

HOUSING MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOLLOWED BY DAIRY BUFFALO OWNERS IN MEERUT DISTRICT OF UTTAR PRADESH

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ABSTRACT: The present study was conducted at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology, Modipuram to know the housing practiced followed by buffalo farmer. This study using multistage stratified random sampling procedure to select 4 talukas and from each talukas were randomly selected 8 village viz., Sardhana (Darweshpur and Kheerwa Jamalpur), Daurala (Bharala and Panwari), Mawana (Bisola and Bhagwanpur) and Kharkhoda (Nalpur and Khaspur) of Meerut district. From each village, 8 buffalo owners were selected according to their land holding capacity. It was observed that 41.82 per cent farmers were belong to middle age-range (>38 years) and 36.80 per cent maintaining 1-2 milch buffaloes, 100.00 per cent farmers kept their animal under confined/conventional housing, 88.00 per cent farmers reared their animals on *pucca* house, 31.10 farmers kept their animals in open plus under shelter and closed house, 28.36 per cent farmers were keeping animals at separate place from dwelling and 17.53 per cent in combination of separate from dwelling in fields/in open, 41.16 per cent farmers provided bricks with sand floors in their animal houses, respectively. Therefore, majority of the buffalo farmers of this area adjusted their animal's position according to needs and practiced diverse housing system for their dairy animals.

Key words: Dairy buffalo, housing system, Meerut district.

INTRODUCTION

Livestock husbandry is an important agriculture sub-sector of Indian economy. It significantly contributes to the agricultural GDP in India. It is the most important source of food security as it provides meat and milk and other dairy products, which enrich the nutrition intake. Livestock is an important source of income and employment in rural areas. It provides balanced nutrition in the form of milk, egg and meat besides farm power.

Buffaloes are the backbone of rural economy in many developing countries of the Asian region including India. Buffaloes occupy a prominent place in the social, economic and cultural life of Indian rural communities and are useful as a triple purpose animal for milk, meat and draft power. Dairying with buffaloes in India is a closely interwoven integral part of agriculture. India possess 283 million dairy bovines and stands first in milk production with more than 100 million metric tonnes but the productivity of dairy animals is very much less than in the developed countries (Kishore *et al.*, 2013).

Buffalo's management and their husbandry practices is well developed in Western Uttar Pradesh. In western region of Uttar Pradesh, more than 70 per cent of rural household are directly or indirectly engaged with livestock husbandry. Therefore, the present study attempts to

analyse housing management practices followed by dairy buffalo owners in Meerut district of Uttar Pradesh.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was under taken using multistage stratified random sampling procedure to select eight villages, from four talukas, viz., Sardhana (Darweshpur and Kheerwa Jamalpur), Daurala (Bharala and Panwari), Mawana (Bisola and Bhagwanpur) and Kharkhoda (Nalpur and Khaspur) of Meerut district. From each village, 8 buffalo owners were selected randomly selected with a total of 190 respondents. All the owners who are rearing at least two to three milch buffaloes were selected for the study. The information pertained to the status of the dairy owners, with respect to age, education, family size, land holding, affiliation to dairy organization, vocational diversification, herd size, herd composition, milk productivity, and the detailed practices followed by farmers with respect to breeding, health care and milking practices in survey areas were collected. The interview schedule developed for the study was used for collecting the information through personal interview and observation at animal shelter at the time of particular management practices going on, especially during milking time to see the hygienic status of milking procedures. With respect to management practices of dairy animals,