

Profile Analysis of Dairy Farmers

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Abstract

The study was conducted in Latur district. Six talukas and four villages from each talukas were selected purposively having maximum number of dairy farmers. Six dairy farmers from twenty four villages were selected randomly for the study comprising the total sample of 144 dairy farmers. It was noticed that majority of dairy farmers were middle age group, had education up to secondary level, had medium experience in dairying, medium herd size, semi-medium land holding, having medium level of annual income, had dairying+farming as a main occupation, low level of social participation, medium use of information, medium economic motivation, low market orientation, medium risk preference and infrastructure facilities. Major problem faced by the dairy farmers were high cost of dairy cattle feed, lack of information about dairy management practices and low rate of milk.

Key words: Profile, constraints, dairy farmer

Introduction

Livestock is an important source of income for a nation. The significance of animal husbandry in the Indian economy arises also because its assistance to tackle the serious problem of unemployment and under employment for weaker section in the country and for providing subsidiary occupation. An understanding from all aspects as how to dairy farmers are involving themselves in dairying is most important to design appropriate dairy strategies in order to make dairying more meaningful and profitable to dairy farmers. So it is necessary to know the profile characteristics of these dairy farmers.

Material and Methods

The study was conducted in Latur district. Six talukas and four villages from each talukas were selected purposively having maximum number of dairy farmers. Six dairy

farmers from twenty four villages were selected randomly for the study comprising the total sample of 144 dairy farmers. In view with above objectives, the multistage random sampling was used to select district, talukas, villages and dairy farmers. The dairy farmers were personally interviewed and the data collected were processed and statistically analyzed by using statistical techniques like frequency and percentage.

Results and Discussion

1. Profile of the dairy farmers :

The study of personal characteristics was made with reference to age, education, experience in dairying, herd size, land holding, annual income, occupation, and social participation, sources of information, economic motivation, market orientation, risk preference and infrastructure facilities. The results are presented in following Table 1.

Table 1 Distribution of dairy farmers according to their profile

N=144

Sr. No.	Profile characters	Category	Frequency	Per cent
1	Age	Young (Up to 35)	34	23.61
		Middle (36 to 60)	86	59.72
		Old (61 and above)	24	16.66
2	Education	Illiterate (no education)	10	06.95
		Primary Education (1 st - 4 th Stds.)	28	19.44
		Secondary Education (5 th - 10 th Stds.)	52	36.11
		Higher Secondary Education (11 th and 12 th Stds.)	40	27.78
		College Education (more than 12 th Stds.)	14	9.72
3	Experience in dairying	Low (Up to 7 years)	46	31.94
		Medium (8 to 12years)	67	46.53
		High (Above 12 years)	31	21.53
4	Herd Size	Small (Up to 3 milch animals.)	24	16.67
		Medium (4 to 8 milch animals.)	95	65.97
		Large (Above 9 milch animals.)	25	17.36
5	Land holding	Marginal (Up to 1.00 ha)	6	04.17
		Small (1.01 to 2.00 ha.)	18	12.50
		Semi-medium (2.01 to 4.00 ha.)	55	38.19
		Medium (4.01 to 10.00 ha.)	53	36.81
		Big (Above 10.01 ha.)	12	08.33
6	Annual income	Low (Up to 81929.78)	10	06.95
		Medium (81929.79 to 262096)	118	81.94
		High (262097 and above)	16	11.11
7	Occupation	Dairying + labour	01	0.69
		Dairying + Farming	123	85.42
		Dairying + Farming + business	20	13.89
8	Social Participation	Low participation (Up to 1)	79	54.86
		Medium participation (2)	36	25.00
		High participation (3 and above)	29	20.14
9	Sources of information	Less use (Up to 12)	32	22.22
		Medium use (13 to 18)	76	52.78
		More use (19 and above)	36	25.00
10	Economic motivation	Low (Up to 25)	35	24.31
		Medium (26 to 29)	81	56.25
		High (30 and above)	28	19.44
11	Market orientation	Low (Up to 9)	65	45.14
		Medium (10 to 11)	52	36.11
		High (12 and above)	27	18.75
12	Risk preference	Low (Up to 23)	32	22.22
		Medium (24 to 28)	74	51.39
		High (29 and above)	38	26.39
13	Infrastructural facilities	Low (Below 7)	46	31.94
		Medium (8 to 11)	62	43.06
		High (12 and above)	36	25.00

It was revealed that more than half (59.72 %) of the dairy farmers were from middle age group followed by young age (23.61 %) group and (16.66 %) of the dairy farmers were from old age group^[1].

