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## **Constraints Faced by Dairy Farmers in Dairy Production Management in District Dera Ghazi Khan**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This study was conducted in district Dera Ghazi Khan, Punjab. The district consists of 4 tehsils and 48 union councils in which 7 union councils were selected randomly for the study. A pre-tested structured questionnaire data were collected from a sample of 140 dairy farmers. The data were analyzed by using statistical package for social sciences. As regards to constraints related to general management practices, most (40-47.86%) of the respondents were facing problems due to lack of knowledge, skills and high cost of labor. The market problem was also the major constraints in study area. Rural people have not much knowledge about the breeds and highly required trainings about vaccination and breeding services to improve their dairy production activities. Due to large distance and poor veterinary services in hospital dairy farmers had faced problem in dairy management. In some of the areas, dairy farmers had faced problems due to lack of green fodder throughout the year. There is need to conduct training programs for dairy farmers in rural areas to fulfill their needs and minimize their problems.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Constraints, dairy production management, dairy needs, dairy problems,*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Dairying is one of the important enterprises, which supports the rural households by providing profitable employment and steady income. Dairying is a strong tool to develop the micro-economy in villages (Saadullah, 2001 and Shamsuddin *et al.*, 2007) to improve rural livelihoods and to alleviate rural poverty. About 40-45 millions of Pakistan's population lived in rural areas is engaged in this sector (Nosheen, 2008). Dairy sector offers diverse and multidimensional benefits to the rural poor (Afzal, 2008). Dairy sector has important contribution in the livelihoods of rural poor (Akhtar *et al.* 2008; Ali, 2007; Batoole *et al.* 2017; Khan and Usmani, 2005 and Upton, 2004). More specifically, Husnain and Usmani (2006) reported that livestock can be the most secure and permanent source of cash income for small and landless farmers that are considered more vulnerable to poverty. Moreover, in overall national development of the country last year, this sector contributed a significant share of about 55.9 percent of the agriculture sector and its share in GDP stood at 11.9%, higher than crop sector share (Anon, 2014).

Constraints faced by dairy farmers while adopting different activities in their dairy enterprises. Constraints identification will help the planners and administrators to develop the programs according to the needs of farmers. If these constraints are identified, they are

helpful to bridge the gap between dairy technology and its adoption by dairy farmers (Rathod *et al.*, 2011). The present study was designed to explore the constraints faced by the dairy farmers in adoption of dairy management practices.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in district Dera Ghazi Khan. The district consists of 4 tehsils and 48 union councils. From each of tehsils, seven union councils were selected randomly then two villages were selected from selected union council by simple random sampling. From each selected village, ten farmer's respondents were selected conveniently. Therefore, the total size for study was 140 respondents. The data was collected through well-designed, structured, validated and pre-tested interview schedule. Questions were asked through face to face interview. Questions were primarily in English but asked in local languages. The collected data were analyzed through Microsoft excel and Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS). Descriptive statistics were used to draw findings and conclusion.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Constraints faced by dairy farmers related to general management practices

In case of constraints faced by dairy farmers in general management practices, most (40-47.86%) of the respondents had faced problem due to lack of availability of loan, Lack of knowledge, high cost of labor, lack of investment and market problems at medium level. Lack of advisory services and high energy prices were almost same as Hayat (2017). Large number (66.43%) of the respondents had faced problem due to lack of advisory services. The results are almost same as the finding of Kale (2013). The constraints with top three ranking order which were faced by the respondents were lack of advisory services, unawareness of weather forecasting, lack of training and skills with 2.52, 2.46, 2.22 and 2.21 respectively (Table 1).

**Table 1: Constraints faced by dairy farmers in selected general management practices**

Constraints	Low	Medium	High	Mean	St. Deviation	Rank
	%					
<b>General Management Problems</b>						
Lack of advisory services	12.86	25.00	66.43	2.52	0.81	1
Unawareness of weather forecasting	4.29	28.57	61.43	2.46	0.83	2
Lack of training facilities	2.86	33.57	50.71	2.22	1.00	3
Lack of Skills	11.43	32.14	48.57	2.21	0.94	4
Lack of availability of loan	6.43	40.00	42.14	2.13	0.97	5
Distance between veterinary hospital	12.14	37.14	40.71	2.09	0.96	6
High energy prices (electricity etc.)	24.29	32.86	32.86	1.89	0.98	7
Lack of knowledge	22.86	42.32	28.57	1.84	0.96	8
High cost of labor	19.29	43.57	23.57	1.77	0.96	9
Lack of investment	21.43	46.43	20.71	1.76	0.91	10
Market problems	27.14	47.86	13.57	1.64	0.86	11

### Constraints faced by dairy farmers related to breeding and feeding practices

The survey showed that half (50%) of the respondents had problem due to unavailability of quality crossbred bulls and vast number (61.43%) of the respondents faced problems at high level due to unavailability of artificial insemination services in local area. However, most (45.71%) of the respondents faced problems at medium level due to lack of knowledge about animal breeds. The results are almost same as Yadav *et al.* (2014). In feeding practice the most (47.14-50.71%) of the respondents had problem due to fodder growing and cutting practices. Mohapatra *et al.* (2012) too observed the same findings. Nagraleet *al.* (2015) revealed that lack of availability of green fodder was found as major feeding constraint. Sagaret *al.* (2012) stated that major problem of the dairy farmers was availability of green fodder round the year. One-fourth (26.43%) of the respondents had faced problems for feeding to newly born calves (Table 2).

