ANALYSIS OF CONSTRAINTS FACED BY BENEFICIARIES OF INTEGRATED MURRAH DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (IMDS) IN HARYANA

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ABSTRACT

Murrah, also known as "black gold of India' from Haryana is the major source of germ-plasm for quality up-gradation of other low producing buffaloes in India. An "Integrated Murrah Development Scheme" (IMDS) has been implemented in Haryana to conserve the top quality Murrah germplasm. The present study is conducted in Haryana to analyze the various constraints faced by the beneficiaries of IMDS. The responses were taken from 160 beneficiaries from a total of 32 villages from 8 blocks of 4 districts of Haryana. Study revealed that "Concerned officials are not much interested to visit the area and conducting regular meetings with beneficiaries" and "delay from project personnel in sanctioning the funds" were the major administrative constraints in order of severity. Under technical constraints "lack of knowledge about scientific feeding, breeding, health-care and management practices of buffaloes" followed by "lack of awareness about the IMDS" were the most severe. "Concerned staff was not taking much interest in imparting awareness training camps" followed by "Practical demonstration facilities are inadequate under IMDS" were important infrastructural and operational constraints. "Delay in getting incentive money for the owner of animal under scheme" and "preference for jobs rather than dairy-based self-employments" were the economic and socio-psychological constraints, respectively. Difficulty in maintaining records due to illiteracy and lack of awareness, lack of decision-making ability were other miscellaneous constraints faced by beneficiaries of IMDS. To run this scheme in sustainable manner for conservation of Murrah breed, there is dire need to remove of these constraints on priority.

Keywords: constraints, administrative, technical, infrastructural and operational, economic, socio-psychological, IMDS

INTRODUCTION

Haryana state is the major source of germ-plasm and breeding stock for up-gradation of their

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low producing buffalo population in other states of India. But these buffaloes of Haryana having major share of Murrah breed are alarmingly declining. The 18th Livestock Census of India (2007) revealed that there were 59, 53,000 buffaloes in Haryana, against a figure of 60, 35,000 as reflected in the earlier livestock census. Moreover, about 100,000 high-yielding buffaloes per annum in their prime age of production have been sent to slaughter houses in metros and other cities without leaving any progeny behind. In its home tract, a genetic drain in the recent years has been a cause of concern.

This situation has left the Murrah population in a quagmire of genetic stagnation. The fast genetic improvement of Murrah is not only the top priority for the state but also a national concern. The top quality Murrah germplasm presently available in the state needs to be identified through performance-recording to preserve and multiply. For the conservation of Murrah germplasm, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of Haryana, in collaboration with Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India started an "Integrated Murrah Development Scheme" (IMDS) in the year 2002 to 2003 (Department of A.H. and Dairying, Government of Haryana).With the assumption that Integrated Murrah Development Scheme (IMDS) for rescuing this germplasm would add to germ-pool for future breeding. But the success of any scheme is depends on smooth functioning of scheme without any constraints to the beneficiaries. Hence, it was needed to take feedback of the beneficiaries regarding constraint for getting full benefits from the scheme. For the purpose of this study, the term 'constraints' was operationalized as, all those factors, which hinder the process of effective implementation of any dairy developments programme or scheme, as faced by beneficiaries. The analysis of these constraints is very essential to overcome them for running the scheme sustainably. Keeping this in view the present study was conducted to analyze various administrative, technical, infrastructural and operational, economic, socio-psychological and miscellaneous constraints faced by beneficiaries of IMDS.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was carried out in Haryana state purposively as it is 'home tract' of Murrah buffaloes and IMDS has been specifically implemented in the state. Haryana state comprises 21 district divided into the four divisions. Four districts, namely Kurukshetra, Mahendragarh, Bhiwani and Jhajjar were selected, purposively, from each administrative division (i.e., Ambala, Gurgaon, Hisar, Rohtak), thereby covering whole Haryana state, as based on maximum number of Murrah buffaloes under Integrated Murrah Development Scheme (IMDS) in their respective division. Out of four districts, two blocks were selected from each district. Further, four villages were selected, purposively, from each block. Thus, a total of 32 villages from 8 blocks of 4 districts of Haryana state were the locale of study. In order to find out the constraint faced by beneficiaries of IMDS, five beneficiary Murrah owners from each village were selected, thereby making the sample size of 160 respondents for the study. To analyze various constraints faced by beneficiaries of IMDS, an interview schedule was developed under sub-heads namely, administrative, technical, infrastructural and operational, economic, socio-psychological and miscellaneous constraints. The

data were collected by face to face interview using pre-tested structured schedule. These constraints were ranked on the basis of mean score as obtained by Garrett's ranking technique.

As per Garrett's ranking technique, the respondents were asked to enumerate and assign ranks to different constraints, which were used for prioritization of constraints. The orders of merit as given by the respondents were converted into ranks, by using the following formula:

$$\text{Percent position} = \frac{100\ (R_{ij} - 0.50)}{(N_j)}$$

Where,

Rij = Rank given for ith problem by jth individual.

