The percentage infection of storage fungi initially and after 10 months showed significant differences between treatments, location and containers used for storage (Table 1). The halogen treatment effectively contained the storage fungi. The halogenated seeds had 22.2% infection as against 27.8% in the untreated control irrespective of locations, containers and period of storage. The mean infection in Arrupukottai ($L_2$) seeds was lower (18.3%) when compared to Coimbatore ($L_1$) seeds (31.7%). Among the containers, $C_3$ registered lower infection (22.6%) than those in $C_2$ (24.3%) and $C_1$ (28.1%). As storage period advanced, the infection percentage increased from 15.0 to 35.0 per cent after 10 months of storage. The interaction revealed that the seeds from Aruppukottai ($L_2$) given halogenation treatment and stored in 700 gauge polythene bag ($C_3$) had the minimum infection than other treatments. Chitra (1995) reported the similar effect on the control of storage fungi in Cotton seeds. The antimicrobial property of halogens had been documented by Rudrapal and Basu (1981).

References

Adoption of dairy farming practices in Ernakulam district of Kerala

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Indian agriculture is an economic symbiosis of crop and cattle production. Dairying is important for India as it is rural based, land saving and gender neutral. Dairy farming provides substantial source of income to the landless laborers as well as marginal farmers. We have witnessed a revolution in milk production with Operation flood projects, where cooperative societies have played a pivotal role. India has emerged as the world’s leading milk producer but the productivity of native cattle averages around 445 kg for cow and 811 kg for buffalo per lactation (Dairy India, 1997). So under this backdrop, the study was taken up to know the dairy farming practices followed by farmers and
Adoption of dairy farming practices in Ernakulam district of Kerala

Table 1. Extent of adoption in different major areas and overall dairy farming (n=120)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Adoption Index</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Breeding</td>
<td>63.26</td>
<td>III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Feeding</td>
<td>65.00</td>
<td>II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Health Care</td>
<td>74.50</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Management</td>
<td>54.35</td>
<td>IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>62.68</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Distribution of members in different categories according to their adoption of scientific dairy farming practices in overall dairy farming (n=120)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>No.of farmers</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Low (&lt;27.5)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Medium (27.5 to 35.2)</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>High (&gt;35.2)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15.83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

their extent of adoption of scientific dairy farming practices and to know the gaps where extension agencies can intervene.

The study was undertaken in Ernakulam district of Kerala state. Employing random sampling 120 farmers were selected from 12 Primary cooperative societies (PCS) in two blocks.

Data was gathered personally by the investigator using structured pre-tested interview schedule pertaining to the adoption of scientific dairy farming practices. The collected data were analysed by employing descriptive statistic for drawing inferences. Adoption was worked out using a 3 point scale of ‘Adopted’, ‘Adopted and Discontinued’ and ‘Did not adopt’. Adoption index was calculated using the formula

\[
\text{Adoption Index} = \left(\frac{\text{Obtained score}}{\text{Maximum obtainable score}}\right) \times 100
\]

The study was conducted on 4 major areas of dairy farming namely: Breeding, Feeding, Management and Health care practices.

It was observed that among the socio-personal variables, age and family size was negatively and significantly correlated with the extent of adoption. This may be due to the fact the older farmers are less change oriented and in larger families, aged persons influence more the decision making. Education and social participation were found to be positively and significantly correlated with adoption of scientific dairy farming practices.

The Socio economic variables like land holding, milk consumption, were positively and significantly correlated with adoption of Scientific dairy farming practices at one per cent level of significance. Whereas herd size, milk production and milk sale were positively and significantly correlated at 5 per cent significance level.
The two selected communication variables namely extension contact and mass media exposure, were positively and significantly correlated with adoption of scientific dairy farming practices. So it can be inferred from these results, that increasing the extension contact and mass media exposure of farmers can further increase the level of adoption among farmers.

Adoption Index: The table depicts that overall adoption index in dairy farming practices was found to be 62.68. When comparison is made with similar other studies conducted in other parts of the country, the overall adoption index is found to be high in this area. For eg: the overall adoption index was reported to be 47.39 in Sawai Madhopur (Rajasthan), 23.60 in Banke District (Bihar) and 31.21 in Rohtas district (Bihar) by Meena (1993), Sah (1996) and Sinha (1997) respectively. At the same time adoption index is comparable to Karnal (64.62) as reported by Chugh(1995). It is obvious that maximum extent of adoption was found in the area of health care practices, i.e 74.50. It was followed by feeding (65.00), breeding (63.26) and management practices(54.35) respectively. The extent of adoption in health practices had ranked first, most probably due to the reason that being members of milk producers society, they got regular and prompt veterinary services through society, in addition to the services from other agencies working in the area. In general the high extent of adoption among the dairy farmers may be attributed to many reasons. The villages, where the societies are situated are generally considered as dairy progressive villages and the infrastructure for dairy development was well developed in the area.

From table(I) it is evident that majority of the dairy farmers (70.00) per cent had medium level of adoption, followed by high adopters (15.83%) and low adopters (14.17%)

References

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