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## Knowledge level of improved dairy management practices among the dairy farmers of Jabalpur (M.P.)

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### Abstract

The study was undertaken in Jabalpur district of M.P. to assess the knowledge of improved dairy management practices among the dairy farmers. Total eight villages of Panagar block were selected on the basis of highest dairy farmers. A total of 120 dairy farmers were selected by using proportionate random sampling and were interviewed through pre-tested structural interview schedule for the investigation. Knowledge of dairy farmers regarding dairy management practices was assessed and maximum dairy farmers had the knowledge of Feeding management practices followed by Breeding of cattle, Construction of shed, Disease and their management, Care and management of cattle nearing parturition, Clean milk production, Cross breed cattle, Care and management of newly born calf, Selection of cattle and Care and management of pregnant cattle respectively. On the whole, majority of the dairy farmers (79.17%) had medium level of knowledge regarding improved dairy management practices.

**Keywords:** Dairy management practices, knowledge level, dairy farmers

### Introduction

India is an agriculture based country and livestock sector is a major part of it. It possesses largest number of total livestock in the world and ranks second in cattle population (199.1 million) and first in buffalo population (105.3 million). Livestock sector plays a major role in Indian economy, which is about 4.96 per cent of total GDP and 13.68 per cent of agricultural GDP. The significance of animal husbandry in the Indian economy arises also because its assistance to tackle the serious problem of unemployment and under employment for weaker section in the country and for providing subsidiary occupation. India ranks first among the world's milk producing nations since 1998. Dairying has become an important secondary source of income for millions of rural households engaged in agriculture. India possesses enormous bovine wealth but milk productivity in India is very low as compare to many countries of the world. This is due to a wide gap between the recommended innovation and that being practiced by farmers. Most of the dairy farmers are not aware of improved dairy management practices required for the development of dairy industry. Consequently adoption of these improved dairy management practices is also not satisfactory. Hence the study was carried out to assess the knowledge level of dairy farmers regarding improved dairy management practices.

### Materials and Methods

Out of the total seven blocks of Jabalpur district, the present study was conducted purposively in Panagar block, which is having maximum population of dairy farmers. Total eight villages were selected on the basis of highest dairy farmers and 120 dairy farmers were interviewed through pre-tested structural interview schedule for the investigation.

To assess the level of knowledge, ten improved dairy management practices were considered i.e., construction of shed, selection of cattle, crossbreed cattle, care and management of pregnant cattle, care and management of cattle nearing parturition, care and management of newly born calf, breeding of cattle, disease and their management, clean milk production and feeding management. The statements and three options for each statement were carefully framed in consultation with dairy specialist.

### Results and Discussion

The table 1 showed that knowledge level of dairy farmers regarding different dairy management practices. Regarding the practice 'Construction of shed', 46.67 per cent dairy farmers had medium knowledge followed by high (44.17%) and low (9.16%).

Dairy farmers had high knowledge (48.33%) in 'Selection of cattle' followed by medium (38.33%) and low (13.34%). Knowledge about the practice 'Cross breed cattle', half of the farmers (49.17%) found medium knowledge followed by high (48.33%) and low (2.50%) knowledge respectively. Fifty per cent dairy farmers had medium knowledge about 'Care and management practices for pregnant cattle' followed by high (42.50%) and low (7.50%) knowledge respectively.

The knowledge of the practice 'Cattle nearing parturition' it was found that 55.83 per cent dairy farmers had high knowledge followed by medium (42.50%) and low (1.67%) knowledge. More than half of the dairy farmers i.e. 54.15 per cent had high knowledge of 'Care and management of newly born calf' practice followed by had medium (41.67%) and

low (4.17%) knowledge. Majority of the dairy farmers i.e. 66.67 per cent had high knowledge regarding 'Breeding of cattle' followed by medium knowledge by 33.33 per cent dairy farmers.

More than half of the dairy farmers (52.50%) had high knowledge about 'Disease and their management' followed by medium (37.50%) and low (8.33%). High knowledge level regarding the practice 'Clean milk production' was found by 52.50 per cent dairy farmers followed by medium (37.50%) and low (10.00%).

Majority of the dairy farmers (76.67%) had high knowledge about 'Feeding management' practice followed by 23.33 per cent dairy farmers had medium level of knowledge. No dairy farmer was fall under the low level knowledge category.

**Table 1:** Distribution of dairy farmers according to their knowledge towards improved dairy management practices

S. N.	Different improved dairy management practices	Level of Knowledge			Mean score	Rank
		Low	Medium	High		
1.	Construction of shed	11 (9.16)	56 (46.67)	53 (44.17)	10.56	III
2.	Selection of cattle	16 (13.34)	46 (38.33)	58 (48.33)	9.98	IX
3.	Cross breed cattle	3 (2.50)	59 (49.17)	58 (48.33)	10.24	VII
4.	Care and management of pregnant cattle	9 (7.50)	60 (50.00)	51 (42.50)	9.01	X
5.	Care and management of cattle nearing parturition	2 (1.67)	51 (42.50)	67 (55.83)	10.32	V
6.	Care and management of newly born calf	5 (4.17)	50 (41.67)	65 (54.15)	10.23	VIII
7.	Breeding of cattle	0 (0.00)	40 (33.33)	80 (66.67)	10.90	II
8.	Disease and their management	10 (8.33)	42 (35.00)	63 (52.50)	10.40	IV
9.	Clean milk production	12 (10.00)	45 (37.50)	63 (52.50)	10.30	VI
10.	Feeding management	0 (0.00)	28 (23.33)	92 (76.67)	11.56	I

Practice wise knowledge of the improved dairy management practices among the dairy farmers was ranked on the basis of mean scores. Knowledge of 'Feeding management practice' was ranked first followed by Breeding of cattle, Construction of shed, Disease and their management, Care and management of cattle nearing parturition, Clean milk production, Cross breed cattle, Care and management of newly born calf, Selection of cattle and Care and management of pregnant cattle respectively.

**Table 2:** Distribution of the dairy farmers according to overall knowledge

S. No.	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low	12	10.00
2.	Medium	95	79.17
3.	High	13	10.83
Total		120	100.00

Overall knowledge of improved dairy management practices among dairy farmers was assessed and it was found that out of total dairy farmers 79.17 per cent had medium knowledge, 10.83 per cent had high knowledge whereas, 10.00 per cent had low knowledge.

This finding is conformity with the finding of Chaudhary *et al.* (2005) <sup>[1]</sup>, Khode *et al.* (2009) <sup>[3]</sup>, Gautum *et al.* (2009) <sup>[2]</sup> and Satyanarayan *et al.* (2010) <sup>[6]</sup> Mariammal *et al.* (2018) <sup>[4]</sup>.

### Conclusion

It is concluded that out of ten improved dairy management practices, knowledge of 'Feeding management practice' was ranked first followed by Breeding of cattle, Construction of shed, Disease and their management, Care and management of cattle nearing parturition, Clean milk production, Cross breed cattle, Care and management of newly born calf, Selection of cattle and Care and management of pregnant cattle respectively. On the whole, majority of the dairy

farmers (79.17%) had medium level of knowledge regarding improved dairy management practices. Involving the dairy farmers in different extension activities and capacity building programmes may enhance the knowledge of improved dairy management practices resultant increase the milk production in the country.

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