milked their animals twice in a day by using wet hand knuckling method (99%) of milking. Majority of the milk produced generally goes to dairy co-operative society except the amount, which routinely used for family needs. All the respondents adopted practices to vaccinate their animals against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (HS). There is facility of integrated mobile veterinary services, which provide vaccination of animals and other veterinary needs.

The animal husbandry sector employ about 8 per cent of India’s total labour force, contributes about 6 per cent of total GDP and 26 per cent of the value of India’s total agricultural output (Biswa, 2000). India has made a remarkable progress in the last three decades and has emerged as leading milk producer in the world. It is producing about 91 million tones (FAO, 2005). Gujarat has achieved leading position in milk production and marketing through development of wide network of co-operative system. Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation, presently comprises of 12 milk unions. Among them Banas milk union of Banaskantha district was taken for the present study to collect information regarding dairy animal management practices in rural areas.

A field survey was conducted (October 2002 to December 2002) to collect the information of dairy animal management practices viz., milking and healthcare practices, adopted by the farmers of Banaskantha district of north Gujarat. Five talukas were randomly selected viz., Dantiwara, Deesa, Deodar, Palanpur and Vadgam. Two villages were selected from each taluka viz., Lodapa and Ranol from Dantiwara, Tetoda and Vasna-Junagodia from Deesa, Changwada and Nava from Deodar, Kushkul and Ratanpur from Palanpur and Vansol and Bavalchudi from Vadgam. In each village ten farmers who reared dairy animal/s (Peak milk yield 10 kg or more per day) and member of dairy co-operative society were selected by using of multi-stage random sampling technique (Snedecor and Cochran, 1967). The desired information was gathered by using a specially developed questionnaire that contains various parameters of milking and healthcare practices of dairy animals. The qualitative data, which generated in the study were quantified and tabulated. Finally the data were classified according to land holding and literacy of the farmers to draw meaningful inferences. Chi-square test was applied to determine the association of animal managemental practices with different categories.

The results and discussion have been presented under the following broad heads;

Particulars of household and his farm: The information about socio-economical aspects of respondents revealed that 15 per cent farmers were illiterate whereas, 46, 32 and 7 per cent farmers educated up to primary, matric and above matric level respectively. On the other
hand 30, 37 and 33 per cent farmers have small (>5 acres), medium (5-10 acres) and large (>10 acres) land holding, respectively.

**Milking Practices:** It was revealed that all respondents (100%) followed two times milking by cleaning teat and udder via splashing water before milking. Similarly, Hazarika and Anand (1984) reported that majority (93.33%) of farmers followed hygienic steps before onset of milking. It was found that 99 per cent farmers habituated to wet hand knuckling method of milking, while only 1 per cent farmers practiced full hand milking method with dry hand. The literacy of farmers had no significant association with method and habit of milking. The data revealed that 90.28 and 9.72 per cent farmers adopted practices to dry-off their cows in less than two months and two months or more respectively while, 4.00, 60.00 and 36.00 per cent buffaloes dried off for less than 2, 2 to 3 and more than 3 months, respectively. The results concluded that majority of cows dry-off for less than two months whereas buffaloes dry-off for 2-3 months. All respondents dispose their major portion of milk through village dairy co-operative society.

**Healthcare practices:** All the respondents practiced regular vaccination of their animals against FMD and HS. Vaccination against Black Quarter (BQ) was not practiced regularly but in suspected area mass vaccination was practiced both in case of cattle and buffaloes. It revealed that 13 and 34 per cent farmer practiced deworming for their milch animal at regular and occasional basis. In calf 36 and 36 per cent farmers practiced deworming on regular and occasional basis. However 28 per cent farmers never practiced deworming. Use of anthelminthic in calf and milch animals was significantly (P<0.05) associated with literacy. Most farmers did not follow the practice of controlling ecto-parasites. Some farmers adopted traditional practices like smoke of neem leaves to prevent flies and mosquitoes and salt spray to control leeches. These findings are in agreement with Verma (1989). Majority of farmers did not use any disinfectants and insecticides. It was found that 89 per cent farmers have clean shed, while 11 per cent farmers did not give more attention towards sanitary condition of shed. Housewife played major role in heeding practices of animals, such as milking, feeding and cleaning of manger and shed. Majority of the farmers (86%) treated their sick animals by dairy veterinarian whereas, 14 per cent were in favour of either Government Veterinarian or Livestock Supervisor or local quacks. Generally, farmers preferred veterinary services from dairy veterinarian because they provide health care practices at cheaper rate on regular basis.

**REFERENCES**