Nj = Number of problems ranked by the jth individual.

The percent position of each rank was then converted into scores, by referring to the table, as given by Garrett. The scores of individual respondents for a particular problem were added and divided by the total number of respondents. The mean scores for all the constraints were arranged in descending order and thus, ranks were assigned to prioritize the constraints.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The constraints as faced by the beneficiary dairy farmers of IMDS in accessing the facilities provided under scheme have been categorized and discussed under following sub- heads.

Administrative constraints

Among the administrative constraints, the data presented in Table 1, clearly revealed that "concerned officials are not much interested to visit the area and conducting regular meetings with beneficiaries" (mean score: 90.45) was ranked first by the beneficiaries, which is supported by the findings of Singh (2006) and Tiwari *et al.* (2003). The next constraint, in the order of seriousness was found to be: "delay from project personnel in sanctioning the funds" (mean score: 88.36).

"Lack of proper linkages/channel for the owners of buffaloes under scheme for marketing of their animals and its milk & milk products" (mean score: 85.30) followed by "Concerned officials are not communicating the information properly, regarding available facilities under project" (mean score: 60.05) were the other constraints faced by the beneficiaries in order of severity. These constraints may be sort out among A.H. officials, beneficiaries and policy-makers through regular interactions.

Technical constraints

The data presented in Table 2. revealed that "lack of knowledge about scientific feeding, breeding, health-care and management practices of buffaloes" (mean score: 92.67) was faced as the most serious constraint, it might be due to lack of training facilities regarding buffalo management practices under IMDS. The second rank was given to "lack of awareness about the IMDS" (mean score: 84.34), which may be due to lack of awareness camps regarding facilities provided under IMDS.

The other technical constraints such as, "Repeat breeding" (mean score 79.29) was ranked third by the beneficiaries, which is in line with the findings of Sharma *et al.* (2010), it might be because of the lack of trained/ skilled staff and A.I. was not practiced in time by the A.H. personnel. "Less qualified staff working at A.I. centers (mean score 62.04) was ranked fourth by the beneficiaries.

"Veterinary doctor/ A.H. officials do not visit the area regularly (mean score 59.54)" was ranked fifth by the beneficiaries, which is in agreement with the findings of Singh *et al*. (2004) and Tiwari *et al*. (2003). These constraints may be sorted out by providing regular health check-up and awareness camps by A.H. officials, at regular intervals and recruitment of skilled A.H. personnel as per the requirement of the project.

Infrastructural and operational constraints

It was observed from the Table 3 "concerned staff was not taking much interest in imparting awareness training camps" (mean score: 91.17) about IMDS which was reported by majority of beneficiaries as major infrastructural and operational constraint. "Practical demonstration facilities are inadequate under IMDS" (mean score: 89.07) ranked second and "lack of A.V. aids for educating the beneficiaries in training programme" (mean score: 82.46) was ranked as the third most important constraints by the beneficiaries. These findings are in line with the findings of Nachimuthu (2002).

The other infrastructural and operational constraints such as, "Illiteracy and poor knowledge of beneficiaries create problem in better understanding about A.H. schemes/programmes" (mean score: 78.04), Similar findings were reported by Anand (2009); Bhamare (2006). "Lack of trained, field-oriented and experienced Veterinary personnel" (mean score: 65.27) was the other infrastructural and operational constraint faced by the beneficiaries.

Economic constraints

Among the economic constraints, delay in getting incentive money for the owner of animal under scheme (mean score: 92.45) was faced as most serious constraint and ranked first, insufficient MSP was given for their male calves purchased by A.H. Officials (mean score: 88.07) was ranked second by the beneficiaries.

Other economic constraints such as "non-availability of credit/loans under the scheme" (mean score: 84.74), followed by "non-availability of A.I. facilities in time for animal under scheme" (mean score: 82.08), "Insurance facilities provided under the scheme is not sufficient" (mean score: 80.83), "high cost of emergency veterinary services" (mean score: 79.44) and "high cost of veterinary medicines" (mean score: 72.78) were in order of seriousness.

Socio-psychological constraints

From the Table 5, it is inferred that various socio-psychological constraints were faced by the beneficiaries, wherein it was found that the "preference for jobs rather than dairy-based self-employments" (mean score: 84.87) was faced as the most serious constraint, and was ranked first. Another constraint "Lack of decision-making ability among beneficiaries" (mean score: 80.43) and "lack of risk-bearing capacity among beneficiaries" (mean score: 72.65) ranked 2nd and 3rd, respectively.

Other constraints such as, "lack of democratic awareness and harmony among dairy farmers about the scheme" (mean score: 69.23), followed by "least participation of beneficiaries in various organizations" (mean score: 65.45), "lack of cooperation among beneficiaries" (mean score: 54.43), "lack of faith among beneficiaries in dairy development programme as well as in concerned officials as a measure for improving their economy" (mean score: 07.18) and "resourceful people of the society discourage the BPL farmers to join the scheme" (mean score: 05.14) were ranked in order

Table 1. Administrative constraints faced by the beneficiaries.

