



**Full Length Research Article**

**FARMERS' PERCEPTION TOWARDS LIVESTOCK SERVICE DELIVERY OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN BIHAR, INDIA**

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**ABSTRACT**

The present study was undertaken in Bihar state of India to know the perception of livestock farmers towards the role of two non-governmental organizations viz. BAIF and J.K. Trust in delivery of livestock services. Data were collected through pre-tested semi-structured interview schedule from 120 randomly selected livestock farmers. The study revealed that majority of the farmers were middle aged, literate, having medium sized family and possessing marginal land holding with agriculture as primary and animal husbandry as subsidiary occupation. Majority were having medium herd strength with 10 years of farming experience, Rs. 5,001-10000 monthly income and medium level of extension contact, mass media exposure and economic motivation. The study also revealed that majority of the respondents were in agreement with the statements about NGOs like NGOs can play an important role in providing veterinary services, NGOs can play a pivotal role in transfer of technology, government should provide funds to NGOs for providing services through Public-Private-Partnership mode and NGOs should broaden their area of work and in disagreement with the statements like have well developed infrastructure, have sufficient manpower, provides access to various promotional assistance from government, not having trained personnel, not efficient in providing services, does not improve the skill in various aspects of animal husbandry and services are too costly.

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**INTRODUCTION**

In India, State Departments of Animal Husbandry are the main and primary providers of livestock services apart from other private and cooperative service providers (Ravikumar *et al.*, 2007; Jagadeeshwary, 2003 and Rajashree, 2000). But from the early 1990s, government livestock services are facing some formidable challenges in terms of operation in a continually changing policy, institutional and commercial environment under liberalization. While the demand for these services is expanding rapidly, widening fiscal deficits and the increasing proportion of departmental budget spent on salaries contributes to the deterioration in the availability and quality

of publicly provided livestock services. Added to this, the state governments are unable to meet the need of increased livestock population and diversified demand for the livestock services. In recent years the participation of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in livestock sector has increased. On their own many NGOs have started to participate in this sector. These organizations engage in developing community based animal health workers; organize livestock farmers' co-operatives and so on. They organize and mobilize the latent market demand for animal health services (Ahuja, 2004). Two leading NGOs viz. BAIF (Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation) and J.K. Trust are acting as subcontract for various animal husbandry activities in Bihar. This article describes the perceptions held by the livestock farmers towards the role of these two NGOs in delivery of livestock services.

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## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in purposively selected Saharsa and Vaishali districts of Bihar state of India as J.K. Trust and BAIF were working in the respective districts. From each district two blocks viz. Simri Bakhtiyarpur and Salkhua from Saharsa and Patepur and Bidupur from Vaishali were selected purposively. Three villages were selected at random from each block. Thus, a total of 12 villages were selected for the present study. 10 farmers having at least one livestock were selected from each of the 12 selected villages by simple random sampling technique, thus constituting a total sample size of 120. Data were collected by personal interview techniques through a pre-designed interview schedule developed for the purpose in consultation with other experts. For ascertaining the perception of farmers towards the role of NGOs in delivery of livestock services, a schedule of 12 statements were developed after consultation with experts and reviewing relevant literature.

A dichotomous response pattern of agree and disagree was adopted to know the farmers' responses for different statements. Following tabulation and necessary sorting, statistical analysis viz. frequency and percentage were used to draw the inferences.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Socio-economic profile of the livestock farmers

It was observed from Table 1 that about 52.5 per cent of the livestock farmers were found belonging to middle age group followed by old (44.2%) and young age groups (3.3%). Regarding education, 19.3 per cent of the farmers were illiterates and remaining 80.7 per cent varied in their educational status from 'Primary' to 'Graduate levels'. As regards to family size, the study showed that 52.5 per cent of the respondents were having medium sized families followed by large (24.2%) and small families (23.3%).

