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Assessment of constraints encountered by beneficiary farmers in dairy farming and livestock management trainings conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra

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ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out in the jurisdictional area of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Baramati in Pune district of Maharashtra. A total of 120 beneficiary farmers were selected for the study using simple random sampling method. The ex-post facto research design was adopted for the study. The data were collected through personal interviews using well-structured interview schedule. The collected data were analysed using frequency and percentage. The findings revealed that the major constraints encountered by beneficiary farmers were high cost of concentrated feed and fodder (40.00%), lack of timely follow-up support by Krishi Vigyan Kendra after training (32.50%), lack of awareness about government schemes and subsidies (30.00%) and shortage of green fodder during summer season (26.67%). The major suggestions given by beneficiary farmers were to organize regular training and follow-up support visits by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (37.50%), establish fodder banks and promote fodder cultivation (33.34%) and increase awareness and simplify procedures for government schemes, subsidies and insurance (27.50%). The findings of the study indicated the need for continuous post-training support, improved fodder availability, better awareness of Government schemes and affordable livestock inputs for strengthening the effectiveness of livestock management training programmes.

Keywords: Beneficiary farmers, Livestock management, Training, Constraints, Suggestions, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bottlenecks, Problems

1. Introduction

Livestock is an important component of the rural economy and plays a significant role in providing employment, regular income, food and livelihood security to farming households. In India, the livestock sector has emerged as an important contributor to agricultural growth, accounting for 30.87 per cent of the Gross Value Added (GVA) of agriculture and allied sectors during 2023–24 and about 5.5 per cent of the national economy at current prices. The sector has also shown sustained growth due to increasing demand for animal products, changing dietary preferences and adoption of improved livestock management practices. However, inadequate feed and fodder, livestock diseases, genetic limitations, climate variability and weak market linkages continue to affect livestock productivity and profitability (Anonymous, 2026) [1].

Livestock farming, particularly dairy farming, serves as an important source of supplementary and regular income for rural households. The dairy farming provides farmers with not only off-season employment but also a consistent flow of income throughout the year. (Sarkar and Ghosh, 2008) [2]. India has maintained its position as the world's leading milk-producing country, with milk production increasing from 239.30 million tonnes in 2023–24 to 247.87 million tonnes in 2024–25. Maharashtra also holds an important position in the dairy sector, producing 16.63 million tonnes of milk during 2024–25 and ranking fifth among the major milk-producing states of India. Pune district ranked second among the milk-producing districts of Maharashtra, with 2.260 million tonnes of milk production during 2024–25 (Anonymous, 2025) [3].

Livestock management training is an important capacity-building intervention for improving farmers' knowledge and skills related to scientific feeding, breeding, housing, healthcare, disease prevention, clean milk production and overall livestock management. Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), as frontline extension institutions, conduct need-based and practical training programmes to facilitate the transfer and application of improved technologies among farmers. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Baramati regularly conducts livestock management training programmes covering dairy farming, sheep and goat farming, poultry farming, fisheries and biofloc technology. These programmes provide farmers with scientific information and practical knowledge for improving livestock production and management.

Despite the benefits of livestock management training, beneficiary farmers may face various constraints in applying the knowledge and skills gained through training. These constraints may be related to the availability and cost of feed and fodder, financial resources, breeding and veterinary services, access to government

schemes, post-training support, training materials and practical guidance. Identifying such constraints is essential for understanding the gaps between training and its effective application at the farm level. Farmers' suggestions can further provide useful insights for improving the relevance, accessibility and effectiveness of livestock management training programmes.

Hence, it is essential to study the constraints encountered by beneficiary farmers regarding dairy farming and livestock management trainings conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra and to obtain suggestions to overcoming these constraints. The findings of the study are expected to be useful to Krishi Vigyan Kendras, extension agencies, Livestock Development Departments and programme planners in strengthening post-training support and designing more effective, need-based and farmer-oriented livestock management training programmes.

