Constraints and Strategies for Effective Utilization of A.I. Services As Perceived By Rural Youth of Patna District

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ABSTRACT

Dairy husbandry provides ample scope to generate income and employment opportunities in the rural sector. In order to achieve success in this endeavour a comprehensive cattle development programme through A.I. facilities is needed. In this context, the feedback related with performance and constraints from the consumer was necessary. Therefore, the study was conducted in Patna district of Bihar by collecting the data through one hundred rural youth who were involved in dairy husbandry practices. The results indicated that repeat breeding or poor conception along with availability of traditional natural services were the main constraints, which inhibit the successful implementation of A.I. services. Based on perception of rural youth certain suggested strategies were also given during the study which can be taken into account while formulating extension services to end user’s for adoption of A.I. services in rural areas.

In India, agriculture and animal husbandry are the main occupational support system that determines the socio-economic condition of farming community. The livestock is one of the main resources in our rural economy, which has the highest potential instrument to tackle the problem of under employment and unemployment leading to livelihood security among the people residing in rural sector. In this area dairying generates continuous income and reduces seasonal livelihood pattern. It has tremendous potential to absorb the stock of farmers due to crop failure by any reasons. In order to fulfil this objective, Government/NGOs and private organizations initiated various cattle improvement programmes and interventions. Out of them, Artificial Insemination is of most important programme by which efforts are being made to upgrade the indigenous stock of bovine population for enhancing milk production. Although gigantic development has taken place in this area yet much remains to be done in our rural areas as this sector has great potential to generate abandoned income and employment opportunities. In view of the same, attempts was made to ascertain the major constraints involved in successful implementation of A.I. programme among the rural youth who are residing in the nearby villages of Patna dairy project which is leading and most potential dairy plant in Bihar state.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in three blocks of Patna district namely Patna Sadar, Fatuha and Naubatpur with this assumption that these blocks were having milk cooperative societies of Patna Dairy Project and also they were adjacent to the Bihar Veterinary College, Patna which is premier institution involved in dissemination of A.I. services among the milk producers of the state. Further one hundred farm youth engaged in animal husbandry practices were selected randomly as the sample of study. The data pertaining to the objective of the study was collected through structure interview schedule prepared for the purpose in face-to-face situation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results born out through the systematic research endeavour is being presented here in Table 1.

The perusal of Table 1 slows that the most important constraint in effective utilization of A.I. services was repeat breeding or poor conception as perceived by the selected rural youth. The easy availability of traditional natural services in rural areas
was perceived as the second most important constraints perceived by them. The economic aspect as high rate and cost of semen tank was considered as another important constraint in this series. The non-availability of LN2 at proper time was perceived as the next important constraints. The lack of appropriate training and non-availability of trained manpower including veterinary professional was considered as the other important constraints inhibiting the successful implementation of A.I. services in rural areas. The non-availability of quality semen was also perceived as the important constraints by the selected rural youth during the study.

Table 1. Constraints involved in effective utilization of Artificial Insemination programmes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Constraints</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Repeat breeding or poor conception</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy availability of natural services</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High rate of semen tank</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-availability of LN2 at proper time</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of training programme</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-availability of trained people</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>VI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-availability of veterinary Doctors</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>VII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-availability of good quality semen</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>VIII</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further, efforts was also made to invite the suggestion from the selected rural youth participated in the study with respect to suggested strategies for effective utilization of A.I. services in the village. Based on their narrative responses, many salient issues were emerged which are given here as:

- There is an urgent need to enlarge the network of A.I. facilities to cover more number of breeding bovine population as well as to undertake the performance recording linked with progeny testing programme for selection of high genetic merit bulls along with establishing bulls mother farms, young bull rearing units and also through integrating new emerging reproductive and genetic technique with the conventional breeding practices for fast multiplication of superior germ-plasms and their dissemination.
- For conservation of cattle and buffalo breeds, there is a need to have breeding plan, which should involved developing in situ and ex situ conservation models. This will help in maintaining optimum population size of breeding males and females;
- It is required to build up appropriate training programmes in which technically skilled person like veterinarian, trained people should be made available.
- There is a need for identifying appropriate technologies, which are demand driven, demand less capital, takes less time and procedure.
- There is also need for gradual manipulation in animal husbandry practices for improving animal productivity and adoption of biotechnology intervention in feed, fodder, reproduction and growth aspects.
- There is a need for exploring the possibilities of providing loans at the lowest interest rates with subsidies for dairy development activities;
- The governmental role in improving the supply of inputs and service to dairy farmers and beneficiaries at their doorsteps is also needed with minimum cost.
- There is a need for support from various non-governmental agencies and organizations to ease the problems of farmers in collaboration of their activities.

These suggestions should be taken into consideration while formulating any action programme related with diffusion strategies in A.I. services under the animal husbandry programme.

CONCLUSION

Although India ranks first in cattle with a population of 204.58 million, buffalo with a population of 84.21 million; second in goat with a population of 115.28 million and third in sheep with a population of 50.78 million yet hardly 10% population is being served by Artificial Insemination whenever it is most effective and best way to upgrade the indigenous stock of bovine population for creating employment options through the enhancement of milk production and other related products. Even in the state of Bihar, there are 22147 thousand cattle out of which only 184 thousand cattle are cross-breed therefore, efforts should be made to involve the rural youth which is important segment of human resource to participate in A.I. programme in order the harness its potential for socio-economic development. In order to meet the growing demand of milk with growing urban population, there is urgent need to in large the network of A.I. facilities to cover up more breeding bovine population through active involvement of rural youth.
REFERENCES

