STATUS OF DAIRY CATTLE MILK PRODUCTION UNDER CURRENT FEEDING PRACTICES AND POTENTIAL FEED RESOURCES IN KORALAIPATRU D.S. DIVISION OF BATTICALOA DISTRICT.

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ABSTRACT

Koralaipatru Divisional Secretary (DS) of Batticaloa district is famous for agriculture activities such as paddy cultivation and animal husbandry. Next to paddy cultivation, the income source of farmers is animal husbandry especially cattle production which was mostly reared for milking purpose (100%) under different type of rearing system such as tethering, extensive, semi intensive and intensive. There was mostly observed tethering of small holders and extensive system of medium holders in the Koralaipatru D.S. Division respectively.

The study was conducted in Koralaipatru DS division for a period of four months (June 2017 to September 2017) by using a questionnaire based survey system. A total of 50 small and 50 medium hold cattle farmers from six G.N. division of Koralaipatru D.S. Division were interviewed using a formal questionnaire. The questionnaire included issues on socio economic condition of farmers, data on cattle farming; problems faced by the cattle farmers and extension services.

The study revealed that almost more than half of the small (75%) and medium (100%) hold cattle farmers had experience more than 2 years, which is sufficient for better management and care for more milk production. Almost 72% of the Small hold cattle farmers were tethering rearing system while 60% of medium hold cattle farmers were adopting extensive system. All farmers were rearing cattle for milk purpose. With regard to educational level, most of the small holders were coming under secondary level (49%) but medium holders at 43% under primary level and another 9% and 15% of small and medium holders were not even schooled. Most of farmers reared their cattle under grazing while no one fed their cattle with concentrates. Most of the farmers reported that the major constraints (100%) in farm was high cost for concentrate feeds followed by lack of knowledge about concentrate, poor performance of cattle, lack of credit facilities, and lack of water due to the drought.

The result of the study showed that the small and medium hold cattle farming increase the farmer's annual income significantly. This enables them to feed their family more months than before because of most of farmer's occupation were in other jobs such as labour, carpenter and small business.

To conclude, the implementation of small and medium hold cattle farming highly benefited the farmers in improving their livelihood. But the management systems were very poor, in some special cases like rearing system and feeding specially concentrate feeding. If this kind of practice will change, it may lead to good performance by the cattle in future.

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