Sr. No.	Constraints	Mean score	Rank
1	Concerned officials are not much interested to visit the area and conducting regular meetings with beneficiaries	90.45	**I**
2	Concerned officials are not communicating the information, properly, regarding available facilities under project	60.05	**IV**
3	Delay from project personnel in sanctioning the funds	88.36	**II**
4	There is no proper linkages/channel for the owners of buffaloes under scheme for marketing of their animals and its milk and milk products	85.30	**III**

Table 2. Technical constraints faced by the beneficiaries.

Sr. No.	Constraints	Mean score	Rank
1	Lack of awareness about the IMDS	84.34	**II**
2	Less qualified staff working at A.I. centers	62.04	**IV**
3	Repeat breeding	79.29	**III**
4	Lack of knowledge about scientific feeding, breeding, health-care and management practices of buffaloes	92.67	**I**
5	Veterinary doctor/ A.H. officials do not visit the area regularly	59.54	**V**

Table 3. Infrastructural and operational constraints faced by the beneficiaries.

Sr. No.	Constraints	Mean score	Rank
1	Concerned staff not taking much interest in imparting awareness training camps about IMDS	91.17	**I**
2	Lack of trained, field-oriented and experienced veterinary personnel	65.27	**V**
3	Practical demonstration facilities are inadequate under IMDS	89.07	**II**
4	Illiteracy and poor knowledge of beneficiaries create problem in better understanding about A.H. schemes/programmes	78.04	**IV**
5	Lack of A.V. aids for educating the beneficiaries in training pro-gramme	82.46	**III**

Table 4. Economic constraints faced by the beneficiaries.

Sr. No.	Constraints	Mean score	Rank
1	Insurance facilities provided under the scheme is not sufficient	80.83	**V**
2	High cost of emergency veterinary services	79.44	**VI**
3	High cost of veterinary medicines	72.78	**VII**
4	Non-availability of credit/loans under the scheme	84.74	**III**
5	Non-availability of A.I. facilities in time for animal under scheme	82.08	**IV**
6	Delay in getting incentive money for owner of animal under scheme	92.45	**I**
7	Insufficient 'Minimum support price' (MSP) was given for their male calves while being purchased by A.H. Officials	88.07	**II**

Table 5. Socio-psychological constraints faced by the beneficiaries.

Sr. No.	Constraints	Mean score	Rank
1	Resourceful people of the society discourage the BPL farmers to join the scheme	05.14	**VIII**
2	Lack of cooperation among beneficiaries	54.43	**VI**
3	Least participation of beneficiaries in various organizations	65.45	**V**
4	Lack of faith in modern veterinary schemes/programmes	00.00	**----**
5	Lack of democratic awareness and harmony among dairy farmers about the scheme	69.23	**IV**
6	Lack of faith among beneficiaries in dairy development programme as well as in concerned officials as a measure for improving their economy	07.18	**VII**
7	Lack of decision-making ability among beneficiaries	80.43	**II**
8	Lack of risk-bearing capacity among beneficiaries	72.65	**III**
9	Preference for jobs rather than dairy-based self-employment	84.87	**I**

Table 6. Miscellaneous constraints faced by the beneficiaries.

Sr. No.	Constraints	Mean score	Rank
1	Poor knowledge of beneficiaries regarding facilities provided under scheme	58.44	**V**
2	Concerned personnel do not provide proper information about purchasing of dairy equipments/inputs	69.93	**II**
3	Difficulty in maintaining records due to illiteracy and lack of awareness about importance of records	71.74	**I**
4	Inadequate medical facilities for sick animals	59.08	**IV**
5	Inadequate contact of beneficiaries with developmental officials	67.69	**III**

of severity, respectively, by the beneficiaries.

Miscellaneous constraints

Apart from the above-mentioned constraints some of the important miscellaneous constraints as mentioned in the Table 6 that were "difficulty in maintaining records due to illiteracy and lack of awareness about importance of records" (mean score: 71.74); was raked first, which is followed by "concerned personnel do not provides proper information about purchasing of dairy equipments/ inputs" (mean score: 69.93); "Inadequate contact of beneficiaries with developmental officials" (mean score: 67.69); "Inadequate medical facilities for sick animals" (mean score: 59.08); and "poor knowledge of beneficiaries regarding facilities provided under scheme" (mean score: 58.44), in the same order, on the basis of their mean score.

CONCLUSION

There were various constraints found regarding the utilization of facilities provided under the IMDS by beneficiary dairy farmers. To run this scheme in smooth and sustainable manner for conservation and improvement in Murrah breed in terms of quality as well as quantity, there is dire need to remove of these constraints on priority with the considerable focus on the implementation of such scheme. The attention of policy makers is needed for more interaction among the farmers and officials, promotion of extension activities for awareness and capacity building of farmers, timely implementation of scheme activities and resource.

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