It was also indicated that most 36.11 per cent of dairy farmers had educated up to secondary education level, followed by 27.78 per cent of dairy farmers had educated up to

higher secondary education level. Similarly 19.44 per cent of the dairy farmers were educated up to primary education level. It was further noticed that 09.72 per cent of them received college level education and 06.95 per cent of dairy farmers were illiterate. The probable reason for majority of farmers to be educated up to secondary school education was that of lack of facilities in their village for

college education. For college education they have to travel for tahsil headquarters resulting to increase the economical burden on family^[2].

It was revealed that nearly half of dairy farmers (46.53%) had medium experience in dairying whereas, 31.94 per cent of dairy farmers had low experience in dairying. Thus, only 21.53 per cent dairy farmers had high experience in dairying. It was indicated that more than half i.e. 65.97 per cent of dairy farmers possessed medium herd size whereas, 17.36 per cent of dairy farmers had large herd size and 16.67 per cent of dairy farmers having up to 3 milch animals so, they are categorized under small herd size category. It was revealed that 38.19 per cent of the dairy farmers possessed semi-medium land holding category whereas, 36.81 per cent of the dairy farmers possessed medium land holding and 08.33 per cent, 12.50 and 04.17 per cent of the dairy farmers were from big, small and marginal land holding category, respectively. It was revealed that majority 81.94 per cent of the dairy farmers had medium level of annual income followed by 06.95 per cent of the dairy farmers categorized under low level of annual income whereas, 11.11 per cent of the dairy farmers had high level of annual income. It was indicated that majority (85.42 %) of the dairy farmers had dairying + farming as a main occupation. While 13.89 per cent of the dairy farmers had dairying + farming+ business as a main occupation, while few of the dairy farmers 0.69 per cent had dairying + labour as a main occupation. It was recorded that more than half i.e. 54.86 per cent dairy farmers had low social participation while, 25.00 per cent of the dairy farmers having medium social participation and 20.14 per cent of the dairy farmers were found in high category of social participation. This might be due to the reason that dairy farmers were from drought prone areas where limited number of social and economical organizations are prevalent. Illiteracy and ignorance may be the other reasons for their low level of social participation. It was indicated that more than half i.e. 52.78 per cent of the dairy farmers had

medium use of sources of information, while (22.22 %) of the dairy farmers were in less category of use of sources of information and (25.00 %) of them were in more category of use of sources of information. More than half of dairy farmers i.e. 56.25 per cent of the dairy farmers had medium level of economic motivation, whereas 24.31 and 19.44 per cent of the dairy farmers had low level and high level of economic motivation respectively. It was revealed that nearly half of dairy farmers i.e., 45.14 per cent of dairy farmers had low level of market orientation, whereas 36.11 per cent of dairy farmers had medium market orientation and 18.75 per cent of dairy farmers were categorized under high market orientation category.

Marketing is a complex and competitive process, it involves many more factors namely producers, consumers and middle men. Dairy farmers can't keep close watch on marketing. It was indicated that more than half of dairy farmers i.e., 51.39 per cent of dairy farmers had medium level of risk preference, whereas 26.39 per cent of dairy farmers had high risk preference and 22.22 per cent of dairy farmers were categorized under low risk preference category. It was revealed that nearly half of dairy farmers i.e. 43.06 per cent had medium level of infrastructure facilities, whereas 31.94 and 25.00 per cent of the dairy farmers had low level and high level of infrastructure facilities respectively.

References

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