2.14 A SURVEY OF ETHNOVETERINARY PRACTITIONERS IN PUDUKKOTTAI DISTRICT

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Traditional herbal medicines are predominantly practiced by the people of Pudukkottai district, Tamilnadu state. Traditional local healers play an important role in the management of livestock health problems in this district. A survey was conducted to identify and assesses the activities of ethnoveterinary practices in Pudukkottai district. One forty two (121 male and 21 female) traditional local healers pertaining to animal health care were identified by interacting with veterinary doctors, livestock inspectors and panchayat presidents in the Pudukkottai district. Through structured questionnaire, the identified local healers were interviewed about the activities in the ethnoveterinary medicine practices. Three, 11,21,43,37,18 and 9 local healers were involved in the traditional medicines practices in their age group of 20-30 years, 31-40 years, 41-50 years, 51-60 years, 61-70 years, 71-80 years and 81-90 years respectively. No local healers were ready to document their herbal formulae. Among the 142 healers, 22 local healers were sharing the herbal formulae with their family members. They were utilizing the locally available medicinal plants and purchased raw materials for their preparations. Paste, decoction, juice and oil preparation were the widely used forms of herbal preparations. Twelve traditional local healers were uneducated and 9 were government employees and 121 were able to read and write. One hundred and twenty nine local healers learnt from their ancestors and 13 healers were practicing by collecting information from the books.