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# Constraints faced by farmers in livestock fodder camps during drought in Georai Tahsil of Beed district

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#### Abstract

Government of Maharashtra started Livestock fodder camps to overcome the effects of drought on livestock. The present study was carried out to assess the knowledge level of farmers in Livestock fodder camps during drought in Georai tahsil of Beed district and to find constraints faced by them in livestock fodder camps. This study was conducted in four livestock fodder camps in Georai tahsil of Beed district of Maharashtra by interviewing 100 respondents from each camp. Here, majority of problems faced by farmers was inadequate quantity of the green fodder supplied by Government (100%), lack of availability of improved feed material (100%), problem of irregular milking and marketing constraints (80.25%), farmers had poor knowledge about sterilization and hygienic condition of camp (69.50%) and problem in Artificial Insemination (61%).

Keywords: Constraints, livestock fodder camp

# Introduction

Animal Husbandry and Dairying activities, along with agriculture, continue to be an integral part of human life since the process of civilization started. These activities have not only contributed to the food basket and draught animal power but also by maintaining ecological balance. Livestock sector is an important sub-sector of the agriculture of Indian economy. It contributes 3.46 per cent to total GDP where as in case of agriculture sector 29.20 per cent during 2012-2013 (Anonymous 2014) [1]. In Maharashtra state, the total number of livestock population is about 32.49 millions in which bovine (Cattle and Buffalo) population is about 21.07 million numbers which accounts to 65% of total livestock of Maharashtra (Anonymous 2012) [2]. Drought can refer to "an extended period of months or years when a region notes a deficiency in its water supply whether surface or underground water, results in water shortage for vegetation, animals and human being." Drought conditions can negatively affect agriculture, water supplies, energy production, and many other aspects of society. The impacts vary depending on the type, location, intensity, and duration of the drought. Feeding strategies during drought depend on the specific condition prevailing in any particular area (Udmale et al. 2014) [3]. In general the farmer has to make decision based on economics, knowledge of nutrition, the availability of feed resources and their calculated guess on the length of drought. Livestock camps are the areas where the livestock are reared collectively under the control of either government or private agency to overcome the problem of drought. In India, generally livestock camps are controlled by state government. Livestock camp is the best measure to sustain in drought condition. Now a day there is severe water scarcity in Maharashtra especially in Beed, Osmanabad and Latur district of Marathwada region due to low rainfall and long interval in rainfall which resulted into very low availability of feed and fodder. By considering this situation, Govt. of Maharashtra has taken decision to provide feed and fodder in low cost for livestock of these district. For this purpose with the permission of District Collector, co-operative sugar factory, other factory, Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee, Gram Panchayat, NGOs, SHGs, etc. can open livestock fodder camp in these district.

#### Materials and methodology

The data for the present investigation entitled "Studies on Management Practices Followed for Livestock Fodder Camps During Drought in Georai Tahsil of Beed District" will be collected

from different livestock fodder camps in Georai tahsil of Beed district namely Shakuntaladevi

#### Results

# Constraints faced by Farmer in Livestock Fodder Camp

One of the objectives of the study was to identify the short falls in feeding and management practices. The constraints in feeding and management practices experienced by livestock owners in livestock fodder camp was discussed and recorded critically and presented in table 1. It was divided into feeding constraints, production and marketing constraints, technical constraints and health related constraints. From table 1. it is observed that, the majority of problems faced by farmer was inadequate availability of the green fodder i.e.100 per cent. This was more in case of all farmers in livestock fodder camp. Whereas use of antibiotics and mineral mixture in feed i.e. 13.50 per cent and 11.50 per cent respondent, respectively. In case of production and marketing constraints, 80.25 per cent faced the problems of irregular milking of the cattle and buffalo. Whereas 68.00 per cent of the respondents faced the problem of long dry spell of animal. 90.25 per cent

respondents faced the problem of low rate of milking. As the summer temperature is higher, 72.25 per cent of respondent faced the problem of comfortlessness in summer season. In case of technical constraints, there was no problem in availability of veterinary Aids because of weekly visit of veterinary doctor in each livestock fodder camp. 61.00 per cent of respondent had problem in Artificial Insemination; there was non availability of improved feed material in livestock fodder camp all respondents (100.00 per cent) had problem of improved feed material. 69.50 per cent of the farmers have lack of knowledge about sterilization and hygienic condition of camp. The problem of availability of labour was faced by 37.50 per cent respondents. In case of health related constraints 02.00 per cent of respondent's animals had suffered from disease, whereas 86.25 per cent of respondent didn't clean or filter the water which is used for drinking of animal. There is no problem of disposal of dung because dung was collected by livestock fodder camp owner for their own use or to handover to the Government. 93.75 per cent of respondents did not use any method to maintain body temperature of their animals.

