



# CHALLENGES FACED BY DAIRY FARMERS IN HALDWANI BLOCK OF NAINITAL DISTRICT

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## ABSTRACT-----

*Haldwani block of Nainital district is highest milk contributor in Nainital district milk producers cooperative Society. Thus large number of dairy farmers ranging from young to middle to old are present and contribute in milk production. Present study was conducted in Haldwani block of Nainital district, with the objective to find challenges faced by dairy farmers of the study area. Study concluded that these farmers face many challenges like lack of green fodder, high price of concentrate mixture, unavailability of veterinary services e.tc. Furthermore lack of resource person to provide correct information regarding various aspect of dairy farming, was also one of the many constraints faced by milk producers of the area.-----*

## INTRODUCTION

Uttarakhand is one of the state of India with significant population of dairy farmers. Uttarakhand's topography and environment is suitable for dairy farming(Sati, 2016). Thus large number of rural household here own milch animal. Dairy animal apart from providing milk also fulfill other needs, like those of fuel and draught power(Chinnadurai et al. 2018). With the help of dairy cooperatives and state government various societies have come up in milk producing villages. These cooperative societies have not only empowered dairy farmers but have also turned dairy farming into commercially viable activity (Bandhopadhyay, 1996). In spite of all these efforts dairy farmers still face day to day challenges in carrying out their dairy farming business. Various workshops and kisan melas are also organised by concerned authorities to address these challenges. Hence this paper tries to find challenges faced by dairy farmers in Haldwani block of Nainital district.

## METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Haldwani block of Nainital district of Uttarakhand. Haldwani was purposely selected, haldwani has highest number of milk cooperative societies in Nainital district. Further three villages from haldwani block were randomly selected. Thus total of 120 respondent having two or more than two milking animal were selected, 40 from each village. Study was conducted during the month of March and April 2024. Data was collected with the help of interview. Observation method was also used to collect data. Interview schedule was developed to collect data about respondents social characteristics, information sources and constraints faced by them as dairy farmers. Data was tabulated and analysed using frequency and percentage.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Descriptive statistics of respondents

Findings of table 1 reveal that majority(64%) of dairy farmers belong to middle age group, followed by 30% and 5.83% in young and old age group. Most of the respondents i.e 68.33% have attended secondary school, remaining 31.67% have completed their primary education. 52.5% were part of nuclear family with around 9% having family size upto 4 members and rest 47.5% were part of joint family, 37.5% respondents family size lie between 5-8 members and 53% respondents have more than 8 members in their family. 70% of respondents have medium(5-7) herd size, 20% have less than five milch animal while only 9% have large herd (8 and above). Majority of respondents 68% owned crossbreed cows, 15.83% have indigenous cows and 19% owned buffaloes. 68.83% households milk production was between 7-20 litres per day, 19% milk production was between 2-6 litres per day and 15% households milk production was more than 20 litres. Most of the respondents(62.5%) have never attended any training related to dairy farming while 37.5% have participated in training organised by dairy cooperatives.



**Table 1 Descriptive statistics of respondents**

Characteristics	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Age	Young<38	36	30
	Middle 38-64	77	64.17
	Old>64	7	5.83
Education	Illiterate	0	0
	Primary	38	31.67
	Secondary	82	68.33
Family Type	Joint	57	47.5
	Nuclear	63	52.5
Family Size	Small <4	11	9.17
	Medium 5-8	45	37.5
	Large 9 above	64	53.33
Herd Size	Small 2-4	24	20
	Medium 5-7	85	70.83
	Large 8 and above	11	9.16
Type of dairy animal	Indigenous Cow	19	15.83
	Crossbreed Cow	82	68.33
	Buffalo	19	15.83
Milk Production	2-6	23	19.17
	7-20	79	65.83
	21 and above	18	15
Training Participation	Yes	45	37.5
	No	75	62.5

### Information Sources

It is important for dairy farmers to keep themselves updated about various information regarding dairy farming, though according to (Kumari et.al., 2015) only 5% of farm household have access to information on animal husbandary. Information sources of respondent were studied under 7 categories similar to (Adhikari et al. 2020). Study(table 2) revealed that majority(70.83%) of dairy farmers contacted their neighbours or friends and relatives occasionally to get information. 64% respondents always seek veterinary officers help when needed. 67.5% of respondent always seek information from milk cooperative societies. None of the respondent seek information from any government or bank officer, neither any information was collected from agriculture university or specialist. Few (7.5%) occasionally seeked information from newspaper and television. Kisan call centre were not used by any of respondents as information source. Field visit were occasionally made by 55.83% of respondents for information gathering and around 10% respondents occasionally visited kisan mela for latest information.

