

Research Article

FARM WOMEN ADOPTION CONSTRAINTS IN LIVESTOCK FARMING

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ABSTRACT

Women play an important role in Animal Husbandry activities. Their work often remains physically visible, but conceptually, and culturally invisible. In rural areas, even though women play a major role by undertaking the most tiring and time consuming work in livestock enterprise, their contribution is not recognized and remunerative. It is of utmost necessity to consider the role of farm women in different family as decision makers, members of family, work force and income generators of the family. Access to credit information and skill learning is still a constraint for most women in the areas of poultry management, dairy, sheep and goat rearing, etc. Hence a deliberate attempt was made to identify the constraints faced by livestock farm women.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Thiruvallur district of Tamilnadu was purposively selected for the study. Of the 14 blocks in the district, Kadambadur block was selected as it ranks first in Livestock population. Five villages viz., Kadambadur, Kannur, Kilacheri, Mappedu and Pinjivakkam were selected by using simple random technique. Twenty farm women in each of the five selected villages by means of the simple random technique constitute the sample size for the study. Data was collected by using a pretested/interview schedule.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The farm women involved in livestock enterprises are encountered with numerous constraints in their day-to-day affairs. The important constraints expressed by the respondents were assessed and results are presented in Table-I.

It could be ascertained from Table-I that high cost of animals, feed and medicine, inadequate/non-availability of credit, lack of transport facilities, lack of storage facilities and non-existence of regulated market in the locality were found to be the major constraints faced by the respondents involved in livestock enterprises.

Kumari (1999) observed that high cost of inputs, lack of money and non-availability of inputs in the local market are the major constraints faced by rural women in adopting the agricultural technologies. It could be ascertained from Table-I that high cost of animals, feed and medicine, was the major constraint faced by the farm women. The reason attributed to this is that most of them belong to low annual income group and could not cope with the high cost of feed, medicine, etc. to manage their enterprises.

Inadequate/non-availability of credit was the next constraint expressed by majority of farm women involved in livestock enterprises. Since majority of the farm women respondents were illiterates and house wives, they did not have much exposure to different sources to locate the availability of the credit from various sources. Illiteracy and lack of knowledge and exposure on the part of the women who are mainly house wives would be the reason for the constraint of credit availability. The other reason might be that most of the respondents were landless and naturally suffered for want of adequate security in the form of immovable properties. This is in accordance with the findings of Balasubramanian (1995).

The next major constraint expressed by the farm women was lack of transport facilities. The sample area is remote with improper roads and lack of frequent bus facilities which would result in constraining the transport of their produce in time causing deterioration in quality and economic loss to the respondents. The farm women depend on the bus service as the only economic transport facility for marketing their produce.

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Table 1: Constraints faced by Farm Women

Sl.No	Constraints	Prime constraint	Somewhat a constraint	Not a constraint	Total Score	Rank
1	High cost of animals, feed and Medicine	94	6	-	194	I
2	Inadequate/ non-availability of credit	88	8	4	184	II
3	Lack of transport facilities	79	15	6	173	III
4	Lack of storage facilities	74	24	2	172	IV
5	Non-existence of regulated market	42	52	6	136	V
6	Exploitation of middle men	33	64	3	130	VI
7	Fluctuating price	33	53	14	119	VII
8	Lack of veterinary aid	22	58	20	102	VIII
9	Lack of infrastructure facilities	8	65	27	81	IX
10	Lack of technical guidance	20	77	56	67	X
11	Non-availability of processing units	17	22	61	56	XI
12	Lack of proper training facilities	16	24	60	56	XII
13	Non-availability of labour	4	43	53	51	XIII
14	Illiteracy	13	13	74	39	XIV
15	Family situation	2	35	63	39	XV

(n=100)

Lack of storage facilities was a constraint faced by majority of the farm women since their perishable produce such as meat, milk, eggs, etc. could not be stored in the event of market slump. They express the need for the provision of godowns and refrigerator facilities.

The next ranked constraint was non-existence of regulated market, exploitation of the middle men and fluctuating prices for their commodities. The farm women have to travel a long distance to sell their products. This is in accordance with the findings of Jayalakshmi (1997) who observed that the constraints faced by the rural women were marketing problem and lack of financial assistance.

In addition, lack of veterinary aid, infrastructure facilities, technical guidance, non-availability of processing units, lack of proper training and non-availability of labour were the other constraints faced by the farmers. This findings were similar to the observation of Singh *et al.*, (2008) and Rathore *et al.*, (2009) who opined that the dairy farmers had expressed infrastructural constraints as the most severe impediments, whereas technical constraints were hampering the dairying to the least extent.

It was also ascertained that influence of family situation and illiteracy does not play a much significant role in the day-to-day activities of the farm women involved in Animal Husbandry activities.

The present study revealed that high cost of animals, feed and medicine, inadequate/non-availability of credit, lack of transport facilities, and lack of storage facilities and non-existence of regulated market in

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the locality were some of the major constraints expressed by the farm women involved in livestock enterprises. However, illiteracy, family situation, non-availability of processing units, lack of proper training facilities and non-availability of labour have not constrained them in their farm activities.

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