

## A Study on Constraints Encountered by the Tribal Livestock Farmers in Southern Rajasthan

Pankaj Lawania<sup>1</sup> and Shobhana Gupta<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Scientist, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sirohi, AU Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India

<sup>2</sup> Deputy Director Extension, RVSKVV, Gwalior M.P. India

### Abstract

The study was conducted in Sirohi district of Southern Rajasthan, in order to identify the problems faced by the tribal farmers and to work out the relationship of problems with socio-economic and psychological traits of the respondents. The findings revealed that major problems faced by the tribal farmers were economic problem, less profit from domesticated animals, non-availability of green fodder, non-availability of superior male animal, harassment by the forest personnel in open grazing, lack of easy accesses to veterinarian, absence of scientific farming etc. The relational analysis revealed that occupational and family income from animal husbandry had positive and highly significant ( $P < 0.01$ ) influence on problems of livestock rearing. On the other hand, livestock unit showed negative and highly significant influence on problems of livestock rearing.

**Keywords:** Problems, livestock, rearing and tribal

India is among the few nations in the world for its tribal population. The tribal population of India is 51.6 million which constitute 7.76% of the total population. In Rajasthan, tribal population is 12% of the state population: more than 45% resides in Southern Rajasthan covering the Aravali ranges which run through the south west boarder of the state. Mostly tribal's live on hilly top of Aravali and utilize the flaxy plain area, which available between the hills for cultivation of crops and keep normally 1-3 milch animals and as a part of mixed farming system. These animals are non-descript type and their up keep is far away from scientific lines. Even though this tribal belt is rich in total animal strength yet the progress of animal husbandry does not seem to be satisfactory (Lawania, Pankaj, 2007). The tribal livestock farmers keep domestic animals not only as a mark of tradition, culture or ritual but also to meet the economic and agricultural needs in other parts of state. But they also often subjected to some problems peculiar in nature due to geographical location. Therefore, a study on problems faced by the livestock farmers was undertaken to identify the major problems areas faced by the livestock farmers and to see if there existed any relationship of those problems with socio-personal, economic and psychological traits of the farmers.

### METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Sirohi District of Sothern Rajasthan. There are five blocks in the district, out of which two blocks namely Abu and Pindbada were selected on the basis of maximum number of tribal population. Three villages from each identified block were selected for sampling of data. Probability proportionate random techniques was used to draw sample. For the study total 120 respondents were selected from six randomly selected villages of the Abu and Pindbada block of the Sirohi district. All these tribal farmers constituted the sample of respondents for the study. The socio-economic and personal variables were asked by direct questions whereas inventories were developed for psychological variables. Similarly an inventory was prepared concerning problems perceived by tribals by putting 14 specific problems areas. The respondents were asked to place their agreement or disagreement in different degrees by putting tick (✓) mark in appropriate column against the problem areas in any degree they felt agreeable to them. Further in the selection of the problem areas sensitive methods of item collection was adopted and items revealed nothing except the problems of livestock rearing / management. Data were

collected personally by the researchers through interview method and data were analyzed.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table I revealed that economic problem that economic problem and less profit from domesticated animals were the major problems faced by 100 percent of the tribal farmers, while non-availability of green fodder and lack of breeding male were the problems faced by 99.07 per cent of the farmers. The majority of first two problems were due to the village being land locked condition. This situation could be altered by providing some link with better communication with main land having scope for better remuneration from livestock. Non-availability of green fodder was actually on out fall of high intensity of agriculture leaving for fodder cultivation. Similar findings were reported by Thammi Raju *et al.* (2006).

Likewise 96.24 percent of the respondents opined that less training on scientific farming, non-availability of organized market and lack of easy accesses to veterinarians were other problems. Again each of the problems viz. lack of milk cooperative societies, harassment by the forest personnel in open grazing area and high cost of concentrate ration were recorded 94.12 percent of the farmers. Lack of the infra-structural facility was reported as one of the problems faced by the 90 percent farmers. Transportation problems and market operators demand huge commission also the problem for 86.60 per cent, and 82.02 per cent respondents reported that rampant theft case problems faced. The problems revealed in the study were harassment by the forest personnel in open grazing, lack of easy accesses to veterinarians. Huge commission demanded by the market operators as another area which needed urgent action from the concerned authorities. Livestock farmers being the weaker section in the society and having no organized platform were the main target of the market operators for exploitation. These indicated that there were huge areas needing Government intervention for the welfare of livestock. Further lack of milk cooperatives, less training on scientific farming definitely needed extension intervention on regular basis. It would be an urgent duty of State Animal Husbandry Department to venture appropriately among the farmers for their capacity building and starting farmers level organizations. The observations are in close proximity to the findings of Lavania, pankaj (2007) and Thammi Raju *et al.* (2006).