**Table 2 Information sources of respondents**

S.No	Information Source	Always		Occasionally		Never	
		f	%	f	%	f	%
1	Personal Localite						
	1. Friends and relatives	24	20	85	70.83	11	9.167
	2. Progressive farmers	0	0	2	1.67	118	98.33
	3. Neighbours	24	20	85	70.83	11	9.17
	4. Others	0	0	0	0	120	100
2	Personal Cosmopolite						
	1. Single Window System	0	0	0	0	120	100
	2. Veterinary officer/Doctor	77	64.167	34	28.33	9	7.5
	3. Private medicine dealer	0	0	12	10	108	90
	4. Milk Cooperative Society	81	67.5	9	7.5	30	25
3	Panchayat Samiti						
	1. Gram Sevak	0	0	0	0	120	100
	2. Rural Development Officer	0	0	0	0	120	100
	3. Agril. Extension Officer	0	0	0	0	120	100
	4. Block Development officer	0	0	0	0	120	100
	Agriculture University						
	1. Agril. Assistant	0	0	0	0	120	100
	2. Subject matter specialist	0	0	0	0	120	100



	3. Scientist	0	0	0	0	120	100
	Bank						
	1. Agril. Officer	0	0	0	0	120	100
	2. Branch officer	0	0	0	0	120	100
	3. Branch Manager	0	0	0	0	120	100
	Mass Media						
	1. Newspaper	0	0	9	7.5	111	92.5
	2. Agril. Films	0	0	0	0	120	100
	3. Radio	0	0	0	0	120	100
	4. Television	0	0	9	7.5	111	92.5
	5. Kisan call center	0	0	0	0	120	100
	Extension Education Methods						
	1. Field day	0	0	67	55.83	53	44.17
	2. Field visit	0	0	67	55.83	53	44.17
	3. Kisan mela	0	0	12	10	108	90

### Challenges faced by the respondents

Dairy farming in Uttarakhand has numerous challenges. Though efforts are made by government and dairy societies to address these, but problem still exists. It is necessary to identify the challenges, as Identification of constraints help in bridging the gap between dairy technology and its adoption (Rathod et al., 2011).

Table 3 present 10 most mentioned challenges by dairy farmers of the study area. Table ranks 10 challenges from one to ten on basis of frequency and percentage. 100% of dairy farmers face problem of unavailability of green fodder round the year. Problems like low productivity of animal and non-remunerative prices of milk, were faced by 68% and 78% of respondents respectively. Unavailability of veterinary doctor was major challenge for 55.83% of respondents. Animals infested with ticks and worms was problem faced by 52.5% of respondents, while occurrence of disease among animal was troubling 38.3% of respondents. 45% of respondents lacked information about schemes announced by the government for dairy sector. High cost of concentrate mixture and its unavailability was challenge for 37.5% and 36.6% of respondents respectively. Least number of respondents 15.83% were troubled by poor conception rate in Artificial Insemination, because small number of respondent opted for artificial insemination.

**Table 3 Challenges faced by the respondents**

S.No	Challenges	Respondents		Rank
		f	%	
1	Unavailability of green fodder round the year	120	100	I
2	Low productivity of animal	82	68.33	III
3	Non-Remunerative prices of milk	94	78.33	II
4	Unavailability of resource person especially veterinary doctor in nearby area	67	55.83	IV
5	High cost of concentrate mixture	45	37.50	VIII
6	Lack information about government schemes	54	45	VI
7	Unavailability of concentrate mixture	44	36.66	IX
8	Ticks and worms infestation	63	52.50	V
9	Occurrence of disease among animal	46	38.33	VII
10	Poor conception rate in Artificial Insemination	19	15.83	X

### CONCLUSION

Study concluded that lack of green fodder is huge challenge faced by dairy farmer and majority of dairy farmer seek information from their neighbours or relatives. Dairy farmers also find it difficult to avail veterinary services when required, although majority of them seek advices from veterinarian for their animals. To maintain the health of milch animal it is required to feed concentrate mixture, but large number of farmers in study area were troubled with unavailability and high prices of concentrate mixture. Diseases, ticks and worm infestation was another challenge in front of dairy farmers. Lack of resource person to provided necessary information was also felt by most of the farmers. There are lot of challenges and thus the need to provide proper and latest information to dairy



farmers. This can be addressed by encourage dairy farmers to attend kisan mela and field trips, also by setting veterinary camp for milch animal in villages with large population of dairy farmers. Visit by subject specialist or resource person to dairy cooperative societies can also be arranged, this will help farmers to stay updated on dairy farming practices.

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