



## Constraints in dairy farming in Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka

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### ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out to find out the constraints faced by the farmers in animal husbandry activities and dairying in Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka. The study was designed in such a way that the farmer's responses were taken in to consideration by asking them questions regarding various activities of animal husbandry and by past experience. A total of 90 respondents were taken into consideration. The study revealed that the constraints were regarding non availability of good quality fodder, fodder scarcity during summer, poor availability and high cost of agricultural labourers, many obscure diseases, lack of quality of veterinary services, high cost of inputs, lack of mechanization, low remuneration to the produced milk all resulting in reducy the interest among the farming community for animal husbandry and dairying.

**KEY WORDS :** Constraints, Dairy farming, Uttara kannada

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### INTRODUCTION

In Karnataka, Status and Systems of dairy Farming differs from one region to other. There are many differences in dairy farming activities in areas where different agriculture crops are grown, under different soil and weather conditions and economic status of the farmer.

North Kanara district of Karnataka state is located in the midst of western ghats and has more than 79 per cent forest area. It has three distinct geographic areas viz., coastal belt, Northern part with largely plane land and Western Ghats. The latter region is hilly area with either evergreen or deciduous forests. Major farming activity in this region is horticulturd crops mainly consisting of areca nut. Along with this cardamom, banana, coconut etc are also grown. Paddy is grown in a fairly large area but it is reducing gradually. Number of non-descript animals is going down and crossbreeds are increasing in number in North Kanara district.

Though this area is well suited for profitable dairying, there are many inherent anomalies and problems facing animal husbandry sector. An attempt is made in this study and document them which may help in suggesting probable solutions.

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### MATERIALS AND METHODS

A total of 90 farmers were selected at random in the district of Uttara Kannada for the present study. The data were collected by semi structured interviews and group discussions. The data collected were presented in the form of number of respondents and the frequency as percentages in the order of importance perceived by them.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The constraints perceived by the dairy farmers were recorded and categorized into six groups viz, nutrition, management, health care, cost of inputs, remuneration to the produced milk and interest in involving the animal husbandry activity. the data were as follows.(n=90)

#### Nutrition:

A crossbreed cattle needs about 25 kg of green fodder a day as recommended by Reddy (2001). Good green fodder was not available to 88.89 per cent of the farmers.

Also an acute shortage of both green and dry fodder was faced during summer by 81.11 per cent of farmers which forced them to purchase fodder from outside at high cost. This is in line with Ranganekar, (2006) who found feed and fodder as a major constraint. As the district has large areas of forest land, very less land is left for them to cultivate fodder. It was reflected by 78.89 per cent of respondents.