

Original Research Article

Constraints Perceived by Dairy Cooperative Society Members in Dungarpur, Rajasthan

ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out in purposively selected Dungarpur district of Rajasthan to evaluate constraints perceived Dairy Cooperative Society (DCS) members. A sample size of 120 dairy farmers who were active members of dairy cooperative societies was randomly selected for study. The data were collected through structured interview schedule. Major constraints recorded were lack of awareness about advantage and facilities provided by the Government and milk unions for rearing animals, lack of affordability to purchase feed additives and concentrates, high cost of veterinary medicines and inequality in issuing loans. The study also revealed that economic constraints were ranked first with a mean score of 3.06 followed by technological constraints (2.87), infrastructural constraints (2.74) and organizational constraints (2.62).

Keywords: Awareness, Constraints, Dairy cooperative society, economic

1. INTRODUCTION

In developing countries, dairy farmers face several constraints related to production and marketing (Mojo, *et al.* 2017). Producers organizations such as dairy cooperatives can play an important role in alleviating these constraints (Chagwiza, *et al.* 2016). The cooperatives as a champion of the poor class people and the support to the needy have been the democratic shelter for millions of people who are either excluded due to the transformation of the market or the societal exploitations (Taimni, 1993). The cooperatives have also provided equality of opportunities to many people workers to leverage their potential to assume leadership role, to actively participate in the decision making process and governance. Animal husbandry is the most important economic activity in rural areas. The dairy sector today provides 80 million farm households with the triple benefits of nutritive food, supplementary income and productive employment for family labour, mainly for women (Belhekar and Dash, 2016). In present scenario dairy cooperatives have been considered as the most important measure for improvement in the marketing mechanism of milk in rural areas to increase producers share in consumer's rupees to empower the rural masses.

2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

An ex-post facto research design was used to conduct the present study in purposively selected Dungarpur district of Rajasthan. Four tehsils viz. Dungarpur, Sagwara, Simalwada and Aspur were selected randomly from Dungarpur district. From each tehsil, 30 respondents who were active members of DCS for at least three years were selected randomly. Thus, total 120 respondents were selected for the study. Data related to constraints were collected from the respondents by interviewing individually. The identified constraints were measured on a four point continuum viz. most serious constraint, serious constraint, less serious constraint and not a constraint respectively. The Statistical measures such as percentage and frequency were used.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Constraints perceived by dairy cooperative society members

The constraints have been divided into four major categories and the responses of dairy farmers were expressed as frequency and percentage.

3.1.1 ECONOMIC CONSTRAINTS

Referring to economic constraints, lack of affordability to purchase feed additives & concentrates, high cost of veterinary medicines and high charges for emergency services, inequality in issuing loans and low income from dairying were perceived as 'most serious constraint' by 56.67 per cent, 51.67 per cent, 41.67 per cent, 51.67 and 48.33 per cent while, 'serious constraint' by 32.50 per cent, 30.83 per cent, 33.33, per cent 32.50 per cent and 35.83 per cent of respondents, respectively. While, improper utilization of DCS funds and non-sharing of information with members about transactions and financial activities in DCS were recognized as 'serious constraint' by 34.17 per cent and 45.83 per cent and 'less serious constraint's by 28.33 per cent and 38.33 per cent of respondents, respectively. High charge of A.I. was recognized as 'serious constraint' by 35.83 per cent and 'most serious constraint' by 32.50 per cent respondents (Table 1).

3.1.2 TECHNOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS

Regarding technological constraints, lack of awareness about advantage and facilities provided by the Govt. and milk unions for rearing animals, poor skilled staff at A.I. centers and unavailability of high yielding animals were felt as 'most serious constraint' by 61.67 per cent, 35.67 per cent and 45.50 per cent respondents, respectively. Among the 'serious constraints' were lack of technical training for growing green fodder (45.00%) and technical inability in handling ICT tools (42.50%). Inadequate availability of fodder seeds and lack of high yielding varieties (HYV) in fodder crops were recognized as 'less serious constraint' by 42.50 per cent and 38.33 per cent while, 'serious constraint' by 30.83 per cent and 26.67 per cent of respondents, respectively (Table 1).

3.1.3 ORGANIZATIONAL CONSTRAINTS

Concerning to organizational constraints, lack of cooperation among DCS members, inappropriate distribution of benefits and inadequate profit from DCS activities were perceived as 'serious constraint' by 41.67 per cent, 42.50 per cent and 35.83 per cent while, 'less serious constraint' by 30.83 per cent, 33.33 per cent and 29.17 per cent of respondents, respectively. Non-maintenance of proper accounts was perceived as 'most serious constraint' and 'serious constraint' by 39.17 per cent and 32.50 per cent of respondents, respectively. Further, 49.17 per cent of respondents felt that long duration of meeting was 'not a constraint' while it was a 'less serious constraint' for 39.17 per cent respondents (Table 1).

