

# Constraints Perceived by Women Dairy Farmers and Veterinarians regarding Dairy Farming in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh

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## ABSTRACT

An investigation was conducted to study the constraints perceived by women dairy farmers and veterinarians on dairy farming in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. In technical constraints, majority (94.70%) of women dairy farmers in Narasaraopeta division perceived lack of preservation facility for milk as major constraint whereas majority (85.30%) of women dairy farmers in Guntur division perceived lack of preservation facility for milk as major constraint and majority of women dairy farmers (76.00%) in Pedaravuru division perceived low milk production by local breeds and lack of knowledge in identifying diseases of animals as major constraints. In economic constraints, 90.70% of women dairy farmers in Pedaravuru division perceived high cost of concentrate and other feeds as major constraint whereas 64.00% in Narasaraopeta division perceived low market price for milk as major constraint. and 58.70% in Guntur division perceived low market price for milk as major constraint. Overall majority of farm women (68.44%) in the study area perceived lack of preservation facility for milk was the major technical constraint. Low market price for milk was the major economic constraint perceived by farm women (60.90%) in the study area. It was observed that 75.56% of veterinarians perceived high investment for establishing an enterprise as major constraint in the study area.

**Key words:** Andhra Pradesh, constraints, dairy farming, Guntur district, women dairy farmers

India is primarily an agrarian society, with animal husbandry serving as the backbone of the economy. Livestock sector is an integral component for rural livelihoods and contribution of livestock in total agriculture sector and country's GDP is 25.6% and 4.11% respectively<sup>4</sup>. Women play a crucial and potentially transformative role in the animal husbandry growth in developing countries. Growing demand for milk and milk products in recent years strengthen dairy farming as a lucrative enterprise for women<sup>8</sup>. Andhra Pradesh stands fourth in the milk production in India in financial year 2019. The estimate milk production which was 0.76

million metric tons during 2005-06 in Andhra Pradesh, increases to 15.04 million metric tons in 2019-19. Livestock population has increased by 15.79% from 29.4 million in 2012 to 34.0 million in 2019.

Despite significant increase in milk production in recent decades, dairy animal productivity has remained low, dairy farmers confront a variety of socio- psychological, technical, economic and infrastructural challenges, which are a major concern preventing the industry's development<sup>7</sup>. Hence, the present investigation was carried out to study the constraints perceived by women dairy farmers and veterinarians in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh.

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## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Guntur district has three animal husbandry divisions namely Pedaravuru, Guntur, Narasaraopeta. Five mandals were selected from each animal husbandry division and 5 villages from each Mandal were selected by using stratified random sampling. Three women dairy farmers were selected randomly from each village resulting in 225 respondents. The data were collected by administering the final refined interview schedule to the respondents. The data collected during the period of study were scrutinized and tabulated. The data were subjected to frequency and percentage using statistical package for social science (IBM SPSS 25.0 Version).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Technical constraints perceived by women dairy farmers:** The present study from Table 1 revealed that technical constraint related to lack of preservation facility was viewed as major constraint by 68.44% of women dairy farmers in the study area. This constraint was higher in Narasaraopeta (94.70%) division than that in Guntur (85.30%) and Pedaravuru (25.30%) divisions. It was observed that 60.89% of women dairy farmers felt that incidence of repeat breeding was one of the technical constraints in the study area. The problem was slightly higher in Narasaraopeta (64.00%) division than Pedaravuru (60.00%) and Guntur (58.70%) divisions.

Shortage of green fodder was perceived as a constraint by 59.55% of women dairy farmers in the study area. These results were similar to the previous findings<sup>6</sup>. It was higher in Guntur & Narasaraopeta (80.00%) divisions compared to Pedaravuru (8.00%) divisions. It might be due to unavailability of fertile land in Guntur and Narasaraopeta divisions to cultivate fodder. Low milk production by local breeds and lack of knowledge in identifying diseases of animals perceived as a constraint by 51.11% of women dairy farmers in the study area. These were

higher in Pedaravuru (76.00%) division compared to Narasaraopeta (45.30%) and Guntur (32.00%) divisions. Non availability of veterinary hospitals and veterinary services was considered as constraint by 27.11% women dairy farmers in the study area. These findings were similar in agreement with previous finding<sup>5</sup>. It was higher in Pedaravuru (30.70%) than Narasaraopeta (26.60%) and Guntur (24.00%) divisions. It was observed that 26.66% of women dairy farmers felt Non availability of AI facilities in time as the least constraint in the study area. It was slightly higher in Pedaravuru (30.70%) division compared to Narasaraopeta (25.30%) and Guntur (24.00%) divisions.

**Economic constraints perceived by women dairy farmers:** Data shown in Table 2 indicated that major economic constraint perceived by 60.90% of women dairy farmers in the study area was low market price for milk. It was similar with the previous findings<sup>1</sup>. It was higher in Narasaraopeta (64.00%) division compared to Guntur (58.70%) and Pedaravuru (40.00%) divisions. High cost of high yielding animals perceived as constraint by 51.10% of women dairy farmers in the study area. It was higher in Pedaravuru (76.00%) division than Narasaraopeta (45.30%) and Guntur (32.00%) divisions. It was observed that high cost of concentrate and other feeds was perceived as constraint by 39.60% of women dairy farmers in the study area. It was higher in Pedaravuru (90.70%) division than Narasaraopeta (20.00%) and Guntur (8.00%) divisions.

