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A STUDY ON DAIRY FARMERS AWARENESS ON PRODUCTION AND UTILIZATION OF FODDER CATTLE FEED IN OMALUR TALUK

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ABSTRACT:

The aim of the study was to evaluate dairy farmers knowledge on forage production. A semi structured questionnaire was administered to a total of 60 small dairy farmers in omalur taluk. Data was analyzed using statistical package for social science while the main source of forage is on farm. Forage growing is not taken as a tradition among small dairy farmers. Milk production increases during months of forage abundance Forage production among dairy farmers is significantly influenced by location, household size, land ownership, forage source and livestock feeding system. Apart from chopping before feeding the animals, minimal processing is done to forage .The study provides a basis for designing interventions for improving fodder production and utilization among omalur taluk small dairy farmers.

The feasibility of livestock industry is dependent on the genetic potential for production, good health care, and balanced feeding method of animals and efficient marketing of the produce. While genetic potential and health care are the prerequisites for sustainability, balanced feeding will help to increase the profitability. The profitability is directly dependent on the sources of feed and fodder, since 65-70% of the total cost of livestock farming is credited to feeding. Efficient utilization of feed and fodder would directly contribute to increase in profitability, in terms of body growth rates, and improved fertility, which are often unobserved by the owners.

KEY WORDS:

Forage, Seasonality, Quality milk production

INTRODUCTION:

The dairy industry's call for first-class milk has completed it less complicated to get the dairy farmer worried. The farmer no longer only receives greater milk, however a better fee as well as



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for the better quality milk. Thus, quality milk programs will add to the profitability of the dairy farmer. There are many cattle feed that are used to feed the cattle so as to increase the milk productivity of the milch animals, such as ,sorghum, hay, desmanthus, green fodder and asola etc.

Green Fodder:

Green fodder manufacture provides the better option of feed buying alternative for farmers who are planning to go for dairy farming .Some farmers even depend on the cultivation of green fodder just like any other crop and sell it in the market. Hence a study was needed to assess dairy farmer's knowledge on forage production and proper utilization.

Sorghum:

Forage sorghum is a warm –season annual that is used for silage production and fed to dairy cattle in many regions. Forage sorghum can stand heavy grazing. Rational grazing is the safest way of utilizing the pasture to provide maximum nutrition. Sorghum is tolerant to drought because of its root system. Sorghum have a high water efficiency The feeding value of forage sorghum is influenced greatly by selection planted and stage of maturity at harvest. While forage sorghum silage is not a complete replacement for corn silage, it can be effectively used in rations fed to growing or lactating dairy cattle.

Hay:

Hay has been the traditional forage supplied for dairy cows at some stage in the barn feeding season. Cows fed exquisite nice hay loose-preference consumes forage dry count number at a most charge. Hay can be used as animal fodder when or where there is not enough field or rangeland on which to graze an animal.

Maize:

Maize grain can raise milk yields ,milk protein content and give more profits. Convenient and easy to source maize grain can be fed varied with silage in bins or through an in-shed feeding system. While many farmers have recognized the benefits of feeding home grown or purchased in forages such as maize silage, there has been a large increase in the use of concentrates fed mainly through in-shed feeding system. In-shed feeding systems are convenient allowing farmers to easily feed concentrates during milking by simply pushing a button or pulling a cord. While feeding forages normally requires some forward planning, concentrates can usually purchased as required.

Desmanthus:

Desmanthus is a permanent crop. It is grown throughout the year under irrigation and during June-October as a reinfed crop. The farmers should sow the seeds at 20kg/ha in frozen stand on the side of the ridges over the lines where fertilizers are apply at a depth of 2 cm and should cover with soil. Further, the farmers should irrigate immediately after sowing , ,life irrigation at the 1/3 day and thereafter once in every week. First reduce on 90th day after sowing at 50 cm top and subsequent cuts at durations of 40 days at the same height.



Asola:

Asola is a floating fen which resembles algae. It is rich in proteins, amino acids, vitamins and minerals. "Normally asola is grown in paddy fields or shallow water bodies. In some places it is grown-up in concrete tanks.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

¹ The Livestock division, which provides bulk of the protein to human nutrition, contributes 7% of GSDP and 26% of Agricultural Domestic Product. The Livestock zone has a high inclusive growth ability. However, further growth of the sector is as much dependent upon the availability of fodder as it is dependent upon the breed improvement. One of the important demanding situations is huge shortage of fodder, greater so at some stage in drought and summer season. This is despite the kingdom's favourable agro-climatic situations and availability of abundant resources. The fodder being critical input in livestock production systems, the government has considered it necessary to undertake a comprehensive fodder policy to increase production and to ensure faster growth of the livestock sector. (Alemayehu, 2005).

² Seasonal fluctuations in the ease of use and quality of feed have been a common phenomenon, inflicting serious changes in livestock production. Dry season feed supply is the paramount problem. The feed shortages and nutrient deficiencies are more acute in dry seasons. In contrast, under normal circumstances, in lowlands, when there are sufficient feed for cows, milk tends to be adequate for home utilization as well as for market (Bruke and Tafesse, 2000).

³ It is very important to provide healthy fodder for the cattle during the wintry weather. Feeding troughs must be kept clean. If you do not feed the animals remaining in the internal feed trough, should be removed immediately. In winter, the moisture should be drier than greens. Greens well, shake the soil and worms, insects, none should be given. In the rainy season, mosquitoes, ticks and worms produced much. So around feeders and around the house, the most important pesticide spraying. Vellaiyatittal with lime to the water tank once a week. Avoid the favorites moss. Livestock farmers have to comply with them. (Tedonkenk-Pamo and Pieper, 2000).

