

Small scale dairy farms and direction of feed management in tropical country, Sri Lanka

Kono, H.¹, Kato, Y.¹, Gunarathna, A.¹, Karunagoda, K.² and Kubota, S.¹, ¹Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, Department of Animal and Food Hygiene, Japan, ²Socio-Economic and Planning Center, Department of Agriculture, Sri Lanka; kono@obihiro.ac.jp

Recently the demand for milk and milk product has been increasing, rapidly in Sri Lanka. But the domestic supply is not enough to meet the domestic demand. In 2009, self-sufficiency rate for milk and milk products was only 33% and large part of that comes from small scale dairy farmers in Sri Lanka. The dairy farmers in coconut producing countries use by-products of coconut milling as animal feed. It is commonly known as 'Coconut poonac', which is widely used as cattle feed supplement in Sri Lanka. A previous study suggests that there may be a positive relationship between coconut poonac feeding and milk yield; however it is known that coconuts has high fat contents and too much feeding might have bad effects on animal health. Therefore, this study identifies the coconut poonac feeding dairy farmers and analyzes the effects of coconut poonac on small scale dairy farm management. Finally, the study will draw policy implications for dairy development in Sri Lanka. The data for analysis were collected from 150 small scale dairy farmers from November 2009 to February 2010 in Kurunegala districts, North western province, Sri Lanka. The farmers were interviewed on dairy activities using structured questionnaire. Kurunegala district is famous for coconut production. We cleared two points. First, dairy farmers who have agricultural income and small land per cow tend to use coconut poonac. Second, if dairy farmers use coconut poonac with participation in dairy farm training, their milk yield and dairy income increases significantly. Strengthening dairy training programs and encouraging the participation are important for future dairy development in Sri Lanka.