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Feeding and housing practices followed for livestock fodder camps during drought in Washi tahsil of Osmanabad district

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Abstract

The present study was conducted purposively in Washi tahsil of Osmanabad district of Marathwada Region of Maharashtra to ascertain the feeding and housing followed by livestock owners in livestock fodder camps. The study was conducted during December, 2015 to June 2016 and data were collected from randomly selected 160 livestock owners through personal interview with the help of pre structured schedule from four villages selected at random. The present study revealed that majority (91.87%) of the livestock owners fed to their animals readymade concentrates feed followed by readymade+ homemade (08.12%) in the livestock fodder camps. Whereas 100 per cent of the livestock owners followed stall feeding in livestock fodder camps during drought. All the livestock owners (100.00%) adopted individual feeding system to their animals in livestock fodder camp during drought. In camps there is a provision of green fodder so the cultivation of green fodder was not followed. Only 5.00 per cent of the livestock owners provided extra salt to their milch animals in camps while remaining 95.00 per cent did not provide extra salt to their milch animals. In camps 100 per cent of the livestock owners provided *kutchra* type of housing. In camps all the livestock owners placed the animal inside the shed. All 100.00 per cent of the livestock owners had clean animal in the houses and light in the livestock fodder camps. It was observed that 08.12 per cent of the livestock owners provided wooden assisted type of manger to their animals while 85.62 per cent of the livestock owners didn't provide any type of manger to their animals in the livestock fodder camps.

Keywords: Drought, livestock fodder camps, feeding, housing, Osmanabad district

Introduction

Livestock plays major role in the rural economy of the state. More than 70 % of rural people depend upon animal husbandry activity for their daily income and livestock rearing is way of life in rural areas in the state. According to NDDDB figure per capita availability of milk in India had gone up to 322 gm per day in 2014-15. Good milking practices also enhance productivity, assist in keeping teat and udder in healthier condition and contribute significantly in clean milk production. Livestock plays a central role in the natural resource based livelihood of the vast majority of the population especially in developing countries. Livestock in these countries are the poor people's ATM. In good times people build up their herds and in bad time they sell livestock to generate cash. In India it contributes 27 % share in agriculture and allied gross domestic product (GDP) and provides stability to family income especially in the arid and semi arid region of the country.

Drought has always caused losses to livestock productivity and wealth. It affects biological system of animals in terms of no thriftiness, reproductive compromise, reduced immunity, greater disease attacks and poor quality feed availability ultimately leading to drop in production and health of animal. Therefore, drought mitigation strategies are centralized around ensuring survival of livestock (Critical body weight loss reported up to 20 %) by minimizing the loss of productivity and lives of animal for optimizing available resources. Preventing the loss of reproduction efficiency and recommencement of production of this animal remain ultimate aim. Optimization of feeding practices for efficient use of scarce resources becomes essential.

During drought situation we can fed sugarcane baggase. This is mixed with ration containing 50 % sugarcane baggase, 17 % groundnut cake, 4 % wheat bran, 15 % molasses, 1 % urea, 1 % salt and 2 % mineral mixture. (Amata *et al.* 2014) [1].

Due to the scanty rainfall for third consecutive year, scarcity of the fodder has been prevailed in Beed, Osmanabad and Latur district of Maharashtra. In view of scarcity of fodder prevailing in these three districts, Maharashtra government started cattle fodder camps. Hence the present investigation was adding some points of curiosity for research study.

2. Materials and Methods

The present study was conducted in Washi tahasil of Osmanabad district in Marathawada region during December, 2015 to June, 2016. For the present study, Four livestock fodder camps were selected randomly from selected Washi tahasil of the Osmanabad district namely Sahyogi Bahuudeshiy Samajik Mandal Chara Chavni, Nandgaon, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Bahuudeshiy Samajik Sanstha Chara Chavni, Sarola, Vividha Seva Sahkari Chara Chavni, Pargaon and Deepshobha Sevabhavi Sanstha, Pargaon. A list of forty livestock owners were selected randomly from each livestock fodder camp. Thus, random sample of 160 livestock owners was selected. The selected respondents were interviewed and the information as per the questionnaires and personal interview was collected. While selecting respondents due care was taken to ensure that they were evenly distributed in the livestock fodder camp and they must reared at least one milking animal.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1 Feeding management practices

The information regarding feeding management practices are presented in Table 1 and reveals that all the livestock owners followed stall feeding in livestock fodder camp. The results are similar with the results of Manohar *et al.* (2014)^[5].

Data presented in Table 1 reveal that all livestock owners 100.00 per cent adopted individual feeding system to their animals in livestock fodder camp during drought. This is good practice to feed the animals according to their production level and also to save docile animals being harassed by vicious animals during feeding. Adoption of this practice showed full awareness of livestock owners in the study areas. The similar trend was observed by Sabapara *et al.* (2015)^[9].

