STUDY OF KNOWLEDGE LEVEL ABOUT IMPROVED ANIMAL HUSBANDRY PRACTICES AMONG LIVESTOCK FARMERS OF TODARAISINGH TEHSIL IN TONK DISTRICT OF RAJASTHAN

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to assess the level of knowledge about improved animal husbandry practices among livestock farmers of Tonk district of Rajasthan. The study was carried out in 6 selected villages of tehsil Todaraisingh of Tonk district by interviewing 180 livestock owners, 30 from each village. The information regarding knowledge level was collected on pretested schedule and assessment of knowledge level was measured on four point scale *i.e.* no knowledge, awareness knowledge, principal knowledge and technical knowledge. Finding of the study revealed that maximum knowledge among livestock farmers was found regarding vaccination, concentrate feeding, artificial insemination and deworming as compared to mineral mixture feeding to their animals. Minimum level of knowledge was found regarding urea molasses mineral block, urea treatment of roughage, Azola cultivation and silage making of green fodder.

***Key words*:** Livestock farmers, knowledge level, improved animal husbandry practices.

Introduction

India is predominantly an agrarian economy with more than 75 per cent of the population in villages depending on agriculture, animal husbandry and allied activities for their livelihood. Livestock farming is the most suitable production system that has enormous potential to improve the socio-economic status of the large percentage of the rural population (Tanwar and Kumar, 2014). The Indian dairy farming is basically a small holder production system, almost 70 per cent of milk producers in India are landless, small and marginal farmers. These farmers maintained on an average a herd of only 1-3 milch cow/ buffalo (Bhasin, 2012). The rapid growth of milk production in India has been mainly because of the increase in the number of animals rather than that of improved productivity (Patil *et. al.*, 2009). One of the major reason of low productivity could be due to traditional animal husbandry practices adopted by the livestock farmers. The low production in India is mainly due to lack of knowledge level about improved animal husbandry practices among them. Thus, lack of knowledge of farmers about improved animal husbandry practices results in low adoption of these practices. Therefore, knowledge level of livestock farmers about improved animal husbandry practices must be improved, so that they can adopt the improved practices in the field of animal husbandry. Therefore, the present study was undertaken to assess the level of knowledge about improved animal husbandry practices among the livestock farmers of Tonk district in Rajasthan.

Materials and Methods

The present study conducted in six villages of Todaraisingh tehsil of Tonk district of Rajasthan *i.e*. Khereda, Raghunathpura, Setiwas, Morbhatian, Banseda and Madhoganj. The data were collected with the help of face-to-face interview on a well structured and pre-tested schedule. From each village, 30 livestock farmers were selected randomly who possess atleast one milch cattle or buffalo. Thus, a total of 180 respondents were selected from these six villages. The data were collected on healthcare, feeding and breeding aspect of improved animal husbandry practices on pretested interview schedule and knowledge level was measured on four point scale *i.e.* No Knowledge, Awareness Knowledge only, Principal Knowledge and Technical Knowledge.

Results and Discussion

(i) Healthcare practices

The knowledge level of the livestock farmers regarding healthcare practices have been shown in Table 1. The findings showed that livestock farmers in no knowledge, awareness knowledge only, principal knowledge and technical knowledge categories were 0, 56.66, 40.55 and 2.77 regarding vaccination, 12.22, 41.11, 36.11 and 10.55 regarding deworming provided to their animals. The results indicated that maximum knowledge regarding health practices were observed regarding vaccination followed by deworming.

(ii) Feeding practices

The knowledge level of the livestock farmers regarding feeding practices have been shown in Table 1. The findings showed that livestock farmers in no knowledge, awareness knowledge only, principal knowledge and technical knowledge categories were 0, 0, 67.22 and 32.77 regarding concentrate feeding were 30.55, 35.55, 21.11 and 12.77 regarding mineral mixture feeding, 66.11, 17.77, 9.44 and 6.66 regarding urea molasses mineral blocks, 72.77, 12.77, 8.33 and 6.11 regarding urea treatment of roughages. 87.77, 8.88, 3.33 and 0 regarding azola cultivation and 93.88, 6.11, 0 and 0 regarding silage making. It was observed that maximum knowledge regarding feeding practices was found among livestock farmers about concentrate feeding, mineral mixture feeding followed by urea molasses mineral blocks and urea treatment of poor quality roughage and least knowledge was found regarding azola cultivation and silage making from green fodder. It was observed that none of the livestock farmers was

