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Feeding Compound Cattle Feed: How Economical for Smallholder Dairy Producers in India?

by Bitan Mondal, Arti Thakur, and Smita Sirohi

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Feeding Compound Cattle Feed: How economical for smallholder dairy producers in India?

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Abstract

The shortage of concentrate feed and nutritionally poor quality of feed are the two key problems that affect the productivity growth in livestock sector in the country. The present study has analyzed various key aspects of the compound cattle feed in two production environments- Dynamic (Punjab & Haryana) and Transient (West Bengal & Odisha) systems. Adoption rate of CCF and impact of CCF on milk productivity were estimated using suitable statistical analysis. The rate and pattern of adoption of compound cattle feed (CCF), showed that more than half of the dairy farmers were feeding CCF to the dairy animal. The decomposition analysis shows that 40% the productivity differentials in buffaloes and 48% in crossbred can be explained by CCF in the Dynamic system while it was 75% in the Transient system. The effect of CCF in enhancing milk yield was on the lower side, possibly due to inadequate quantity of CCF fed to dairy animals and/or limited nutritional potential of the prepared cattle feeds available in the market. At the existing level of feed and milk prices, its use was not improving the profitability of milk production.

Keywords: Compound Cattle Feed, Decomposition Analysis, Adoption Rate, Linear Regression, Adopter and Non-Adopter

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