SOCI-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF UMBLACHERY CATTLE FARMERS

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Abstract: Umblachery cattle breed is one of the valuable animal genetic resources of Tamil Nadu. Efforts to conserve such resources require study on socio-economic characteristics of Umblachery cattle farmers. Hence, the study is conceptualized with financial support of Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University - Research Corpus Fund and purposively carried out at Nagapattinam and Thiruvarur districts of Tamil Nadu. Using a well-structured and pre-tested interview schedule, data were collected from 360 Umblachery cattle farmers who were selected from the study districts applying simple random sampling technique. The analysis of collected data revealed that more than two third (71.10%) of farmers were male, more than one-third belonged to young age group, an overwhelming majority (95.30%) possessed large herd size, majority (70.30%) possessed medium to high level of experience in Umblachery cattle farming, nearly two-third had membership in social association and more than three-fourth (77.00%) had agriculture and Umblachery cattle farming as their occupation. The results will be useful for the policy makers to consider the influence of socio-economic characteristics of Umblachery cattle farmers in Umblachery cattle breed conservation efforts.

Keywords: Umblachery breed cattle farmers, Socio-economic characteristics

Introduction: Umblachery cattle, a draught breed producing substantial quantity of milk to cater the household need of milk, prevalent in Cauvery delta districts of Tamil Nadu, is contributing to the rural livelihood (Sivashelvam and Karthickeyan 2011). Umblachery cattle with short and swift body perform agricultural operations well even in marshy areas in Cauvery delta districts of Tamil Nadu (Nainar et al., 2000 and Kannadhasan et al., 2015). The close association between draught animals and agricultural activities envisages the importance of studying the socio-economic characteristics of Umblachery cattle farmers. Considering this, the study was carried out with financial support of Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University – Corpus Fund.

Methodology: In Cauvery delta region of Tamil Nadu, Nagapattinam and Thiruvarur districts were purposively selected for the study considering the highest population as per 18th Livestock census. Thirty Umblachery cattle farmers each from the selected six villages, which were selected drawing three villages each from the selected two districts, were selected using simple random sampling technique to arrive a total sample size of 360. The

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