

Profile and Constraints of Dairy Farm Women

DAIRY sector plays a prominent role in strengthening India's rural economy. It has the potential to act as an instrument to bring about socio-economic transformation. Small and marginal farmers and landless labours who derive a substantial part of their livelihood from sale of milk, own about 70 per cent of cattle in rural areas. Therefore, dairy development in India has been an effective and important instrument of rural development as it generates self-employment opportunities, increases the income of landless, marginal and small farmers, besides, providing the much needed nutrition to people (Singh, 2009).

In India, 86 per cent of rural women are engaged in agriculture and allied activities, predominantly in animal husbandry and dairying, besides performing household work. Women actively participate in the management of dairy animals, production and other aspects of dairying. Caring of animals includes activities like bringing fodder from field, chaffing the fodder, preparing feed for animals, offering water to animals, protection of animals from ectoparasites, cleaning of animals and sheds, preparation of dung cakes, milking, preparing and marketing of milk products.

The process of dairy development would be incomplete and lop sided, unless farm women are fully involved in it. Unless the profile of farm women and constraints faced by them in dairy are studied and identified, the developmental programs cannot be implemented successfully. With this background, the present study has been formulated to know the profile of women dairy farmers and to elicit the constraints faced by them in dairy farming.

The study was conducted in two taluks of Chikkamagalur district based on maximum number of Women Milk Producing Co-operative Societies (MPCSs). A list of villages in each taluk was prepared and listed in descending order by using the same criteria. Top six villages from each taluk were purposively selected. From each village, ten dairy farm women were selected by using simple random technique thus

making a total sample of 120. The data were collected by using structured interview schedule.

It is evident from Table I, a larger number of respondents belong to middle aged group (48.30%), had high school education (35.00%), medium family size (51.67%), small land holding (46.67%), medium

TABLE I
Personal and socio-economic characteristics of dairy farm women (n=120)

Characteristics	No.	%
<i>Age</i>		
Young (< 31 years)	46	38.33
Middle (31 to 50 years)	58	48.30
Old (> 50 years)	16	13.33
<i>Formal education</i>		
Illiterate	7	5.83
Primary school	18	15.00
Middle school	36	30.00
High school	42	35.00
College and above	17	14.17
<i>Family size</i>		
Small (Up to 4 members)	40	33.33
Medium (5 to 8 members)	62	51.67
Big (Above 8 members)	18	15.00
<i>Land holding (acres)</i>		
Marginal (0.1 to 2.5)	46	38.33
Small (2.6 to 5.0)	56	46.67
Medium (5.1 to 10.0)	12	10.00
Big (> 10)	6	5.00
<i>Annual income</i>		
Low (Up to Rs. 50,000)	32	26.67
Medium (Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1,00,000)	40	33.33
High (>Rs.1,00,000.)	48	40.00
<i>Dairy experience</i>		
Low (Below 10 years)	63	52.50
Medium (10 to 20 years)	42	35.00
High (Above 20 years)	15	12.50

Characteristics	No.	%
<i>Decision making</i>		
Low (<9.20)	25	20.83
Medium (9.20 to 11.78)	58	48.33
High (> 11.78)	37	30.83
<i>Risk orientation</i>		
Low (<9.21)	30	25.00
Medium (9.21 to 12.76)	67	55.83
High (> 12.76)	23	19.17
<i>Economic motivation</i>		
Low (<8.44)	20	16.67
Medium (8.44 to 11.31)	71	59.17
High (> 11.31)	29	24.17
<i>Livestock possession</i>		
Low (<8.46)	32	26.66
Medium (8.46- 10.82)	62	51.66
High (> 10.82)	26	21.66
<i>Social participation</i>		
Low (<7.10)	41	34.16
Medium (7.10– 11.87)	52	43.33
High (> 11.87)	27	22.50
<i>Mass Media participation</i>		
Low (<5.17)	26	21.66
Medium (5.17– 10.48)	40	33.33
High (> 10.48)	54	45.00
<i>Extension participation</i>		
Low (<5.04)	30	25.00
Medium (5.04– 10.09)	51	42.50
High (>10.09)	39	32.50

decision making (48.33%) medium risk orientation (55.83%), medium economic motivation (59.17%), medium livestock possession (51.66%), medium social participation (43.33%) and medium extension participation (42.50%). Further, more number of respondents belong to high annual income (40.00%) and high mass media participation (45.00%). Whereas, 52.50 per cent of respondents had less experience in dairy. The above results are in line with the findings of Arora *et al.* (2006) , Mande and Thombre (2009),

Satyanarayan and Jagadeeshwary (2010) and Upayana Singh *et al.* (2010)

The constraints faced by farm women in relation to management, technical and economic aspects of dairy presented in Table II. With regard to management aspects, majority of dairy farm women expressed lack of knowledge on preparation of concentrates locally (89.17%) followed by non-availability required of

TABLE II
Constraints of dairy farm women in dairy farming

(n=120)		
Constraints	No.	%
<i>A. Management constraints</i>		
Unable to identify the right time of the oestrus symptoms for artificial insemination	41	34.17
Non availability required fodder seeds	76	63.33
Non availability of required concentrate	99	82.50
Lack of training on clean milk production and dairy management	97	80.83
Lack of knowledge on preparation of concentrates locally	107	89.17
No specialised training on value addition	70	75.83
<i>B. Technical constraints</i>		
Lack of veterinary services in the village	66	55.00
Expensive consultancy service by private practitioners	70	58.33
Lack of technical knowledge on calfrearing & disease management	62	51.67
Lack of knowledge regarding recordkeeping	70	58.33
<i>C. Economic constraints</i>		
High cost of concentrates	120	100.0
High cost of cross breed cow/ improved Buffaloes	115	95.83
High cost of veterinary medicines	53	44.17
Difficult loan procedure	69	57.50
Inadequate finance support by banks for purchasing milch animals	66	55.00
High cost of milk production (feed cost)	110	91.67

concentrates (82.50%) and lack of training on clean milk production and dairy management (80.83%) as major constraints. The technical constraints faced by the respondents include expensive consultancy service of private practitioners (58.33%) and lack of knowledge regarding record keeping (58.33%) followed by lack of veterinary services in the village (55.00%) and lack of technical knowledge on calf rearing and disease management in dairy animals (51.67%). In case of economic constraints, cent per cent of dairy farm women expressed that the high cost of concentrates followed by high cost of crossbreed cows or improved buffalo (95.83 %) and high cost of milk production (91.67 %) are the other constraints. Similar constraints were reported by Anil Chauhan (2006) and Agarwal *et al.* (2007).

There is a need by the Milk Unions and Dept. of Animal Husbandry to educate the farm women about preparation of concentrates locally, cleaned milk production and dairy management. Further, strategic manipulation of variables such as education, decision making, risk orientation, livestock possession, economic motivation, social participation, extension participation and mass media participation can motivate the dairy farm women to enhance their participation.

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