⁴ The Livestock sector has high inclusive growth potential. Though, further growth of the division is as much dependent upon the availability of fodder as it is dependent upon the breed improvement. It is the troubles related to fodder which can be a cause of subject. This is notwithstanding the State's favorable agro-climatic state of affairs and availability of assets. One of the major challenges is huge shortage of fodder, more so during drought situations and summer. Shortage of fodder is ordinary. (Akila, 2016)

⁵ Observed during every summer which is more conspicuous in the drought conditions. Except upkeep of crop residues inside the shape of stalks at farmer level, the opposite protection practices within the form of silage bales, fodder blocks, etc., are definitely absent among farmers mainly due to lack of awareness about preservation techniques. Most of the crop residue is stored as



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dry fodder in the form of stalks. (Suresh, 2004)

OBJECTIVES:

The main objective of this study is to evaluate role of the fodder in quality of milk production .

- To examine factors necessary to produce quality milk with green fodder
- To analyze the impact of healthy fodder and its necessity
- To assess the various livestock forage items.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:

The sample of milk producers and respondents are from omalur taluk only, which may limit the generalization of the outcomes. The data are based on individual opinion which may bring in some bias.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

Dairy Farming is a major livestock venture in India where small and marginal farmers are engaged to earn their livelihood. This study concentrates on enhancing quality milk production from side to side effective production and utilization of fodder cattle feed. Though the dairy farmers try hard to increase the milk yield through various cattle feed, still the lack of awareness on proper techniques and methods in right kind of feed to the cattle, they could not able to yield higher milk production .An understanding about the various types of cattle feeds and their benefits and an understanding about the various methods and tools for effective production and utilization may help the small dairy farmers to increase the quality milk production which will enable them to get more profits. hence, this study focuses on the effective production and usage of fodder which is the main feed for cattle.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

A Semi-structured questionnaire was administered to a total of 60 dairy farmers in omalur taluk for the purpose of the study. Questionnaire responses were coded and entered into the Statistical Package for Social Science Percentage analysis were used to summarize farmers responses on existing forage sources, livestock feeding systems and forage species.



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Table shows all factors of percentage analysis

S.No	Components	Categories	Percentage
1	Age	20-30 years 31-40 years 41-50 years above 50 years	33.3 13.3 31.7 21.7
2	Sex	Male Female	51.7 48.3
3	Educational status	Illiterate Primary level Higher secondary level Degree	33.3 23.3 3.3 40.0
4.	Income level	Below 10000 10001-20000 20001-30000 Above30001	61.7 31.7 3.3 3.3
5.	Milk Produce Experience	Below 5 years 6-10 years 11 – 15 years Above 15 years	43.3 18.3 08.3 30.0
6.	Cattle Herd Size	Below 5 6-10	93.3 6.7
7	Quantity Milk Produce	10 litters 11-15 litters 16-20 litters	70.0 23.3 6.7
8	Land Holding	below 3 acears 4-6 acears 7-10 acears above 10 acears	76.7 16.7 1.7 5.0
9	Protein content Fodder usage	Not in use Desmanthus Rabbit-stable Green fodder Sodder sorghum	23.3 8.3 1.7 36.7 30.0
10	Fiber Content fodder usage	Not in use Hay Sorghum Ground net leaves Maize	11.7 10.0 50.0 5.0 23.3
11	Contact veterinary Doctor	Yes No	98.3 1.7
12	Asola Fodder Known	Yes No	16.7 83.3



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FINDINGS:

1. Most of the cattle farmers don't have sufficient awareness about protein content and fiber content fodder.
2. Majority of the Cattle farmers only aware of green fodder and sodder sorghum type of cattle feeds. Because this type of fodder available without shortage.
3. Everybody knows the importance of providing healthy fodder for the cattle during the winter season.
4. All level of respondents aware of vaccination period, cattle disease and regular check up periods .
5. It was observed most of the crop residues are stored as dry fodder in the form of stalks.
6. One of the major challenges is huge shortage of fodder, Particularly during drought situations and summer.
7. Totally absent among farmers mostly due to lack of awareness about preservation techniques.

SUGGESTIONS:

1. Information should be provided to the cattle farmers about how to use hay traditional fodder during the barn feeding season.
2. Most of the dairy farmers have no idea about cultivation of asola fodder, In this regard; the farmers should be trained to how to grow asola fodder in Indian weather condition.
3. Green fodder production provides the better option of feed, and serves as best alternative for farmers who are planning to go for dairy farming.
4. The farmers should be guided to use dry fodder at the time of winter season to avoid wastage of fodder.
5. Better to use fodder for rations fed to growing or lactating dairy cattle.
6. In-shed feeding systems are convenient allowing farmers to easily feed concentrates during milking time.
7. During pregnancy time needs much higher level of protein and energy fodder to avoid unnecessary problems like Bone, joint and feet problems.



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CONCLUSION:

The study has clearly shown that bulk of the cattle farmers minimum level of years to contribute their business. Many of them using green fodder to their livestock to improve quality of milk. Nearly half of the respondents aware about sorghum fiber content fodder but the same time many of them replied no idea about asola fodder. Almost all level of cattle farmers often to contact veterinary doctor regularly. Therefore efforts should be complete to increase the level of cattle fodder awareness through demonstrations, field visits, direct approach to explain about the fodder details etc, for socio economic upliftment of the cattle farmers.

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