**Table 1. Socio-economic profile of the livestock farmers**

Variables	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Age	Young (up to 30 yrs.)	4	3.3
	Middle (31 to 50 yrs.)	63	52.5
	Old ( 51 yrs. and above)	53	44.2
Education	Illiterate	23	19.3
	Can read	1	0.8
	Can read & write	25	20.8
	Primary School	12	10.0
	Middle School	24	20.0
	High School	19	15.8
	Intermediate	12	10.0
	Graduate and above	4	3.3
Family size	Small (up to 5 member)	28	23.3
	Middle (6 to 9 members)	63	52.5
	Large (above 9 members)	29	24.2
Primary Occupation	Labour	17	14.2
	Caste Occupation	5	4.2
	Business	1	0.8
	Animal Husbandry	3	2.5
	Cultivation/Agriculture	93	77.5
	Service	1	0.8
Subsidiary Occupation	Labour	0	0.0
	Caste Occupation	0	0.0
	Business	3	2.5
	Animal Husbandry	117	97.5
	Cultivation/Agriculture	0	0.0
	Service	0	0.0
Land Holding	Landless (No land)	20	16.7
	Marginal(up to 2.5 acres)	71	59.2
	Small(2.51 to 5.00 acres)	22	18.3
	Medium (5.01 to 10.00 acres)	6	5.0
	Large (above 10 acres)	1	0.8
Farming Experience	1-5 years	10	8.3
	6-10 years	24	20.0
	Above 10 years	86	71.7
Income Per Month	Rs.1,000-5,000	52	43.3
	Rs.5,001- 10,000	58	48.3
	Rs.10,001-15,000	7	5.9
	Rs.15,001- 20,000	1	0.8
	Above Rs.20,000	2	1.7
Herd Size	Dairy animals		
	Small (Below 4)	19	15.8
	Medium (4 to 8)	89	74.2
	Large (Above 8)	12	10.0
	Small animals		
	Small (Up to 2)	34	28.4
	Medium (3 to 9)	76	63.3
Large (Above 9)	10	8.3	
Extension Agency Contact	Low (Below 4)	8	6.7
	Medium (Between 4 – 6)	109	90.8
	High (Above 6)	3	2.5
Mass Media Exposure	Low (Below 4)	18	15.0
	Medium ( 4 to 8)	89	74.2
	High (Above 8)	13	10.8
Economic Motivation	Low (Below 20)	4	3.3
	Medium (20 to 24)	99	82.5
	High (Above 24)	17	14.2

Table 2. Farmers' perception towards the role of NGOs in delivery of livestock services

Statements	Agree		Disagree	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
NGOs can play an important role in providing veterinary services	120	100.0	0	0.0
NGOs can play a pivotal role in transfer of technology	120	100.0	0	0.0
Reduces dependence on quacks	60	50.0	60	50.0
Have well developed infrastructure	49	40.8	71	59.2
Have sufficient manpower	48	40.0	72	60.0
Provides access to various promotional assistance from government	0	0.0	120	100.0
Not having trained personnel	0	0.0	120	100.0
Not efficient in providing services	0	0.0	120	100.0
Does not improve the skill in various aspects of animal husbandry	7	5.8	113	94.2
Services are too costly	18	15.0	102	85.0
Government should provide funds to NGOs for providing services through Public-Private-Partnership mode	120	100.0	0	0.0
NGOs should broaden their area of work	120	100.0	0	0.0

As far as occupation of the farmers was concerned, cultivation/ agriculture was found to be the primary occupation of majority of the farmers (77.5%) whereas animal husbandry was the subsidiary occupation of most of the farmers (97.5%). It was revealed that large chunk of the farmers (59.2%) were marginal farmers having land holding upto 2.5 acres, followed by small farmers (18.3%) having 2.51 to 5.00 acres land and about 16.7 per cent were landless farmers. About 71.7 per cent farmers had above 10 years of farming experience followed by 6-10 years (20.0%) and 1-5 years (8.3%). The study pointed out that 48.3 per cent of the respondents were having income between Rs. 5,001-10000 per month followed by between Rs. 1,000-5,000 per month (43.3%).

As far as herd size was concerned, the findings revealed that 74.2 per cent of the farmers were having medium herd strength ranging from 4 to 8 dairy animals followed by small (15.8%) and large (10.0%) herd strength with below 4 and above 8 animals respectively. In respect of small animals, the findings revealed that 63.3 per cent farmers were having medium herd strength ranging from 3 to 9 small animals followed by small (28.4%) and large (8.3%) herd strength with upto 2 and above 9 animals respectively. Regarding extension contact, it was revealed that majority (90.8%) of the farmers had medium level of contact with livestock extension agents while remaining 6.7 per cent and 2.5 per cent of the farmers had low and high level of extension agency contact respectively. The findings revealed that large chunk of the farmers (74.2%) had medium level of mass media exposure followed by low (15.0%) and high (10.8%). The report also revealed that majority (82.5%) of the farmers belong to medium level of economic motivation followed by 14.2 per cent in high and 3.3 per cent in low level of economic motivation category.

#### Farmers' perception towards the role of NGOs in delivery of livestock services

Table 2 showed that almost all the farmers had positive opinion towards the statements like 'NGOs can play an important role in providing veterinary services', 'NGOs can play a pivotal role in transfer of technology', 'Government

should provide funds to NGOs for providing services through Public-Private-Partnership mode' and 'NGOs should broaden their area of work'. Equal per cent of farmers (50%) agreed and disagreed with the statement 'Reduces dependence on quacks'. About 59.2 per cent farmers had negative opinion towards the statement 'Have well developed infrastructure' while 60.0 per cent disagree with the statement 'Have sufficient manpower'. Almost all the farmers had negative opinion towards the statements like 'Provides access to various promotional assistance from government', 'Not having trained personnel' and 'Not efficient in providing services'. About 94.2 per cent and 85.0 per cent disagree with the statements 'Does not improve the skill in various aspects of animal husbandry' and 'Services are too costly' respectively.

#### Conclusion

Thus it can be inferred from the present study that the respondents in the study area had a positive attitude towards the livestock service delivery of both the NGOs viz. BAIF and J.K. Trust as they were very much successful in regularly supplying different livestock services to the farmers.

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