**Table 1:** Constraints faced by farmer in livestock fodder camp (N=400)

Sr. No.	Component	Marginal Farmer	Small Farmer	Medium Farmer	Large Farmer	Per cent
Α.	Feeding Constraints					•
1.	Availability of ample quantity of Green fodder	98 (100)	115 (100)	168 (100)	19 (100)	100.00
2.	Use of feeding antibiotics of calf feed	11 (11.22)	17 (14.78)	21 (12.50)	05 (26.31)	13.50
3.	Use of mineral mixture in feed	09 (09.18)	10 (08.69)	23 (13.69)	04 (21.05)	11.50
В.	<b>Production And Marketing Constraints</b>	(0).110)	(00.0)	(22.0)	(==::::)	
4.	Irregular milking	81 (82.65)	90 (78.26)	138 (82.14)	12 (63.15)	80.25
5.	Long dry spell of animals	72 (73.46)	74 (64.34)	119 (70.83)	12 (36.84)	68.00
6.	Low rate of milk	95 (96.93)	104 (90.43)	147 (87.50)	15 (78.94)	90.25
7.	Comfortless of animal in summer season	88 (89.79)	86 (74.78)	113 (67.26)	02 (10.52)	72.25
C.	Technical Constraints	,				
8.	Availability of veterinary aids	(00.00)	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)	00.00
9.	Artificial insemination	64 (65.30)	71 (72.44)	98 (58.33)	11 (57.89)	61.00
10.	Availability of improved feed material	98 (100.00)	115 (100.00)	168 (100.00)	19 (100.00)	100.00
11.	Knowledge about sterilization, hygienic condition in camp	68 (69.38)	78 (67.82)	119 (70.83)	13 (68.42)	69.50
12.	Availability of labour for management practices	38 (38.77)	48 (41.73)	58 (34.52)	06 (31.57)	37.50
D.	Health related Constraints		•			•
13.	Occurrence of disease in animal	01 (01.02)	05 (04.34)	02 (01.19)	00 (00.00)	02.00
14.	Cleaning / filtration of water	82 (83.67)	97 (84.34)	151 (89.88)	15 (78.94)	86.25
15.	Proper disposal of dung	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)	00.00
16.	Maintenance of animal body temperature	95 (96.93)	101 (87.82)	162 (96.42)	17 (89.47)	93.75

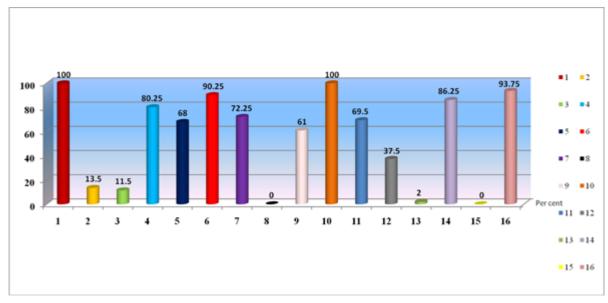


Fig 1: Figures in parenthesis shows percentage of respective farmers

### **Discussion**

Tailor *et al.* (2012) <sup>[4]</sup>, Nagrale *et al.* (2015) <sup>[5]</sup> and Nagrale (2016) <sup>[6]</sup> reported similar results about constraints faced by farmers in feeding, management practices, production and marketing.

#### Conclusion

On the basis of findings of the study it may be concluded that the diary farmers had enough knowledge about use of antibiotics and mineral mixture in feed. There is no problem in availability of Veterinary Aids and regular health checking because of weekly visit of veterinary Doctor in each Livestock fodder camp. All the farmers were provided feed and fodder as decided by Government of Maharashtra but it was not sufficient. Lack of adoption of scientific feeding and not aware about management practices like cleaning of water used for drinking purpose of animals and maintaining hygienic condition in livestock fodder camps. Hence it may be concluded that there is need to demonstrate scientific feeding and management practices, also management of fodder and water for summer season which is need for exploiting optimum production and proper management of livestock.

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