

Identification of constraints for livestock production: use of participatory rural appraisal tools

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An investigation has been carried out to identify the constraints for livestock production for a water deficit village of *Tammannawa* in Hambantota district. Even though enough lands and labour are available in the area, main crop paddy and most of the vegetable crops also cannot cultivate successfully in the area due to water in the tank is insufficient to maintain such crops. Therefore, introducing of new livestock production programme can be successful for the area, but need to identify the constraints prevailed.

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools were employed to identify the constraints, during Jan- Feb, 2003 period and the exercises were launched with a group of twenty farmers. These farmers represented the farming community of the village as many prior visits were made to pre-condition the study location.

PRA tool, pair wise ranking was employed to rank the constraints. The priority orders of constraints for livestock production were revealed. The farmer group was actively involved in the participatory method, and further, constraints were identified by the group. Later, they assigned weight for each constraint. This process led to rank the constraints according to the steps explained in the methodology of PRA tool used. The results illustrated that the ranking order is shortage of water, no enough capital to build suitable cattle shades for locally improved breeds, lack of grasslands, animals are baited by fixing illegal traps, lack of credit facilities from government or non-government institutes, lack of veterinary facilities and cooperation of relevant officers, animals are stolen by thieves, no proper method to obtain improved cattle and goats, high production cost of poultry farming for small-scale producers, and no proper prices for milk and cattle, respectively. Hence, it is important to concentrate on these constraints in planning and implementation of agricultural programme for livestock production.

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