Table II revealed that out of 19 variables, occupational and family income from animal husbandry

had positive and highly significant ( $P < 0.01$ ) influence on problem of livestock rearing. This might be due to the fact that higher the occupation, higher was expected income. Further, it was observed during data collection that those farmers, who had some occupation in addition to livestock rearing, usually had better livestock. It was again understandable that respondents having higher occupation were always constrained with time, but in addition they must have had improved livestock yielding higher production.

So the unidirectional graph of higher occupation better livestock and better production definitely invited lot of responsibilities to manage the livestock and other livestock related matter including labour, feeding, care and management and marketing. It was largely because of this situation that respondents with better occupation and higher income from livestock showed highly positive influence on the problems. Because they rightly and rightfully realized the problems in greater degree than others. Similar findings of better livestock rearing having more problems were also reported by Mishra and Paul (2003) and Sagar and Dohare (2000). Management/Health care showed a positive and significant influence on Problem of livestock rearing. This was due to the differences which existed between livestock raised on zero input and those on intensive care. The respondents who had better or improved livestock needed to be more careful for their livestock which naturally required better care and management.

Therefore, similar to occupation and income better health care/management was associated with the realization of more problems. Similar findings were reported by Singh and Upadhyay (2009). Education and labour engagement pattern showed negative and significant influence ( $P < 0.01$ ) on problems of livestock rearing. These findings were in expected lines. The respondents with higher education in the State including the study area engaged themselves in livestock rearing only for passing time and kept on working for other alternative engagement. They, therefore, paid less attention upon it as a means of livelihood and hence realized fewer amounts of problems. The negative influence on labour engagement pattern on problems could be justifiable explained by the fact that whenever some job in any kind of farm was left to others i.e. labourers, many problems arose. The best method of livestock rearing was therefore, always the self-employment.

The converted livestock unit was found to have negative and high significant ( $-3.74$ ,  $** P < 0.01$ ) influence on problems of rearing. More the livestock lesser were

**Table I: Distribution of respondents on different areas of constraints relating to livestock rearing**

Sl. No	Problems	Percentage
1	Non-availability of green fodder	99.07
2	Economic problems	100
3	Rampant theft cases	82.02
4	Lack of milk cooperatives	94.12
5	Less training on scientific farming	96.24
6	Lack of organized market	96.24
7	Harassment by the forest personnel by in open grazing area	94.12
8	High cost of concentrate ration	94.12
9	Lack of easy accesses to veterinarians	96.24
10	Transportation problem	86.60
11	Profit from domesticated animals is less	100
12	Market operators demanded huge commission	86.60
13	Lack of breeding male for breeding purpose	99.07
14	Lack of infra-structural facilities.	90.00

**Table II: Multiple regression of independent variables on constraints of tribal livestock farmers**

Sl. No.	Independent variable	Values	
		Regression Coefficient b value	“t” value for b
1	Age	-17.00	-0.63
2	Education	-282.78	-2.14*
3	Family size	4.39	0.04
4	Occupation	868.31	2.58**
5	Total family income	0.00	-.42
6	Family income from animal husbandry	0.10	7.85**
7	Own income	0.00	0.54
8	Livestock unit	502.32	-3.74**
9	Rearing system of livestock	-22.28	-0.46
10	Time devoted to animal husbandry practices	6.58	1.48
11	Labour engagement pattern	280.93	-2.06*
12	Extension contact	99.52	0.23
13	Frequency of exposure	15.86	0.12
14	Risk orientation	84.93	0.36
15	Economic motivation	-79.77	-0.34

(Cont...)

16	Breeding	-34.67	-0.27
17	Feeding	137.82	1.77
18	Housing	-305.36	-1.08
19	Management/ Health care	282.90	2.05*

the problems realized. The reason were that, by and large agriculture was the mainstay of the respondents who far having more number of livestock could take the advantage for ploughing, manure, fuel and extracting food of animals origin and hence never encountered any other problems from more number of livestock. The coefficient of multiple determination ( $R^2$ ) with independent variables could explain 59.1 per cent variation of the problems of livestock rearing. This implies that there were many more issues and determinants which might be influencing the problems in livestock rearing and was left out in the present study. The 'F' value for R (4.65\*\*) in case of livestock farmers was found to be highly significant. This indicated that influence on problems of livestock rearing was significant

## CONCLUSION

The major constraints faced by the tribal livestock farmers were economic problems, non-availability of green fodder, less profit from domesticated animals, lack of improved breeding mail, lack of easy accesses to veterinarians etc. Out of 19 variables occupational and family income from livestock rearing had positive significant ( $P < 0.01$ ) influence on constraints of livestock rearing. Management/Health care showed a positive

and significant ( $P < 0.01$ ) influence on constraints of livestock rearing.

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