SOCIO - ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE DAIRY FARMERS IN RURAL AREAS OF KAMRUP DISTRICT OF ASSAM

Gayatri Saikia[1], Dr. Lalnilawma[2]

[1]PhD Scholar, Department of Extension Education and Rural Development, Mizoram University

[2]Professor, Department of Extension Education and Rural Development, Mizoram University

ABSTRACT

Dairy farming plays an important role in social and economic livelihood for millions of rural families and has assumed the most important role in providing employment and income generating opportunities particularly for small and marginal farmers. To access the socio-economic status of dairy farmers the study was carried out in Kamrup district of Assam state. Two blocks were randomly selected from each district. Ten villages were selected from each block and from each village 12 respondents who possess minimum five dairy animals were selected randomly. Total 120 samples were taken from randomly selected Dimoria block of Kamrup district. The data were collected with the help of predesigned interview schedule by personal interview. The results indicate that majority (58.33%) of the dairy farmers belonged to middle age group, 55.83 per cent of them educated up to Primary school, 71.67 per cent of dairy farmers had medium size of family, majority (80.83%) of dairy farmers had dairying as main occupation. The socio-economic parameters viz. experience among farmers was high level in dairy activities. All the dairy farms (100 %) of the farms produced more than 20 litres of milk per day.

KEYWORDS: Social status, Economic status, Milk Farmers, Income, Kamrup District

INTRODUCTION

India is the highest milk producer in the world with a total volume of 132.4 million tons. India is predominantly an agrarian economy with more than 75 per cent of its population living in villages and depending on agriculture and allied activities for their livelihood. Dairying has become an important secondary source of income for millions of rural families and has assumed the most important role in providing employment and income generating opportunities particularly for marginal and women farmers. In our country most of the milk is produced by small, marginal farmers and landless labourers. In terms of actual number, marginal farmers and landless laborers form the largest group of rural milk producers (Himabindu et al., 2014). Majority of landless laborers, marginal and small farmers are holding small scale dairy farming keeping less than 10 animals and struggling for sustaining their livelihood on few numbers of dairy animals in rural areas. Key feature of the Indian

dairy industry is still predominantly unorganized and of the total milk produced in India, only 18-20 per cent is channelized through the organized segment. Because of larger participation of landless labourers, marginal farmers and small farmers in unorganized small scale dairy farming, it is the need to identify their socio-economic profile so that right approach can be formulated for their social and economic development.

Dairy farming plays a pivotal role in the economy of our country. It helps in augmenting food supply, generating employment and raising nutritional level. Indian dairy represents one of the largest and fastest growing sectors. Dairy enterprise is a solution to many problems of agricultural, besides being an effective tool to improve socio-economic condition of rural income to farmer. Inadequate knowledge of modern dairy practices and marketing facilities deteriorates the socio-economic conditions of the Dairy farmers. The recent advances in animal husbandry have demonstrated that scientific knowledge and their adoption have great potential for maximization of milk productivity. The best option to increase livestock productivity is through adoption of improved technologies and efficient use of available resources. Many socio-economic studies revealed that socio-economic parameters viz. education, caste, land holding and subsidiary occupation are playing great role in development of animal husbandry. The systematic approach of study might help in understanding their social parameters and subsequently formulating policy and programmes for their development.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was carried out in Kamrup district of Assam state. One block i.e., Dimoria was selected randomly for the study purpose. Thus, the study was confined to total ten selected villages in Kamrup district. Twelve dairy farmers were selected randomly from each village. Thus, random samples of 120 dairy farmers were selected for the study. The multistage random sampling method was used for the present study. The personal interview technique was used as a tool through which first-hand information was collected. The semi-structured interview schedule was prepared by keeping in view the objectives of the study. Before collection of data, interview schedule was pre-tested by the interviewer. The collected data were compiled, tabulated and analyzed to interpret the results. The descriptive statistics like frequency, percentage were used for the investigation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Age group of dairy farmers revealed that the majority of the dairy farmers (58.33%) are belonged to middle age group whereas 26.67 percent were from young age group and 14.17 percent of the farmers are from old age group. Similar findings were also reported by Fahad et al., (2018). Educational status revealed that the majority of the respondents (55.83%) had Primary school, followed by illiterate and above and higher secondary level of education. Majority of the respondents were male (80.83%) whereas, 18.33 percent of the respondents were female.

Family size revealed that the majority (71.67 %) of the dairy farmers belonged to the medium sized families i.e. 5 to 6 members, while 18.33 per cent of them belonged to small sized families having up to 4 members and only 10 percent of the farmers belonged to having more than 6 members. The results were in agreement with the findings of Fahad et al., (2018), who also reflected in their study on Study of relationship between socio-economic profile and perceived training needs of dairy farmers in Jammu district of Jammu and Kashmir, India that 78.33 percent of the respondents were having medium sized families, while 15.83 percent and 5.83 percent belonged to small and large sized families. Land holding of the farmers indicates that majority (88.33 %) of the farmers respondents had medium size land holding followed by 11.67 percent and no large dairy farmers were found in the study area. Occupational status indicates that majority (80.83%) of farmers had major occupation dairying, 19.17 percent were performing dairying along with agriculture. Social participation in different social activities definitely influences one's way of thinking, acting and behaving. Table shows that 65 percent of the respondents had no membership majority (70.00%) of the respondents had membership in one organization whereas 15 percent of the respondents had membership in more than one organization and also. Because few villages had milk co-operative societies and others villages had no co-operative society Rathod et al. (2011).