3.1.4 INFRASTRUCTURAL CONSTRAINTS

Between various infrastructural constraints, inadequate space for office of DCS and distant location of A.I. centers were perceived as 'most serious constraint' by 49.17 per cent and 35.83 per cent while, 'less serious constraint' by 23.33 per cent and 25.83 per cent of respondents, respectively. While, distant location of DCS was recognized as 'less serious constraint' and 'not a constraint' by 38.33 per cent and 30.00 per cent of respondents, respectively. Further, lack of physical facilities at meeting place was felt as 'serious

constraint' and 'most serious constraint' by 44.17 per cent and 29.17 per cent of respondents, respectively (Table 1).

Table 2 indicates that economic constraints were ranked first with a mean score of 3.06 followed by technological constraints (2.87), infrastructural constraints (2.74) and organizational constraints (2.62) in that order. Present findings are in agreement with the findings of Rathod et al., (2012) Singh et al., (2012), Chaudhary et al., (2013) and Patel et al., (2013), who have reported similar constraints perceived by dairy farmers.

4. CONCLUSION

The present study revealed that lack of awareness about advantage and facilities provided by the Government and milk unions for rearing animals, lack of affordability to purchase feed additives and concentrates, high cost of veterinary medicines and inequality in issuing loans were perceived as most serious constraints. While, information about transactions, financial activities in DCS are not shared with members, lack of technical training for growing green fodder, lack of physical facilities at meeting place, technical inability in handling ICT Tools and inappropriate distribution of benefits were recognized as serious constraints encountered by dairy farmers through dairy cooperative.

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Table.1 Distribution of the DCS members on the basis of their constraints (n=120)

Sl. No.	Constraints	MSC		SC		LSC		NC	
		<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%
A	Economic								
1	Improper utilization of DCS funds	16	13.33	41	34.17	34	28.33	29	24.17
2	Inequality in issuing loans	62	51.67	39	32.50	17	14.17	2	1.67
3	Information about transactions and financial activities in DCS are not shared with members	13	10.83	55	45.83	46	38.33	6	5.00
4	Low income from dairying	58	48.33	43	35.83	14	11.67	5	4.17
5	A.I. charges are high	39	32.50	43	35.83	34	28.33	4	3.33
6	High charges for emergency services	50	41.67	40	33.33	23	19.17	7	5.83
7	Lack of affordability to purchase feed additives & concentrates	68	56.67	39	32.50	9	7.50	4	3.33
8	High cost of veterinary medicines	62	51.67	37	30.83	19	15.83	2	1.67
B	Technological								
1	Lack of awareness about advantage and facilities provided by the Govt. and milk unions for rearing animals	74	61.67	27	22.50	18	15.00	1	0.83
2	Lack of technical training for growing green fodder	17	14.17	54	45.00	40	33.33	9	7.50
3	Inadequate availability of fodder seeds	12	10.00	37	30.83	51	42.50	20	16.67
4	Technical inability in handling ICT tools	45	37.50	51	42.50	19	15.83	5	4.17
5	Lack of high yielding varieties (HYV) in fodder crops	17	14.17	32	26.67	46	38.33	25	20.83

6	Poor skilled staff at A.I. centers	44	35.67	23	19.17	31	25.83	22	18.33
7	Unavailability of high yielding animals	57	45.50	42	35.00	21	17.50	0	0.00
C	Organizational								
1	Lack of cooperation among DCS members	27	22.50	50	41.67	37	30.83	6	5.00
2	Inappropriate distribution of benefits	19	15.83	51	42.50	40	33.33	10	8.33
3	Proper accounts are not maintained	47	39.17	39	32.50	24	20.00	10	8.33
4	Inadequate profit from DCS activities	37	30.83	43	35.83	35	29.17	5	4.17
5	Duration of meeting is too long	5	4.17	9	7.50	47	39.17	59	49.17
D	Infrastructural								
1	Inadequate space for office of DCS	59	49.17	26	21.67	28	23.33	7	5.83
2	Distant location of DCS	9	7.50	29	24.17	46	38.33	36	30.00
3	Lack of physical facilities at meeting place	35	29.17	53	44.17	28	23.33	4	3.33
4	A.I. centers are located at distant places	43	35.83	24	20.00	31	25.83	22	18.33

f - Frequency, % - Per cent, **MSC**- Most Serious Constraint, **SC**- Serious Constraint, **LSC**- Less Serious Constraint, **NC**- Not a Constraint

Table.2 Constraints perceived by DCS members

Sl. No.	Constraints	Mean score	Position
1	Economic constraints	3.06	1 st
2	Technological constraints	2.87	2 nd
3	Organizational constraints	2.62	4 th
4	Infrastructural constraints	2.74	3 rd

UNDER PEER REVIEW