2. Methodology

The present study was carried out in the jurisdictional area of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Baramati, Pune district of Maharashtra state with an objective to assess the constraints encountered by beneficiary farmers and to obtain suggestions for strengthening Livestock Management Trainings conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra. KVK, Baramati was purposively selected as the study jurisdiction due to its

active involvement in conducting livestock management training and capacity-building programmes for dairy farmers. A total of 120 beneficiary farmers from Baramati and Indapur tahsils who participated in livestock management training programmes conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra were selected through simple random sampling for the study. An ex-post facto research design was adopted for the study. The data were collected through a pre-tested structured interview schedule by conducting personal interviews with the selected beneficiary farmers. The collected data were analysed using statistical tools such as frequency and percentage. The constraints encountered by the beneficiary farmers were identified according to their responses and the suggestions were obtained to overcome these constraints.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Assessment of constraints encountered by beneficiary farmers in dairy farming and livestock management trainings conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra

Constraints encountered by beneficiary farmers were operationally defined as the challenges or problems encountered in dairy farming and livestock management trainings. Information was gathered directly from the beneficiary farmers and based on their responses; the specific constraints were identified.

Table 1. Distribution of Beneficiary Farmers According to the Constraints encountered in Dairy Farming and Livestock Management Trainings Conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra and dairy farming

Sr. No.	Constraints	Frequency (n = 120)	Percentage (%)
1	High cost of concentrated feed and fodder	48	40.00
2	Lack of timely follow-up support by Krishi Vigyan Kendra after training	39	32.50
3	Lack of awareness about government schemes and subsidies	36	30.00
4	Shortage of green fodder in summer season	32	26.67
5	Non-availability of written training material or handbook after training	17	14.17
6	Inadequate financial resources for adopting improved practices	16	13.34
7	Non-availability of quality breeds and breeding services	12	10.00
8	Insufficient practical demonstrations or exposure visits	09	07.50
9	Inadequate access to credit and institutional loans	08	06.67
10	Limited use of digital advisory technologies	07	05.83
11	Lack of regular training and poor knowledge retention	06	05.00
12	High cost of veterinary medicines and treatment	05	04.17
13	Higher investment required for scientific farm or housing	04	03.33

According to Table 1, the major constraint reported by the beneficiary farmers was high cost of concentrated feed and fodder, reported by two-fifths (40.00%) of the respondents. This was followed by lack of timely follow-up support from the Krishi Vigyan Kendra after training, reported by about one-third (32.50%) and lack of awareness about government schemes and subsidies, reported by three-tenths (30.00%) of the respondents. Further, about one-fourth (26.67%) of the beneficiary farmers reported shortage of green fodder during the summer season as a constraint. Further, 14.17 per cent of the respondents reported Non-availability of written training material or handbook after training, while 13.34 per cent faced Inadequate financial resources for adopting improved practices. About 10.00 per cent reported Non-availability of quality breeds and breeding services. Similarly, 07.50 per cent of beneficiary farmers identified Insufficient practical demonstrations or exposure visits as a constraint. About 6.67 per cent each reported Inadequate access to credit and institutional loans and 05.83 per cent farmers reported Limited use of digital advisory technologies. Further, 5.00 per cent of respondents each reported Lack of regular training and poor knowledge retention and about

(04.17%) High cost of veterinary medicines and treatment as constraints. The least reported constraint was Higher investment required for scientific farm or housing, mentioned by 03.33 per cent of the beneficiary farmers.

Overall, the findings indicate that the major constraints encountered by beneficiary farmers were related to high input costs, inadequate post-training follow-up, limited awareness of government schemes and seasonal fodder shortages.

The above findings are similar to the findings of Beerannavar *et al.* (2018) [4], Geethu (2019) [5], Kadam (2019) [6], Pawar *et al.* (2019) [7], Yadav (2021) [8], Somtiya *et al.* (2024) [9], Mahera *et al.* (2025) [10] and Pradheeshwaran *et al.* (2026) [11].

