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Theme 3: Sustainability of grasslands- social and policy issues

Sub-theme: 3.1. Multi-stakeholder learning platforms for grassland management

Constraints faced by farmers in fodder production & livestock management in western up, India

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Keywords: Farmers, Fodder, Livestock, Management and constraints.

Introduction

The agrarian economy of the region is fully dependent on agriculture and related activities as clearly revealed by the utilization of land resource in the region. Fodder crop plays vital role in rearing of livestock. Fodder crops are mainly cultivated in *kharif* (87%) followed by *rabi* (90%) and *jayad* (45%). India is the largest producer of milk the world. Milk production has been growing at an average rate of 3.45% annum. The per capita availability of milk was around 296 gram per day in 2012-13. India covers about one fifth of livestock population of the world, but the milk productivity per milch animal is very low. Even after continuous efforts over the years, the productivity is still low and associated with some constraints faced by the farmers. The present study was conducted to assess the constraints faced by the farmers in fodder production and livestock management in western U.P.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in irrigated belt of western U.P. consisting Meerut and Baghpat district. Two stage purposive random sampling were used, three villages were selected from each district as first stage sampling units. Sixteen farmers who were growing fodder from each village were selected as second stage sampling units

Results and Discussion

Constraints were divided into three parts, one is fodder constraints, second livestock constraints and third is economic constraints. Majority of the farmers faced the problem of non availability of regular grassland followed by lack of fodder conservation methods seriously. Regarding livestock constraints the major constraints faced by farmers was poor quality of bull at village level followed by low productivity in local cow and buffalo and then poor veterinary facilities at village. High cost of livestock and high cost of feed and fodder were the major economic constraint.

Conclusion

For solving the problems of farmers it is suggested that regular grasslands should increase so the farmers can graze their animals. Good quality of bulls should be given to the farmers by animal husbandry departments. Cost of livestock as well as feed and fodder should be reduced.

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