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Table 1: Description of livestock farmers as per their knowledge level regarding improved animal husbandry practices

S. No.	Improved animal husbandry practice	Knowledge level	Frequency (N=180)	Per cent
1	Vaccination	Awareness Knowledge	102	56.66
		Principal Knowledge	73	40.55
		Technical Knowledge	5	2.77
2	Deworming	No Knowledge	22	12.22
		Awareness Knowledge	74	41.11
		Principal Knowledge	65	36.11
		Technical Knowledge	19	10.55
3	Concentrate feeding	Principal Knowledge	121	67.22
		Technical Knowledge	59	32.77
4	Mineral mixture feeding	No Knowledge	55	30.55
		Awareness Knowledge	64	35.55
		Principal Knowledge	38	21.11
		Technical Knowledge	23	12.77
5	Urea molasses mineral block	No Knowledge	119	66.11
		Awareness Knowledge	32	17.77
		Principal Knowledge	17	9.44
		Technical Knowledge	12	6.66
6	Urea treatment of roughage	No Knowledge	131	72.77
		Awareness Knowledge	23	12.77
		Principal Knowledge	15	8.33
		Technical Knowledge	11	6.11
7	Azola cultivation	No Knowledge	158	87.77
		Awareness Knowledge	16	8.88
		Principal Knowledge	6	3.33
8	Silage making	No Knowledge	169	93.88
		Awareness Knowledge	11	6.11
9	Artificial insemination	Awareness Knowledge	89	49.44
		Principal Knowledge	91	50.55

having technical knowledge about azola cultivation and silage making.

(iii) Breeding practice

The knowledge level of the livestock farmers regarding artificial insemination is shown in Table 1. The findings showed that livestock farmers in no knowledge, awareness knowledge only, principal knowledge and technical knowledge categories were 0, 49.44, 50.55 and 0 regarding use of artificial insemination in their animals. It was observed that all the livestock farmers having awareness knowledge about the artificial insemination and none have the technical knowledge of artificial insemination, the reason behind is that artificial insemination is carried out by the technical person appointed either through State Government or NGO's.

The similar findings observed by Arora *et. al* (2004) in Uttaranchal state that maximum knowledge was found among the respondents regarding vaccination, concentrate feeding, use of high yielding fodder and artificial insemination as compared to deworming, mineral mixture feeding. Minimum extent of knowledge among farmers was found regarding urea treatment of poor quality roughage. Sabapara *et. al* (2004) were also observed that major constraints in feeding of animals *i.e*. lack of knowledge about importance of mineral mixture (87.20%) and in health care practices, the lack of knowledge about deworming (83.20%) by goat owners in Navsari district of Gujrat. Similar studies were also conducted by Gour *et al.* (2015) about level of knowledge regarding management, breeding, feeding and health care practices of animal husbandry in Mandla and Seoni district of Madhya Pradesh. The study revealed that majority (64.37%) of the respondents had low level of knowledge followed by medium level of knowledge 35.63 per cent. None of the respondent had high level of knowledge regarding breeding, feeding, management and health care practices of animal husbandry. Solanki *et al.* (2011) studied dairy cattle management practices in Girwa tehsil of Udaipur district of Rajasthan and revealed that in case of management and feeding, 48 and 56 per cent respondents belonged to average knowledge category. In health care component, 54 per cent respondents belonged to poor knowledge category. With respect to breeding, almost equal percentage of respondents belonged to average and good knowledge categories.

Conclusion

Findings of the study suggested that maximum knowledge was found among the livestock farmers of Tonk district regarding vaccination, concentrate feeding, artificial insemination and deworming as compared to mineral mixture feeding. Minimum level of knowledge was found regarding urea molases mineral block, urea treatment of roughage, azola cultivation and silage making. It was observed that none of the livestock farmer having technical knowledge about azola cultivation and silage making. It was suggested that efforts should be directed to disseminate the knowledge about urea molases mineral block, urea treatment of roughage, azola cultivation and silage making of green fodder so that they can acquire the knowledge regarding these practices and can adopt and improve their socio-economic status.

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