



Problems Encountered by the Tribal Livestock Farmers of Southern Rajasthan.

Dileep Kumar, M P Verma and Pankaj Lawania

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Keshwana, Jalore 343 001, Agriculture University, Jodhpur (Rajasthan)

ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Sirohi district of Southern Rajasthan, to identify the problems faced by the tribal farmers and work out the relationship of problems with socio-economic and psychological traits of the respondents. The findings revealed that major problems faced by the tribal farmers were economic problem, less profit from domesticated animals, non availability of green fodder, non availability of superior male animal, harassment by the forest personnel in open grazing, lack of access to veterinarian, absence of scientific farming etc. The analysis revealed that occupational and family income from animal husbandry had positive and highly significant ($P < 0.01$) influence on problems of livestock rearing. On the other hand, livestock unit showed negative and highly significant influence on problems of livestock rearing.

Key Words: Farmers, Livestock, Problems, Rearing, Tribal.

INTRODUCTION

India is among the few nations in the world for its tribal population. The tribal population of India is 51.6 million which constitute 7.76 per cent of the total population. In Rajasthan, tribal population is 12 per cent of the state population: more than 45 per cent resides in Southern Rajasthan covering the Aravali ranges which run through the South west boarder of the state.

The livestock sector plays an important role in the economy and contributes about 22.9 per cent of total income. Mostly tribal's live on hilly top of Aravali and utilize the flaxy on plain area, wherever available between the hills for cultivation crops and keep normally 1-3 milch animals including cow, buffalo, goat and as a part of mixed farming system. These animals are non-descript type and their up keep is far away from scientific lines. Even though this tribal belt is rich in total animal strength yet the progress of animal husbandry does not seem to be satisfactory. The tribal livestock farmers keep domestic animals not only as a mark of tradition, culture or ritual but also to meet the economic and agricultural needs in other parts of state but

subjected to some problems peculiar in nature due to geographical location. Sharma *et al* (2013) reported that that very few farmers were practicing dairy business on commercial scale (2.4%) and majority of farmers (93.3%) were having up to 15 animals. Further, it was also noticed that dairy farmers (74.9%) were possessing cows with daily milk yield varying from 4 to 10 l./d and 85.8 per cent of farmers were keeping buffaloes with daily milk yield ranging between 2 to 8 l./d. Major problems of the small dairy farmers were cow dung management while for semi commercial and commercial farmers mastitis was the major problem. Training in the area of feed management was the top priority for domestic and semi commercial farmers. Similarly, it was revealed that poor knowledge about the nutritive value of feed ingredients (86.5%), high cost of raw feed ingredients (28%), shortage of skilled and committed labour (32.5%) were found to be major bottlenecks regarding adoption of cattle feed formulation technology at the dairy farms (Sharma, 2015). Therefore, a study was undertaken to identify the major problems faced by the livestock farmers and relationship of those problems with

socio-personal, economic and psychological traits of the farmers.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was carried out in Sirohi District of Sothern Rajasthan. There are five blocks in the district, out of which two blocks namely Abu and Pindbada were selected on the basis of maximum number of tribal population. Three villages from each identified block were selected for sampling of data. Propability proportionate random techniques was used to draw sample. For the study total 120 respondents were selected from six randomly selected villages of the Abu and Pindbada block of the Sirohi district. All these tribal farmers constituted the sample of respondents for the study. The socio-economic and personal variables were asked by direct questions where as inventories were developed for psychological variables. Similarly an inventory was prepared concerning problems perceived by tribals by putting 14 specific problems areas. The respondents were asked to place their agreement or disagreement in different degrees by putting tick (✓) mark in appropriate column against the problem areas in any degree they felt agreeable to them. Further in the selection of the problem areas sensitive methods of item collection was adopted and items revealed nothing except the problems of livestock rearing /management and therefore the instrument was valid. Data were collected personally by the researchers through interview method and analyzed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data (Table1) revealed that economic problem and less profit from domesticated animals were the major problems faced by 100 percent of the tribal farmers, while non-availability of green fodder and lack of breeding male were the problems faced by 99.07 per cent of the farmers. The majority of first two problems were due to the village being land locked condition. This situation could be altered by providing some link with better communication with main land having

scope for better remuneration from livestock. Non-availability of green fodder was actually on out fall of high intensity of agriculture leaving no land for fodder cultivation. Similar findings were reported (Thammi Raju *et al*, 2006). Likewise 96.24 percent of the respondents opined that less training on scientific farming, non availability of organized market and lack of easy accesses to veterinarians were other problems. Again each of the problems viz. lack of milk cooperative societies, harassment by the forest personnel in open grazing area and high cost of concentrate ration were recorded 94.12 percent of the farmers. Lack of the infra-structural facility was reported as one of the problems faced by the 90 percent farmers. Transportation problems and market operators demand huge commission also the problem for 86.60 per cent, and 82.02 per cent respondents reported that rampant theft case problems faced.

The problems revealed in the study were harassment by the forest personnel in open grazing, lack of easy accesses to veterinarians. Huge commission demanded by the market operators as another area which needed urgent action from the concerned authorities. Livestock farmers being the weaker section in the society and having no organized plate form were the main target of the market operators for exploitation. These indicated that there were huge areas which need Government intervention for the welfare of livestock farmers. Further, lack of milk cooperatives, less training on scientific farming definitely needed extension intervention on regular basis. It would be an urgent duty of State Animal Husbandry Department to venture appropriately among the farmers for their capacity building and starting farmers level organizations. The observations were in close proximity to the findings of Thammi Raju *et al* (2006).