**Table 2: Constraints faced by dairy farmers in breeding and feeding practices**

Constraints	Low	Medium	High	Mean	St. Deviation	Rank
<b>Breeding</b>						
Unavailability of AI services	12.86	25.00	61.43	2.39	0.93	1
Unavailability of quality crossbred bulls	8.57	34.29	50.00	2.27	0.90	2
Lack of knowledge of breeds	4.29	45.71	38.57	2.11	0.94	3
Improper detection of heat	4.29	47.14	35.71	2.06	0.96	4
Pregnancy Diagnosis	15.71	49.29	30.71	1.95	0.99	5
<b>Feeding</b>						
Fodder cutting	4.29	30.71	57.14	2.37	0.89	1
Fodder growing	5.00	28.57	57.14	2.34	0.94	2
Inadequacy of green fodder round the year	21.43	17.14	50.71	2.08	1.07	3
Use of Mineral Mixture/Common Salt	6.43	35.00	42.86	2.05	1.06	4
High cost of quality concentrate feeds	19.29	20.00	47.14	2.01	1.10	5
Feeding of pregnant animals	12.14	33.57	38.57	1.95	1.07	6
Unavailability of feed	11.43	40.71	32.86	1.91	1.02	7
Unavailability of fodder seed at proper time	22.86	22.86	39.29	1.86	1.10	8
Newly born calves feeding	24.29	26.43	35.71	1.84	1.06	9

### Constraints faced by dairy farmers related to health and selling activities

In dairy practices, more than half (51.43-53.57%) of the respondents had faced constraints at high level due to unavailability of vaccination at proper time, non-availability and high cost of veterinary medicine and distant location of veterinary hospitals. Rani *et al.* (2009) also found the same values about high cost of veterinary medicines. Hayat *et al.* (2017) also found that poor veterinary services in hospital were major problems for dairy farmers in rural areas. Highest mean value of problems faced by dairy farmers were (2.10-2.94) which is caused by

unawareness of veterinary services, no provision for testing of animals, distant location of veterinary hospitals and poor veterinary services in local hospitals. Husnain and usmaniet *al.* (2006) also concluded that training facilities of staff and farmers are not satisfactory at livestock research and experimentation stations. They further concluded that poor training capacities of the staff and poor participation of the farmers in livestock programs are the major obstacles being faced by majority of the livestock farmers in Pakistan. In selling of milk, most (38.57-50%) of the respondents have faced problems at high level due to market competition, preference of buffalo's milk and poor transportation facilities in rural areas with mean value 195, 2.11 and 2.27 respectively. Raziq *et al.* (2010) reported that marketing as well as storage facilities for dairy products were very limited and poor. Patil *et al.* (2009) also found almost the same results (Table 3).

**Table 3: Constraints faced by dairy farmers in health care and selling of milk practices**

Problems	Low	Medium	High	Mean	St. Deviation	Rank
<b>Health Care</b>						
Unawareness of veterinary services	2.86	55.71	26.43	1.94	0.95	1
No provision for testing of animals	4.29	30.71	51.43	2.20	1.03	2
Distant location of veterinary hospital	4.29	27.14	53.57	2.19	1.07	3
Lack of veterinary services in hospitals	4.29	32.14	47.14	2.10	1.08	4
Non availability and high cost of medicines	27.14	11.43	52.14	2.06	1.08	5
Unavailability of veterinary doctors in emergency	16.43	43.57	37.14	2.01	1.03	6
Unavailability of vaccination at proper time	14.29	4.29	51.43	1.97	0.96	7
Improper Deworming practice	8.57	40.71	35.00	1.95	1.03	8
Isolation of infected animals	5.00	50.00	25.71	1.82	1.03	9
<b>Selling of milk</b>						
Low milk prices	0.00	46.43	30.00	1.88	1.04	1
Lack of transport facilities	8.57	34.29	50.00	2.27	0.90	2
Consumers preference for buffalo milk	7.25	33.57	46.43	2.11	1.05	3
Payment issues	4.29	47.86	32.86	1.99	0.99	4
Market competition	12.14	33.57	38.57	1.95	1.07	5

## CONCLUSION

It is concluded that dairy farmers were general management constraints due to lack of knowledge, skills and poor advisory services. Most of the respondents in rural areas as the distance between veterinary hospital and their dairy farm so, due to large distance much of the farmers have lack of awareness about the veterinary facilities. Unavailability of artificial insemination and vaccination service was also major constraints faced by dairy farmers during dairy practices. In rural areas, most of the dairy farmers have no knowledge to feed new born calves. As most of the rural people are earning a part of income with dairy products

but they have not skills to compete market due to transportation facilities, knowledge about by-products and payment issues. There is need to train the dairy farmers according to their needs to minimize the problems faced by dairy farmers. The dairy farmers should be trained to vaccinate their animals and engaged with the veterinary services to improve their dairy production. Training programs should be formulated by considering some important aspects like needs of dairy farmers, time, place and interval etc. There should be organized some programs to motivate young rural people to modern dairy system.

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