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Constraints Perceived by Dairy Cooperative Society Members in Dungarpur, Rajasthan

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Author VS designed the study, performed the statistical analysis, wrote the protocol and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Author GRS managed the analyses of the study. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out in purposively selected Dungarpur district of Rajasthan to find out the constraints perceived by Dairy Cooperative Society members. A total of 120 respondents were selected and interviewed personally through a structured interview schedule. Results of the study revealed that lack of awareness about credit facilities provided by the Government and milk unions for rearing cattle (60.00%), lack of affordability to purchase feed additives and concentrates (58.33%), high cost of veterinary medicines (53.33%), low income from dairying (50.00%) and inadequate space for office of DCS (50.00%) were found to be 'most serious constraints'. While, lack of cooperation among DCS members (43.33%), lack of physical facilities at meeting place

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(43.33%), technical inability in handling ICT tools (43.33%), inequality in issuing loans (41.67%) and non availability of fodder seeds (41.67%) were recognized as 'serious constraints'. Non availability of high yielding varieties of fodder crops (40.0%) and non sharing information about financial activities in DCS with members (36.67%) considered as 'less serious constraints' and long duration of meeting was perceived as 'not a constraint' by most of the respondent. It was also found that economic constraints were a mean score of 3.11 followed by technological constraints (3.03), organizational constraints (2.66) and infrastructural constraints (1.83).

Keywords: Awareness; constraints dairy cooperative society; economic.

1. INTRODUCTION

Dairy cooperative organizations were engaged in production, procurement, processing and milk marketing in rural areas. The dairy cooperatives are actively engaged in the provision of fair milk prices and prompt payments to milk producers, the organization of training programmes for members on improved dairy farming practices, the strengthening of the milk processing, the provision of facilities for the treatment of diseases and the extension of animal health care [1]. In addition, the dairy union provided balanced rationing for low cost and improved green fodder seeds but dairy farmers face several constraints related to production and marketing in developing countries [2]. Producer's organizations such as dairy cooperatives can play an important role in alleviating these constraints [3]. The cooperatives as a champion of the people and the support to the needy have been the democratic shelter for millions of people who are either excluded due to the transformation of the market or the societal exploitations. Cooperatives have been long seen as a social institution providing partnership, decision making, solidarity and resources to people. Animal husbandry plays the most important role in economy in rural areas of India. The dairy sector provides numerous family with the many benefits such as nutritive food, supplementary income and productive employment for family labour [4]. There are different issues faced by dairy farmers, some are area specific while some are common. This study is needed to identify the grassroot problems of the farmers in carrying out their activities in the field of dairy farming. Keeping these facts in view, the present study was tackled with the objective to find out the constraints perceived by dairy cooperative members.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

An ex-post facto research design was conducted in Dungarpur district of Rajasthan which was selected purposively on the basis of cooperative network and livestock wealth status. The

Dungarpur district has 11 tehsils out of these tehsils four tehsils namely Dungarpur, Sagwara, Simalwada and Aspur were selected randomly. In the next stage of sampling, thirty dairy farmers were selected randomly from each tehsil. Thus total 120 respondents were selected and interviewed personally through a structured interview schedule. To measure constraints of respondents were categorized into four category i.e. most serious constraint (4), serious constraint (3), less serious constraint (2) and not a constraint (1). Following the statistical analysis such as frequency and percentage were used to draw the inferences.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The constraint perceived by Dairy Cooperative Society members have been divided into four major categories.

3.1 Economic Constraints

A perusal of Table 1 revealed that lack of affordability to purchase feed additives & concentrates (58.33%), high cost of veterinary medicines (53.33%), low income from dairying (50.00%), high charges for emergency services (45.83%) and inequality in issuing loans (42.50%) were perceived as 'most serious constraint' by respondents. This finding is in line with Patel et al. [5], and Singh et al. [6]. While, inequality in issuing loans and non-sharing of information with members about financial activities in DCS were recognized as 'serious constraint' by 41.67 per cent and 40.83 per cent and 'less serious constraint's by 09.17 per cent and 36.67 per cent of respondents, respectively.

3.2 Technological Constraints

Referring technological constraints, lack of awareness about credit facilities provided by the Government and milk unions for rearing cattle, non availability of high yielding animals and lack of skilled staff at A.I. centers were felt as 'most serious constraint' by 60.00, 48.33 and 38.33 per cent respondents, respectively. This finding is in agreement with Lalruatfeli et al. [7]. Among the

'serious constraints' were technical inability in handling ICT tools (43.33%), lack of training for cultivation of growing green fodder (41.67%) and inadequate availability of fodder seeds (41.67%). Lack of training for cultivation of growing green fodder and non availability of fodder seeds were recognized as 'less serious constraint' by 33.33 and 30.00 per cent while, 'serious constraint' by 41.67 and 41.67 per cent of respondents, respectively (Table 1).