3.2 Suggestions made by beneficiary farmers to overcome the constraints encountered by them

Suggestions are the probable solutions mentioned by the beneficiary farmers to overcome the constraints. The beneficiary farmers themselves proposed the following suggestions to the constraints they experienced regarding dairy farming and livestock management trainings conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, as presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Distribution of the beneficiary farmers according to the suggestions made by them to overcome the constraints

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Frequency (n = 120)	Percentage (%)
1	Organize regular training and follow-up and support visits by Krishi Vigyan Kendra	45	37.50
2	Establish fodder banks and promote fodder cultivation	40	33.34
3	Increase awareness and simplify procedures for government schemes, subsidies and insurance	33	27.50
4	Develop digital advisory services (WhatsApp/SMS/mobile apps) for continuous support to farmers	23	19.17
5	Ensure timely availability of quality feed, fodder and mineral mixture at affordable price	19	15.84
6	Provide written training material, handbook or booklet by KVK	17	14.17
7	Facilitate easy access to institutional credit and low-interest loans to farmers	14	11.67
8	Improve access to quality breeding services and artificial insemination centres	10	08.34
9	Organize more practical demonstrations or hands-on sessions and exposure visits	09	07.50
10	Ensure stable milk price provided by government	04	03.34
11	Promote Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) or dairy cooperatives and producer groups for better marketing of milk and dairy products	02	01.67

According to Table 2, the largest proportion (37.50%) of beneficiary farmers suggested organizing regular training programmes and follow-up support visits by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra to strengthen the adoption of improved livestock management practices. This was followed by one-third (33.34%) of the farmers who suggested establishing fodder banks and promoting fodder cultivation to overcome the shortage of green fodder and ensure its regular availability. Further, more than one-fourth (27.50%) of the respondents suggested increasing awareness and simplifying procedures related to government schemes, subsidies and insurance to improve access to available government support. Further, 19.17 per cent of beneficiary farmers suggested Develop digital advisory services (WhatsApp/SMS/mobile apps) for continuous support to farmers. About 15.84 per cent suggested Ensure timely availability of quality feed, fodder and mineral mixture at affordable price, while 14.17 per cent suggested Provide written training material, handbook or booklet for better retention and application of knowledge gained during training. Similarly, 11.67 per cent of respondents suggested Facilitate easy access to institutional credit and low-interest loans to farmers.

About 08.34 per cent of beneficiary farmers suggested Improve access to quality breeding services and artificial insemination centres, while 07.50 per cent suggested Organize more practical demonstrations or hands-on sessions and exposure visits to strengthen their practical understanding of livestock management. A small proportion (03.34%) suggested Ensure stable milk price provided by government, whereas only 01.67 per cent suggested Promote FPOs or dairy cooperatives and producer groups for better marketing of milk and dairy products.

Overall, the suggestions indicate that beneficiary farmers primarily expected continued training and post-training support, improved fodder availability, better access to government schemes and digital advisory services. The findings highlight the need for KVK and concerned agencies to provide regular follow-up, practical support, affordable livestock inputs, training materials, credit facilities and improved marketing and breeding services to strengthen the adoption and sustainability of improved livestock management practices.

The above findings are similar to the findings of Kadam (2019) [6], Patil (2019) [12], Kumar *et al.* (2024) [13], Patel *et al.* (2024) [14], Meenia *et al.* (2022) [15], Somtiya *et al.* (2024) [9] and Singh *et al.* (2025) [16].

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, the major constraints encountered by beneficiary farmers were high cost of concentrated feed and fodder, lack of timely follow-up support from Krishi Vigyan Kendra, lack of awareness about government schemes and subsidies and shortage of green fodder during summer.

To overcome these constraints, farmers mainly suggested regular training and follow-up visits by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, establishment of fodder banks and promotion of fodder cultivation, better awareness of government schemes and development of digital advisory services. The study highlights the need for continuous technical support, affordable inputs and improved access to livestock services to enhance the effectiveness of livestock management training programmes. The findings imply that livestock management training programmes should be strengthened through regular follow-up and support visits, improved availability of affordable feed and fodder and greater awareness of government schemes and subsidies. KVKs and concerned agencies should also provide continuous digital advisory services, practical guidance and training materials to ensure effective adoption and sustained application of improved livestock management practices.

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