Table 1: Socio-economic profile of Dairy Farmers

Characteristics	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Age	Young age(Less than 35 years)	32	26.67
	Middle age (35 - 50 years)	70	58.33
	Old age (above 50 years)	17	14.17

Education	Illiterate	22	18.33
	Primary school	67	55.83
	Middle school	17	14.17
	High school	10	8.33
	Higher seccondary school	2	1.67
	Graduate and above	2	1.67
Sex	Male	97	80.83
	Female	23	18.33
Size of family	Small (Up to 4)	22	18.33
	Medium (5-6)	86	71.67
	Large (Above 6)	12	10.00
Land holding	Landless	14	11.67
	Marginal (< 1 ha)	106	88.33
	Small (1 to 2 ha)	0	0
	Medium (2 to 4 ha)	0	0
	Large (> 4 ha)	0	0
Occupation	Dairying	97	80.83
	Dairying + Agriculture	23	19.17
Social Participation	No membership	78	65.00
	Membership in one organization	42	35.00
	Membership in more than one organization	0	0
Experience in Dairy farming	Less (Up to 10 years)	46	38.33
	Medium (11- 20 years)	61	50.83
	High (Above 20 years)	13	10.83
Herd Size	Small(less than 14 dairy animals)	41	34.17
	Medium (15-30 dairy	64	53.33

	animals)		
	Large (more than 30 dairy animals)	15	12.5
Milk Production (in litres/day)	Low (Less than 5)	0	0
	Medium (5-20)	120	100
	High (More than 20)	0	0
Type of animal house	Kutcha	28	23.33
	Semi-pucca	92	76.67

Dairy farming experience indicates that 50.83 per cent of the respondents had medium experience followed by 38.33 per cent with a low level and 10.83 per cent had a medium level of experience in dairy farming Ram et al. (2018). Herd size shows that majority (53.33 %) of the farmers had a medium number of herd size followed by 34.17 per cent had small herd size and only 12.5 percent had large herd size. The findings were in agreement with the findings of Saidur and Jancy (2015). Total milk production of dairy farm is an important factor since it is directly concerned with profitability. As the herd size increases the milk production also increases and the profitability of dairy farm may also increase. It is clear from the above Table that all (100 %) of the dairy farm had a high level of milk yield. Only 23.33 percent of the dairy farmers had kutcha type of animal house whereas, 76.67 percent of dairy farmers had semi-pucca type of animal house.

CONCLUSIONS

Unorganized dairy farmers had medium level of experience of practicing animal husbandry, used medium sources of information and had small size of the herd. Socio-economic parameters of the unorganized dairy farmers revealed that there is a scope for further improvement in the socio-economic status, which ultimately leads to the development of the society in general and dairy farmers in particular. Dairying plays an important role in alleviating poverty and increasing family income. It has also main role in generating employment to family labour as well as hired labour. Additionally it generates employment for landless labourers also. Though, the dairy income is a capital intensive enterprise, but it fetches good returns. It also reduces the income inequality among sample households.

REFERENCES

Alvarez, T. S. and Cañete, D. C. 2021. Socio-Economic Profile of the Dairy Industry in Cagayan Valley: Potential Users of Green Technology. *Universal Journal of Agricultural Research*, 9**(5):** 200-207.

Bhandari, G. and Chinnappa, R. B. V. 2018. Economic Analysis of Milk Production and Marketed Surplus in Migrant and Non-migrant Member Households of Hilly District of Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand. *International Journal of Agriculture Sciences*, 10 **(22)**: 7549-7552.

Girish, C. E., Kadian, K. S., Meena, B. S., and Mandi, K. 2020. Socio-Economic Profile of Farmers in Sericulture Based Dairy Farming System in Karnataka State, India. *Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci*, 9**(4)**: 2071-2078.

Kashish and Dhawan, V. 2015. Socio-Economic Profile of Dairy Farmers in Punjab: A Case Study of Amritsar District. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Approach and Studies*, 2 **(2)**: 155-162.

Mithun, G., Triveni, G., Sharma, G. R. K. and Ravindra, R. Y. 2022. Socio-economic Characteristics of Dairy Farmers Sourcing Information from Digital and Traditional Media in Andhra Pradesh. *The Pharma Innovation Journal*, 11**(5):** 1783-1786.

Patel N.K., Ashwar B.K., Rajput M.B. and Prajapati M.V. 2018. Personal and Socio-economic Characteristics of Commercial Dairy Farmers and their Association with Economics of Commercial Farms in Aravalli District of Gujarat. *International Journal of Agriculture Sciences*, 10 **(11)**: 6187-6191.

Prasad , N., Kumar, S., Pande, M., Soni, Y. K., Saha, S., Chand, N. and Arya, S. 2019. Socio-Economic Status and Problems Faced by Dairy Farmers of Sardhana Block of Meerut District. *International Journal of Livestock Research*, 9 **(4)**: 120 -128.

Rahman, S. and Gupta, J. 2015. Knowledge and adoption level of improved dairy farming practices of SHG members and non-members in Kamrup district of Assam, India. *Indian J. Anim. Res.,* 49 **(2)**: 234-240.

Ram, D. H., Kumar, R., Chaudhari, G.M., Vekariya, S. J. and Savsani, H. H. 2018. A Socio-economic Profile of the Unorganized Dairy Farmers. *International Journal of Agricultural*, 8 **(5)**: 49- 53.

Shahjar, F., Khandi, S. A., Bafanda, A., Bhushan, B. and Khateeb, A. M. 2018. Study of relationship between socio-economic profile and perceived training needs of dairy farmers in Jammu district of Jammu and Kashmir, India. *The Pharma Innovation Journal*, 7**(11)**: 71-76.

Vekariya, S. J., Kumar, R., Savsani, H. H., Kotadiya, C. R., Chaudhari , G. M. and Chatrabhuji, B. B., 2016. Socio-Economic Profile of Maldhari Dairy Farmers of South Saurashtra Region. Current Agriculture Research Journal, 4**(2)**: 186-190.