

Status of Bovine Mastitis and Risk Factors Associated with Mastitis in Kilinochchi District

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Kilinochchi district is situated in the Northern part of Sri Lanka. Livestock is an important traditional economic contributor in this district. Milk production often does not satisfy the country's milk requirements. Mastitis, common disease of dairy cows, which can change the milk production and its quality negatively. The present study was conducted to study the status of bovine mastitis and risk factors associated with it in the Kilinochchi district from November 2018 to March 2019. A total of 136 lactating cows were randomly selected to identify mastitis from four veterinary ranges of Kilinochchi district and a cross-sectional study was carried out among 136 smallholder dairy farms randomly using questionnaires to collect data from Karachi, Kandawalai, Poonakari, and Pachchilaipalli. Milk samples were screened for mastitis by California Mastitis Test (CMT). Results showed that 14.7% (n=20) lactating cows were positive to CMT. The prevalence of mastitis was significantly high in Jersey cross (23%) compared to local breed (8.7%). Only 4.4% (n=6) farmers were using gloves during milking and handling of cattle. The highest prevalence (20.9%, n=14) of mastitis was observed when the cows were kept with other animals during the parturition. Prevalence of mastitis was 13.4 % (n=18) when hand milking and it was higher than the machine milking (10%). The highest prevalence of mastitis was observed in a semi-intensive farming system (20.5%) and in crop and livestock integrated farm it was 34.6% (n=47). More cases of mastitis were found during six to nine months of lactation period (50%). Only 2.9% (n=4) of farmers were practicing the post milking teat dipping while milking. Among them, 85% (n=17) of affected farms did not practice post milking teat dipping. Most of the common symptoms of mastitis reported in this study were, the swelling of the udder, warm, rough, and redness in the udder and, presence of clots, blood, and colour change in milk.

Keywords: Mastitis, Jersey cross, Lactation period