



Adoption of Sheep Farming Practices Among The Tribal Farmers in Srikakulam District of Andhra Pradesh

KEYWORDS

Dr.R.HARILAL

Associate Professor, Department of Veterinary Extension, College of Veterinary Science
TIRUPATI515502, Andhra Pradesh

ABSTRACT adoption of sheep farming practices among the respondents (Table 25) revealed that most (50.83 per cent) of the respondents were in low level of adoption followed by 39.16 per cent and 10 per cent of the respondents were in medium and high levels of adoption categories.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Adoption of sheep farming practices

Adoption was operationally defined as the decision and implementation of the decision to use the sheep farming practices among the sheep farmers.

The adoption of the sheep farming practices by the farmers was measured by developing an adoption schedule based on judges rating. Initially 25 items representing all the facets of sheep farming practices were identified in consultation with available literature, field veterinary personnel and experts in extension education. These items were subjected to judges' opinion drawn from the field of Veterinary and Animal sciences. The judges were asked to rate the items on a four point continuum i.e. ranging from most suitable, suitable, not suitable and not at all suitable.

A total of 20 judges responded to the questionnaire. The frequencies of judges rating were listed and mean was calculated for each item. The components that had weighed means equal and above mean of 0.37 were finally selected for the study.

Results

ADOPTION OF SHEEP FARMING PRACTICES

For successful rearing of sheep in terms of economic sustenance, the adoption of recommended sheep farming is very essential. In this context, this dependent variable adoption of sheep farming practices has been studied among the respondents in the sample area.

Distribution of respondents according to their level of adoption of sheep farming practices

S. No	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low adoption	61	50.83
2.	Medium adoption	47	39.16
3.	High adoption	12	10.00
Total		120	100.00

Mean - 9.89

SD -1.78

The overall adoption of sheep farming practices among the respondents (Table 25) revealed that most (50.83 per cent) of the respondents were in low level of adoption followed by 39.16 per cent and 10 per cent of the respondents were in medium and high levels of adoption categories.

An attempt made to study the adoption level of individual sheep husbandry practices by the farmers as presented in Table 26.

A) Breeding practices

From the Table 26, it could be observed that cross breeding was adopted by 12.5 per cent of sheep farmers while 87.5 per cent of sheep farmers have not adopted cross breeding with improved rams.

It was apparent that 10.00 per cent of sheep farmers in the sample area adopted the practice of presenting the ewe at proper time of heat, as against a majority (90 per cent) who were unaware of this practice.

There were about 87.50 per cent of the respondents, who did not get their animals examined for pregnancy diagnosis (PD) while 12.50 per cent of them got all their animals examined for pregnancy.

Above findings concluded that identifying the problem of infertility in sheep was adopted to a meager extent of about 1.67 per cent as against 98.33 per cent of the respondents who were non-adopters.

Treatment of infertility was practiced by 4.16 per cent of sheep farmers as against 95.84 per cent of them who did not adopt this practice.

Distribution of the respondents according to the extent of adoption of individual sheep farming practices

S. No	Sheep farming practices	Adopters	
		F	%
A	BREEDING PRACTICES		
1	Cross breeding with improved rams	15	12.5
2	Presenting the ewe at proper time of heat	12	10
3	Pregnancy diagnosis	15	12.5
4	Identifying the problem of infertility	2	1.67
5	Treatment of infertility	4	4.16
B	FEEDING PRACTICES		
1	Feeding of balanced concentrate ration daily	7	5.83
2	Addition of mineral mixture, salt & vitamins to feed	9	7.5

3	Rotational grazing system	100	83.33
4	Provision of clean drinking water	105	87.5
C MANAGEMENT PRACTICES			
1	Ear tagging for identification	0	0
2	Weaning of lambs at correct age	10	8.33
3	Using shearing machines to have more quality of wool	0	0
4	Good housing to protect from adverse conditions	20	16.67
5	Culling of unproductive stock	74	61.67
6	Deworming the flock at regular intervals	120	100
7	Dipping/spraying to protect from external parasites	8	6.67
8	Cleaning of sheds	75	62.56
9	Cleaning the feeding and water troughs	70	58.33
D HEALTH COVERAGE/PREVENTION AND CONTROL			
1	Vaccination of animals	92	76.67
2	Treatment of sick animals	65	54.16

B) Feeding practices

A perusal Table 26 indicated that 5.83 per cent of the farmers adopted the practice of feeding balanced concentrate ration daily compared to 94.17 per cent of the respondents who were non-adopters of the above practice.

Addition of mineral mixture, salt and vitamin supplements to feed was followed by a minor segment of (7.50per cent) of the respondents while great majorities (92.50per cent) of the farmers are unaware of the above practice.

Major chunk (83.33per cent) of the farmers adopted the practice of rotational grazing as against 16.67 per cent of the respondents who had not adopted this practice.

