

Feeding 'balanced concentrate feed' to increase livestock productivity: An experimental study in Bihar, India

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Introduction

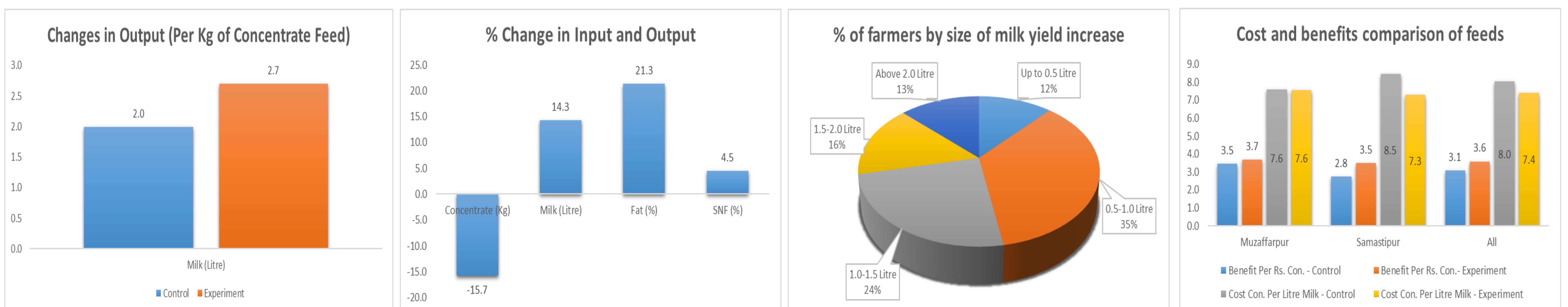
- Dairying is an integral part of small-holder farming systems and important source of income for small and marginal farmers
- Dairy productivity and per capita milk availability is very low in Bihar compared to country's average
- High cost of commercial feed, low quality, poor knowledge and weak support hinders the productivity of dairy animal's
- To improve the dairy animal's productivity, ILRI has formulated balanced concentrate feed based on locally available ingredient
- Objective of this study is to examine the impact of ILRI feed on dairy animal's productivity

Materials and methods

- The composition of new balanced concentrate feed: crushed grains (37%), cereal brans (30%), pulse husks (10%), oil cakes (20%), mineral mixture (2%) and salt (1%)
- The new balanced concentrate feed was introduced through a combination of participatory trainings on nutrition and feeding, demonstrations of feed preparation and farm-based dairy animal's feeding
- The trials has done on 400 crossbred dairy cattle kept among 400 farmers
- Data has been collected for 3 days under control and 6 days for experiment

Results

New balanced concentrate feed increases dairy animal's productivity, Fat and Snf, which enhances dairy famers income



Conclusion

- Average milk yield increased by 1.2 litre per animal/day and 0.7 litre per kg of concentrate
- Feed intake of concentrate decreased by 16 % but the output increased (14.3 % milk yield, 21.3 % Fat and 4.5% Snf)
- Cost of concentrate per litre of milk reduced by Rs. 0.60 after trials
- After using the ILRI-CSISA feed benefit increase from Rs. 3.1 to Rs. 3.6 each Rs. spent on concentrate feed
- On an average farmers' income has increased by Rs. 44 per day/animal



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