3.3 Organizational Constraints

Among various organizational constraints, lack of cooperation among DCS members (29.17%), inappropriate distribution of benefits (31.67%) and inadequate profit from DCS activities (28.73%) were perceived as 'serious constraint' by respondents. Non-maintenance of proper accounts was perceived as 'most serious constraint' and 'serious constraint' by 40.00 and 31.67 per cent of respondents, respectively.

Further, long duration of meeting (50.00%) was perceived as 'not a constraint' by dairy farmers.

3.4 Infrastructural Constraints

It is clear from Table 1 that inadequate space for office of DCS (50.00%) and distant location of A.I. centers (35.00%) were perceived as 'most serious constraint' by dairy farmers. While, distant location of DCS was recognized as 'less serious constraint' and 'not a constraint' by 40.00 per cent and 36.67 per cent of respondents, respectively. Further, lack of physical facilities at meeting place (43.33%) was felt as 'serious constraint' by dairy farmers.

Table 2 reveals that economic constraints were a mean score of 3.11 followed by technological constraints (3.03), organizational constraints (2.66) and infrastructural constraints (1.83) in that order.

Table 1. Distribution of the dairy cooperative society members on the basis of their constraints (n=120)

Sl. No.	Constraints	MSC		SC		LSC		NC	
		f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
A Economic									
1	Inappropriate utilization of DCS funds	16	13.33	41	34.17	34	28.33	29	24.17
2	Inequality in issuing loans	51	42.50	50	41.67	11	09.17	08	06.67
3	Non sharing information about financial activities in DCS with members	15	12.00	49	40.83	44	36.67	12	10.00
4	Low income from dairying	60	50.00	41	34.17	13	10.83	06	05.00
5	A.I. charges are high	36	30.00	46	38.33	30	25.00	08	06.67
6	High charges for emergency services	55	45.83	38	29.17	23	19.17	07	05.83
7	Lack of affordability to purchase feed additives & concentrates	70	58.33	37	30.83	08	06.67	05	04.17
8	High cost of veterinary medicines	64	53.33	35	29.17	17	14.17	04	03.33
B Technological									
1	Lack of awareness about credit facilities provided by the Government and milkunions for rearing cattle	72	60	28	23.33	18	15.00	02	01.67
2	Lack of training for cultivation of growing green fodder	20	16.67	50	41.67	40	33.33	10	08.33
3	Non availability of fodder seeds	13	10.83	50	41.67	36	30.00	21	17.50
4	Technical inability in handling ICT tools	44	36.67	52	43.33	20	16.67	04	03.33
5	Non availability of high yielding varieties of fodder crops	17	14.17	30	25.00	48	40.00	25	20.83
6	Lack of skilled staff at A.I. centers	46	38.33	21	17.50	30	25.00	23	19.17
7	Non availability of high yielding animals	58	48.33	40	33.33	20	16.67	02	01.67
C Organizational									
1	Lack of cooperation among DCS members	25	20.83	52	43.33	35	29.17	08	06.67
2	Inappropriate distribution of benefits	20	16.67	50	41.67	38	31.67	12	10.00
3	Proper accounts are not maintained	48	40.00	38	31.67	26	21.67	08	06.67
4	Inadequate profit from DCS activities	38	31.67	44	36.67	34	28.33	04	03.33
5	Long duration of meeting	06	05.00	08	06.67	46	38.40	60	50.00
D Infrastructural									
1	Inadequate space for office of DCS	60	50.00	25	20.83	27	22.50	08	06.67
2	Distant location of DCS	09	07.50	29	24.17	48	40.00	34	28.33
3	Lack of physical facilities at meeting place	36	30.00	52	43.33	27	22.50	05	04.17
4	Distant location of A.I. centers	42	35.00	25	20.83	30	25.00	23	19.17

f - Frequency, % - Per cent, MSC- Most Serious Constraint, SC- Serious Constraint, LSC- Less Serious Constraint, NC- Not a Constraint

Table 2. Ranking of the constraints perceived by DCS members

Sl. No.	Constraints	Mean score	Position
1	Economic constraints	3.11	1 st
2	Technological constraints	3.03	2 nd
3	Organizational constraints	2.66	3 rd
4	Infrastructural constraints	1.83	4 th

4. CONCLUSION

Dairy cooperative members were facing lot of problems in field of dairy farming. Most important among them were lack of awareness about credit facilities provided by the Government and milk unions for rearing cattle, lack of affordability to purchase feed additives and concentrates, high cost of veterinary medicines, low income from dairying and inadequate space for office of DCS were found to be 'most serious constraints'. While, lack of cooperation among DCS members, lack of physical facilities at meeting place, technical inability in handling ICT Tools, inequality in issuing loans and non availability of fodder seeds were recognized as 'serious constraints'. Non availability of high yielding varieties of fodder crops and non sharing information about financial activities in DCS with members considered as 'less serious constraints' and long duration of meeting was perceived as 'not a constraint' by most of the respondent. Therefore, government and milk unions should be organize proper training programmes to enhance their awareness about dairy farming and providing loans, subsidies, rewards etc. through different schemes.

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COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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