Data presented in Table 1 showed that only 5.00 per cent of the livestock owners provided extra salt to their milch animals in camps. It might be due to lack of knowledge of livestock owners. These findings are in agreement with the results of Sabapara *et al.* (2015)^[9].

Data presented in Table 1 revealed that majority (91.87%) of the livestock owners fed to their animals readymade concentrates feed followed by readymade + homemade (08.12%) in the livestock fodder camps. It may be due to readymade sugrass concentrates provided by camp organizer. Similar results are quoted by Sabapara *et al.* (2015)^[9].

Data presented in Table 1 revealed that in camp during the survey it was observed that in all camps there were free asses of water as per the need of their animals.

Urea treatment for improving poor quality roughages is a important practice which improves the poor quality roughages such as wheat straw which was available in abundant form in farmers field. But unfortunately none of farmers use this technique during drought in camps.

3.2 Housing practices

Housing practices followed by livestock owners are presented in Table 2 and revealed that 100 per cent of the livestock owners provided kutchha type of housing. This might be due to the housing system is flexible and adjusted according to need for inclement weather and loose house was a system of choice by farmers for housing the animals to exhibit better performance. These findings are quite similar with the results of Gubbawar *et al.* (2012)^[4], Patel *et al.* (2013)^[6], Sarap *et al.* (2013)^[10].

The data presented in Table 2 revealed that in camp 100 per cent of the livestock owners placed the animals inside the shed. This might be due to there is not a facility of grazing and required stall feeding. Contrary to the present study, Sabapara *et al.* (2014)^[8].

The data presented in Table 2 revealed that all 100 per cent of the livestock owners had clean animal houses in the livestock fodder camp. These results are supported by Bainwad *et al.* (2007)^[3], Singh *et al.* (2015).

The data presented in Table 2 revealed that all about 100 per cent of all the livestock owners had provision of sufficient light in the livestock fodder camps. The results are similar with the Sabapara *et al.* (2014)^[8], Rathore *et al.* (2010a)^[7].

The data presented in Table 2 observed that 08.12 per cent of the livestock owners provided wooden assisted type of manger to their animals, while 85.62 percent of the livestock owners didn't provide any type of manger to their animals in livestock fodder camps.

Table 1: Feeding practices followed by livestock owners during drought in camps

S. No	Particulars	In camp (During drought)	
		Frequency	Percentage
A.	Feeding practices		
1.	Stall feeding	160	100
2.	Grazing	000	000
3.	Both	000	000
B.	Feeding of animals		
1.	Group	000	000
2.	Individual	160	100
D.	Green or dry fodder fed		
1.	As such	000	000
2.	Chaffed	160	100
F.	Feeding of salt		
1.	Yes	08	5.00
2.	No	152	95.00
G.	Type of concentrate feeding		
1.	Home made	000	000
2.	Ready made	147	91.87
3.	Mixture of home prepared and ready made	13	8.12

I.	Frequency of watering		
1.	2 time	000	000
2.	3 time	000	000
3.	Free asses of water	160	100
J.	Urea treatment for improving low quality roughages		
1.	No	160	100

Table 2: Housing practices followed by livestock owners during drought in camps

S. No	Particulars	In camp (During drought)	
		Frequency	Percentage
A.	Type of housing		
1.	Open	000	000
2.	Pucca	000	000
3.	Kutchha	160	100
B.	Placement of animals		
1.	During day	000	000
2.	During night	000	000
3.	Both day and night	160	100
D.	Cleanliness of house		
1.	Clean	160	100.00
2.	Dirty	000	00.00
E.	Light		
1.	Adequate	160	160
2.	Inadequate	000	000
F.	Type of manger		
1.	Kutchha	137	85.62
2.	Pucca	000	000
3.	Wooden assisted	013	08.12

4. Conclusion

It can be concluded that all the livestock owners followed stall feeding in livestock fodder camp. All livestock owners 100.00 per cent adopted individual feeding system to their animals in livestock fodder camp during drought. This is good practice to feed the animals according to their production level and also to save docile animals being harassed by vicious animals during feeding. Only 5.00 per cent of the livestock owners provided extra salt to their milch animals in camps. Majority (91.87%) of the livestock owners fed to their animals readymade concentrates feed followed by readymade + homemade (08.12%) in the livestock fodder camps. In camp during the survey it was observed that in all camps there were free asses of water as per the need of their animals. 100 per cent of the livestock owners provided kutchha type of housing. In camp 100 per cent of the livestock owners placed the animals inside the shed. All 100 per cent of the livestock owners had clean animal houses in the livestock fodder camp. All about 100 per cent of all the livestock owners had provision of sufficient light in the livestock fodder camps. 08.12 per cent of the livestock owners provided wooden assisted type of manger to their animals, while 85.62 percent of the livestock owners didn't provide any type of manger to their animals in livestock fodder camps.

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