

PROBLEMS FACED BY FARM FAMILIES IN RAISING MILCH ANIMALS

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Inspite of the fact that Pakistan is predominantly an agricultural country and that the importance of milk as a nearly perfect food for human beings of any age is well established, the production of milk per animal is very low. Evident reasons for low production are low inputs, lack of awareness of livestock breeders about modern husbandry practices and poor credibility of those engaged in livestock and dairy development extension services.

The present study was designed to identify different problems faced by farm families in raising milch animals. This study was carried out in Bahlak integrated rural development area. A sample of 225 respondents was drawn from four villages, keeping in view their nearness/remoteness from the road.

It was observed that the organization of veterinary services was much too poor in rural areas and the respondents were availing it occasionally. The data summarized in Table 1 showed that veterinary services and extension services were rather uncommon in villages away from the road. More than 55 per cent respondents from on-the-road villages and more than 72 per cent from off-the-road villages, respectively, indicated their dissatisfaction in respect of veterinary services provided to them. The dissatisfaction expressed concerning extension services by respondents both from on-and off-the-road villages was almost of the same magnitude. The dissatisfaction concerning extension services was, however, lesser in degree than that of veterinary services. These findings are in agreement with those of Just (1973) and Kastrup *et al.* (1973).

It was found that either of the two localities, artificial insemination service was not available. Fodder deficiency also constituted an important factor leading to low milk yield of dairy animals. Shortage of irrigation water appeared to be the major constraint in both types of villages resulting in small area for fodder cultivation.

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Table 1. *Availability of veterinary and extension services*

	On-the-road villages			Off-the-road villages		
	Highly satisfied	Satisfied	Not satisfied	Highly satisfied	Satisfied	Not satisfied
Veterinary services (%)	11.24	33.12	55.64	0.99	26.70	72.31
Extension services (%)	23.62	34.65	41.73	24.82	32.73	42.55

The rising cost seemed to be prohibitive in feeding adequate amounts of concentrates to dairy animals. However, despite high cost, 70.97 per cent respondents from on-the-road villages and 78.22 per cent from off-the-road villages fed small quantities of concentrates to their wet animals.

Provision of credit on easy terms by an agency such as Agriculture Development Bank may encourage the owners to provide adequate feed to their milch animals leading to enhanced production of milk from such areas.

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