Provision of clean drinking water is adopted by all the respondents (87.5per cent) in the study area while a small section (12.5per cent) of the farmers has not adopted the above practice.

C) Management practices

The findings pertaining to management practices inferred that none of the farmers adopted the practice of ear tagging as a source of identification.

It was found from the observation that there were only 8.33 per cent of the respondents who adopted the practice of weaning lambs at correct age, while 91.67 per cent respondents were non-adopters of this practice.

Results revealed that none of the farmers followed the practice of using shearing machines to shear the wool from sheep.

A majority of the (83.33per cent) respondents have not adopted the practice of construction of good housing to protect the animals from adverse weather conditions as against 16.67 per cent who adopted this practice.

An insight into Table 26 focused that about 61.67 per cent of the farmers culled their unproductive stocks regularly compared to 38.33 per cent of respondents have not adopted culling procedure.

It was notable that all the respondents in the study area are getting their flock dewormed at regular intervals.

The managerial practice of dipping/spraying/dusting to protect the animal from external parasites was followed by small segment (6.67per cent) of the farmers while 93.33 per cent of the respondents were non-adopters of this practice.

Results reported from Table 26 revealed that majority (62.50per cent) of the respondents adopted the practice of cleaning the sheds against 37.5 per cent who have not adopted the practice.

It was also observed that there were 58.33 per cent of respondents who adopted the practice of cleaning the feed and water troughs while 41.67 per cent respondents were non-adopters of the practice.

D) Health coverage/prevention and control

It was brought out from Table 26 that majority (76.67per cent) of sheep farmers adopted the practice of vaccinating their animals for diseases like E.T, B.Q, Anthrax etc., compared to 16.67 per cent of farmers who did not adopt this practice.

It was revealed that majority (54.16per cent) of farmers got their sick animals treated at veterinary dispensaries while (45.84per cent) of them have not adopted this practice.

The results of Table 25 clearly indicated that majority of the respondents (50.83per cent) belonged to low level of adoption category followed by the respondents with medium and high level of adoption categories respectively.

The reasons can be attributed to the fact that lack of adequate education to acquire latest knowledge, inadequate extensions contacts, mass media exposure being relatively less, lack of motivation on the part of the extension personnel to make the farmers to adopt the improved sheep rearing practices to a desired extent.

The study area being a backward district, there still exist ignorance, superstitious beliefs, religious taboos and misconceptions among the respondents which are coming in the way of successful adoption of sheep farming practices. To overcome this moderate trend of adoption of practices by the respondents, it should be the endeavor of the AHD extension personnel to transfer the latest scientific information coupled with services and supplies to the beneficiaries frequently and also remove the misconceptions in adopting scientific practices by educating them through mass media, field trips which will certainly motivate them to adopt scientific practices.

A further probe into the adoption of improved sheep farming practices revealed that practices like provision of clean drinking water, culling of unproductive stock, rotational grazing system, deworming and vaccination of the flock at regular intervals and treatment of sick animals, cleaning of sheds, cleaning of feeding and water troughs were adopted to a large extent by the respondents. The full-scale adoption of these practices might be due to personal interest in having regular contact with local veterinary personnel, the interpersonal net work which was active in these villages and experience acquired by the respondents from their elders. On the contrary, the practices like cross breeding with improved rams, pregnancy diagnosis, identifying the problem of infertility, feeding balanced con-

centrate ration, weaning of lambs were partially adopted by the sheep farmers. Lack of knowledge about certain practices and high cost of innovations might have forced them to tailor their needs and adopt the innovations partially. The practices like ear tagging for identification, using shearing machines, addition of mineral mixture, salt and vitamin supplements to feed were not adopted by the respondents. The cause of this non-adoption might be incompatibility of the innovations to the past experiences of the respondents, misconceptions about some practices, illiteracy, and indirect effect of the recommended practices to the economy and finally failure of extension agencies in transferring the technology.

The beneficiaries at this delicate stage should be persuaded personally through follow up visits and providing them more scientific information to reduce the uncertainty embedded in the innovations. The innovations which were not adopted by the respondents should be made compatible to the social system by removing the misconceptions in their minds.

The results gained the support of Satyanarayana and Jagadeeswary (2010) who also reported low level of adoption among sheep farmers. However the findings of Raju (2003), Shinde et al. (1999), Sharma and Reddy (1998), and Sadat & Srivastava (1998) indicated that there is medium level of adoption among the sheep farmers while Meena and Singh (2010) and Sharma (2001) reported high to medium adoption rates. Adoption of various sheep husbandry practices is still in a primitive stage in the tribal areas of Srikakulam unlike in other areas where adoption of modern practices is more frequently reported (Sharma and Reddy (1998), Reddy et al (1998) and Sharma and Riyazuddin (1993).

ADOPTION OF SHEEP FARMING PRACTICES

Adoption indicates the behavioural change which is ultimate goal of modernization programme rather than cognitive and attitudinal change (Rogers and Shoemaker 1971).

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