



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	Asian Journal of Agricultural Extension, Economics & Sociology
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJAEES_31841
Title of the Manuscript:	CONSTRAINTS IN LIVESTOCK REARING AMONG RESOURCE POOR FARMERS IN RURAL TAMIL NADU
Type of the Article	SHORT RESEARCH ARTICLE

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<u>Compulsory</u> REVISION comments	In the absence of certain critical facts, the study remains inconclusive and of low utility. The following shortfalls may be addressed preferably under technical and non-technical service constraints. 1. Observations such as high cost of feeding, without comparing with standard or average cost of feeding, does not convey any new information. It is a known fact that the cost of feeding dairy animals is around 65-70% of the total cost. Hence, impressionist statements without comparing with standard average, is misleading. 2. The economics of dairy animals is influenced by the breeds and productivity of the animals. There is no mention about either the breeds of the animals or breeding facilities in the study area. 3. The study reveals the shortage of feed and paddy straws and no mention is made about green fodder feeding and its availability. Non-availability of community pasture lands and low productivity of community pastures are the common problems across the country. However, farmers maintaining livestock as an enterprise, generally make alternative arrangements to feed their animals. 4. Average herd / flock size is an important factor particularly with respect to sheep and goats, which has not been mentioned and which will also affect the labour cost. Engaging full-time labour for small flocks, is uneconomical. With regard to wild animals attacking goats, it would be either fox or hyena and attack by dogs seems unlikely. This may be verified.	The study is based on the farmers' perception about various constraints in livestock farming among resource poor farmers. 1. The study revealed that the majority of farmers expressed high feed cost as their prime constraint (RBQ : 65.00). The farmers felt that the price of cattle feed available in the market and price of the raw materials for dairy ration formulation was continuously increasing when compared to stagnant / slowly increasing milk price. Thus, the study did not aim to compare the cost of dairy animal feeding with that of standard cost of feeding of dairy animals. 2. Majority of dairy farmers maintained crossbred animals with higher productivity when compared to non-descript cattle. It was reflected from the results that poor productivity of dairy animals was perceived as least ranked constraint in their dairy farming (Rank IX with RBQ – 37.50). 3. As the farmers were resource poor, none of them cultivated green fodder and highly dependent on common pasture land for grazing. Shrinkage in grazing land and poor fodder output in grazing land lead to the farmers to perceive non-availability of pasture land / fodder as their major constraint.



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	5. With regard to marketing of sheep and goats, exploitation by middlemen, has been very well recorded in the country. Hence, it is difficult to understand why the author mentions this as a peculiar phenomenon. 6. With regard to discussions and recommendations made by the author such as improving the availability of common properties, introduction of water resources and fodder resources, these are not practical, particularly where the farmers have not been feeding green fodder. 7. It is also not practical to produce compound feed for distributing at a subsidised cost. I therefore advise that the author may consider adding additional information. Mention about average holding, breed of animals, their productivity and their contribution to the economy may also be included, to make the study useful to the stakeholders.	4. Average herd / flock size of sheep and goat farm of the sample respondents were observed as 56 and 9. As the goats are docile and they are prone to be attacked by stray dogs. There was no reporting of wild animal attacks. 5. Corrections made in the mentioned sentence. 6. Farmers are feeding green fodder to their animals through grazing as they are resource poor. Improving the availability of Common properties, introduction and preservation of water resources would ultimately help in improving the grazing land and fodder supply. Hence, such recommendations were made. 7. Government / University / Aavin feed units are producing animal feeds and are marketed as subsidized price. In the study, it was recommended that area specific nutritive compounded feed might be produced and distributed by the Government at subsidized rate for the livestock farmers to improve the animal productivity. The average herd / flock size of the cattle, buffalo, sheep and goat farms of the sample respondents were calculated as 2.31, 1.59, 55.83 and 8.50, respectively. Major breeds reared by the farmers were found to be cross-bred and non-descript animals and these animals act as the primary source of income for the resource poor farmers.
Minor REVISION comments		
Optional/General comments		