Table 2 revealed that out of 19 variables, occupational and family income from animal husbandry had positive and highly significant ($P < 0.01$) influence on problem of livestock

Problems Encountered by the Tribal Livestock Farmers

Table1. Distribution of respondents on different areas of problems relating to livestock rearing.

Sl.No	Problem	Percentage
1	Non-availability of green fodder	99.07
2	Economic problems	100.0
3	Rampant theft cases	82.02
4	Lack of milk cooperatives	94.12
5	Less training on scientific farming	96.24
6	Lack of organized market	96.24
7	Harassment by the forest personnel by in open grazing area	94.12
8	High cost of concentrate ration	94.12
9	Lack of easy accesses to veterinarians	96.24
10	Transportation problem	86.60
11	Profit from domesticated animals is less	100.0
12	Market operators demanded huge commission	86.60
13	Lack of breeding male for breeding purpose	99.07
14	Lack of infra-structural facilities.	90.00

rearing. This might be due to the fact that higher the occupation, higher was expected income. Further, it was observed that those farmers who had some occupation in addition to livestock rearing, usually had better livestock but time was a constraint. Hence, unidirectional graph of higher occupation better livestock and better production definitely invited lot of responsibilities to manage the livestock and other livestock related matter including labour, feeding, care and management and marketing. It was largely because of this situation that respondents with better occupation and higher income from livestock showed highly positive influence on the problems. Because they rightly and rightfully realized the problems in greater degree than others. Management/health care showed a positive and significant influence on problems of livestock rearing. This was due to the differences which existed between livestock raised on zero input and those on intensive care. The respondents

who had better or improved livestock need to be more careful for their livestock which naturally required better care and management. Therefore, similar to occupation and income better health care/management was associated with the realization of more problems. Similar findings were reported by (Singh and Upadhyay, 2009).

Education and labour engagement pattern showed negative and significant influence ($P < 0.05$) on problems of livestock rearing. The respondents with higher education in the State including the study area engaged themselves in livestock rearing only for passing time and kept on working for other alternative engagement. They, therefore, paid less attention upon it as a means of livelihood and hence realized fewer amounts of problems. The negative influence on labour engagement pattern on problems could be justifiable explained by the fact that whenever some job in any kind of farm was left to others *i.e.* labourers, many problems arose.

Table 2. Multiple regression of independent variables on problems of tribal livestock farmers.

Sr.No	Independent variable	Values	
		Regression Coefficient b value	“t” value for b
1	Age	-17.00	-0.63
2	Education	-282.78	-2.14*
3	Family size	4.39	0.04
4	Occupation	868.31	2.58**
5	Total family income	0.00	-0.42
6	Family income from animal husbandry	0.10	7.85**
7	Own income	0.00	0.54
8	Livestock unit	502.32	-3.74**
9	Rearing system of livestock	-22.28	-0.46
10	Time devoted to animal husbandry practices	6.58	1.48
11	Labour engagement pattern	280.93	-2.06*
12	Extension contact	99.52	0.23
13	Frequency of exposure	15.86	0.12
14	Risk orientation	84.93	0.36
15	Economic motivation	-79.77	-0.34
16	Breeding	-34.67	-0.27
17	Feeding	137.82	1.77
18	Housing	-305.36	-1.08
19	Management/ Health care	282.90	2.05*

$R^2=0.291$, 'F' value for R = 4.65**

*indicate significant at 0.05 level of probability **Indicate highly significant at 0.01 level of probability

The best method of livestock rearing was therefore, always the self employment.

The converted livestock unit was found to have negative and high significant (-3.74, $P<0.01$) influence on problems of rearing. More the livestock lesser were the problems realized. The reason were that, by and large agriculture was the mainstay of the respondents who far having more number of livestock could take the advantage for ploughing ,manure,fuel,and extracting food of animals origin and hence never encountered any other problems from more number of livestock. The co-efficient of multiple determination (R^2) with independent variables could explain 59.1 per cent variation of the problems of livestock rearing. The implies that there

were many more issues and determinants which might be influencing the problems in livestock rearing and was left out in the present study. The 'F' value for R (4.65) in case of livestock farmers was found to be highly significant. This indicated that influence on problems of livestock rearing was significant.

CONCLUSION

The major problems faces by the tribal livestock farmers were economic problems, non availability of green fodder, less profit from domesticated animals, lack of improved breeding mail, lack of easy accesses to veterinarians etc. Out of 19 variables occupational and family income from livestock

Problems Encountered by the Tribal Livestock Farmers

rearing had positive significant ($P < 0.01$) influence on problems of livestock rearing. Management/health care showed a positive and significant ($P < 0.01$) influence on problems of livestock rearing.

REFERENCES

Sharma M (2015). Bottlenecks in adoption of feeding practices for dairy animals in district Kapurthala. *J Krishi Vigyan* **3**(2) : 12-18

Sharma M, Singh G and Shelly M (2013). Technological problems and training needs of dairy farmers. *J Krishi Vigyan* **2**(1) : 59-63

Singh S V and Upadhyay R C (2009). Impact of temperature rise on physiological function, thermal balance and milk of production of lactating Karan fries and Sahiwal cows. *Indian Vet J* **86**(2): 141-144.

Thammi Raju D, Gnana Prakash M, Viroji Rao S T and Srinivasa Reddy M (2006). Socio-economic and livestock aspects of different production system – Indian case study. *Livestock Res Rural Dev* **18**(12): <http://www.lrrd.org/lrrd18/12/raju18174.htm>

Received on 19/03/2019 *Accepted on 10/04/2019*