It was observed that 31.60% of women dairy farmers perceived high cost of medicine as constraint in the study area. The results in agreement with the previous findings<sup>9</sup>. It was higher in Pedaravuru (74.70%) division compared to Narasaraopeta (20.00%) and Guntur (8.00%) divisions. Inadequate money and lack of loan facility was perceived as least constraint by women dairy farmers (26.70%) in the study area. It was slightly higher in Pedaravuru (30.70%) division than

**Table 1: Technical constraints perceived by women dairy farmers in Guntur district**

| Category   | Pedaravuru (N =75) |       | Guntur (N =75) |       | Narasaraopeta (N =75) |       | Overall (N =225) |       |
|--|--------------------|-------|----------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
|  | N                  | %     | N              | %     | N                     | %     | N                | %     |
| Shortage of green fodder   | 6                  | 8.00  | 68             | 80.00 | 60                    | 80.00 | 134              | 59.55 |
| Non availability of AI facilities in time                        | 23                 | 30.70 | 18             | 24.00 | 19                    | 25.30 | 60               | 26.66 |
| Low milk production by local breeds                              | 57                 | 76.00 | 24             | 32.00 | 34                    | 45.30 | 115              | 51.11 |
| Lack of preservation facility for milk                           | 19                 | 25.30 | 64             | 85.30 | 71                    | 94.70 | 154              | 68.44 |
| Incidence of repeat breeding                                     | 45                 | 60.00 | 44             | 58.70 | 48                    | 64.00 | 137              | 60.89 |
| Lack of knowledge in identifying diseases of animals             | 57                 | 76.00 | 24             | 32.00 | 34                    | 45.30 | 115              | 51.11 |
| Non availability of veterinary hospitals and veterinary services | 23                 | 30.70 | 18             | 24.00 | 20                    | 26.66 | 61               | 27.11 |

N = No. of women dairy farmer

**Table 2: Economic constraints perceived by women dairy farmers in Guntur district**

| Category                                   | Pedaravuru (N =75) |       | Guntur (N =75) |       | Narasaraopeta (N =75) |       | Overall (N =225) |       |
|--|--------------------|-------|----------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
|  | N                  | %     | N              | %     | N                     | %     | N                | %     |
| High cost of concentrate and other feeds   | 68                 | 90.70 | 6              | 8.00  | 15                    | 20.00 | 89               | 39.60 |
| High cost of high yielding animals         | 57                 | 76.00 | 24             | 32.00 | 34                    | 45.30 | 115              | 51.10 |
| Inadequate money and lack of loan facility | 23                 | 30.70 | 18             | 24.00 | 19                    | 25.30 | 60               | 26.70 |
| High cost of medicine                      | 56                 | 74.70 | 11             | 14.70 | 4                     | 5.30  | 71               | 31.60 |
| Low market price for milk                  | 45                 | 40.00 | 44             | 58.70 | 48                    | 64.00 | 137              | 60.90 |

N = No. of women dairy farmers

Narasaraopeta (25.30%) and Guntur (24.00%) divisions.

**Constraints perceived by veterinarians:** Data from Table 3 showed that 73.33% of veterinarians perceived lack of knowledge to

manage dairy animals as the major constraint in Pedaravuru division whereas majority of veterinarians in Guntur (73.33%) and Narasaraopeta (86.67%) divisions perceived high investment for establishing an enterprise as major constraint in the study area.

**Table 3: Constraints perceived by Veterinarians in Guntur district**

| Category  | Pedaravuru (N =75) |       | Guntur (N =75) |       | Narasaraopeta (N =75) |       | Overall (N =225) |       |
|---|--------------------|-------|----------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
|   | N                  | %     | N              | %     | N                     | %     | N                | %     |
| Lack of knowledge to manage dairy                 | 55                 | 73.33 | 50             | 66.67 | 60                    | 80.00 | 165              | 73.33 |
| Inadequate bank finance to purchase milch animals | 20                 | 26.67 | 15             | 20.00 | 18                    | 24.00 | 53               | 23.55 |
| High investment for establishing an enterprise    | 50                 | 66.67 | 55             | 73.33 | 65                    | 86.67 | 170              | 75.56 |
| Low price for milk and milk products              | 45                 | 40.00 | 44             | 58.70 | 48                    | 64.00 | 137              | 60.90 |
| Lack of availability of sufficient fodder         | 10                 | 4.44  | 40             | 17.78 | 60                    | 80.00 | 110              | 48.89 |
| Lack of knowledge regarding feeding practices     | 35                 | 46.67 | 30             | 40.00 | 38                    | 50.67 | 103              | 45.78 |
| Lack of maintenance of records                    | 42                 | 56.00 | 44             | 58.67 | 46                    | 61.33 | 132              | 58.67 |

N = No. of women dairy farmers

Overall, major constraints perceived by veterinarians in the study area are high investment for establishing an enterprise (75.56%), lack of knowledge to manage dairy animals (73.33%), low price for milk and milk products (60.90%), lack of maintenance of records (58.67%), lack of availability of sufficient fodder (48.89%), lack of knowledge regarding feeding practices (45.78%) and inadequate bank finance to purchase milch animals (23.55%). In case of inadequate supply of quality medicines, the results were in contrast with the previous findings<sup>3</sup>. In case of feeding practices the results in agreement with the previous findings<sup>2</sup>.

### CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that farm women in the study area perceived lack of preservation facility for milk was the major technical constraint. Low market price for milk was the major economic constraint perceived by farm women in the study

area. It was observed veterinarians perceived high investment for establishing an enterprise as major constraint in the study area. The constraints perceived by women dairy farmers and Veterinarian's should be considered while formulation of strategies for upliftment of dairy farming in Andhra Pradesh.

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