

## Original Research Article

# A Study of Knowledge towards Improved Dairy Practices among the Livestock Owners

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## ABSTRACT

The main objective of extension efforts is to provide and improve the knowledge of the cliental group in order to have better adoption related with farm and improved' Animal Husbandry practices. The knowledge component or milk producers was explained under three important A.H. practices as feeding, breeding and management. It was found that even the milk producers who were considered as professional had shown the poor level of their knowledge concerning various improved A.H. practices. The implication of this study can be utilized in order to develop a suitable strategy for better prospects of white revolution.

### Keywords

Livestock owners,  
Dairy practices,  
knowledge

## Introduction

Our country has entered in the area of white revolution and all concerned are putting their genetic efforts to achieve this end. But this dream would not be fulfilled at the desired extent unless the improved dairy practices like feeding, breeding and management are not being known and adopted by the cattle owners. Thus success of any animal husbandry programme depends upon the acquisition' of knowledge and its utilization into practices among the cliental group. Several studies like those of Singh (2010) and Kumar (1989) have revealed that knowledge of recommended practices contributed significantly to the adoption level of improved farm technology, even in the area of animal husbandry. The studies conducted by several workers (Kakoty and Sharma, 1988; Singh *et al.*, 1979 and Kumar. 1997) revealed the similar observation. On the basis of these studies. It

is concluded that once knowledge is acquired and retained in the mind. It creates changes in the thinking process. Resulting active functioning of the individual in terms of their action as per their knowledge levels. Present study aims to explore the level of knowledge concerning improved A.H. practices as acquired by the milk producers with the objective to get a much needed feedback to A.H. scientists, policy makers and planners involved in economic regeneration in this area.

## Materials and Methods

The present study was carried out at Danapur block of Patna district, which is adjacent to the Bihar Veterinary College, Patna and considered as a premier agent for diffusion of agricultural and A.H. innovations. Four villages namely Nasrignaj,

Digha, Sherpur and Chandmari were selected based on the assumption that larger milk producers were residing in these villages who produce their milk for the purpose of commercial gain. Thus, total 100 milk producers were selected as a sample comprising 25 each from the identified villages. The data related with the knowledge of improved A.H. practices were collected through the adopted version of knowledge test in face to face situation. It consisted the items concerning the improved A.H. practices from the area of feeding, breeding and management. For quantification about the level of knowledge, the score '1' was assigned for known and score '0' was assigned for not known practices.

## **Results and Discussion**

The knowledge level of the respondents concerning the improved A.H. practices has been presented in table I, The perusal of table denotes the different component related with knowledge of the respondents concerning the feeding, breeding and management practices. The findings of the study are being described here as:

### **Feeding practices**

Majority of the respondents *i.e.* 46 had shown their knowledge about the green fodder feeding which might be due to the dependency upon the traditional method of dairy farming used by them, because the concept of pasture grazing is ancient and the facilities for the same is declining as per the present population pressure. However, majority of the respondents did not know about the urea, molasses brick licking, mineral mixture feeding and silage/hay making which are considered as the main factors for metabolic and gynaecological disorders among the cross-bred dairy cattle.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to create awareness about the importance of these practices to the cattle owners. The appropriate knowledge about these practices are very essential for enhancing the milk yield in general and to raise the economic profitability in specific way.

### **Breeding Practice**

Respondents had very poor knowledge about colostrum feeding to neonates and only 8% of the respondents had some knowledge related with these practices. Further, it is surprising to note that majority of the farmers expressed their opinion that it was very harmful and unhygienic for neonates. In reality, this practice induces and enhances the immunity factor which is responsible for overall growth of the animals. The findings also indicated that only 12% and 29% of milk producers had shown their knowledge about oestrus cycle and correct timing of A.I. respectively, these two practices are regarded as the backbone of breed improvement programme.

Virtually, various animal husbandry programmes initiated by governmental efforts would become fruitless till the farming community are not being exposed with scientific know-how concerning these practices of breeding.

### **Management practices**

By visualising the management component of the study, it is clear from the table that the milk producers of this area were still following the traditional way of animal husbandry management as they had very poor knowledge (6) about hygienic management of goshalas. Majority of the farmers expressed their unawareness about the use of anthelmintic (74%) and ectoparasitic drugs (49%) schedules.

**Table.1** Showing the percentage distribution of knowledge level of milk producers about the improved dairy practices

Improved Dairy practices		Level of knowledge	
		Known all about	Do not know about it
<b>I</b>	<b>Feeding</b>		
1.	Use and importance of green fodder	46	54
2.	Use and importance of mineral mixtures	18	82
3.	Use and importance of urea. mollasses	3	97
4.	Importance of weaning process	17	83
5.	Silage/Hay making	0	100
<b>II</b>	<b>Breeding</b>		
1.	Knowledge of oestrus cycle of dairy animals	12	88
2.	Correct timing of A.I.	29	71
3.	Knowledge about castration of unscrvisable male	16	84
4.	Knowledge about colostrum feeding to neonates	8	92
5.	Knowledge about cross-bred dairy farming	28	72
<b>III.</b>	<b>Management</b>		
1.	Proper disposal of drugs, etc.	18	82
2.	Hygienic management of sheds/Ghoshala	6	94
3.	Use of ectoparasitic drugs	51	49
4.	Use of anthelmintic drugs	26	74
5.	Use of disinfectants	0	100
			N = 100

Even 82% of the respondents were unaware about the proper disposal of the dung which is the potent source of different diseases being spread among the animals as well as human population. Surprisingly enough, none of the respondents had shown the knowledge about the use and importance of disinfectants in farm areas. Thus, there is an urgent need to create the mass awareness among the cattle owners to use the ecto and endoparasite drugs at regular intervals these effort can be initiated through the A.H. extension workers involved in the field areas in order to resolve the cattle health problems at a large extent. The dung, urine and other wastes of animal farm shed should be disposed off in a hygienic was and in such a

proper manner so that these waste can be gainfully utilize by the farmers as a best farm manure and energy.

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