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Impact of Crossbreeding Technology on Milk Producing Efficiency of Dairy Animals in Different Agro-ecological zones of Kashmir Himalayas

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to assess the existing milk producing efficiency of indigenous and crossbred cows like Holstein Friesians and Jersey cows in terms of milk yield, age at first calving, post partum heat, lactation length, dry period, calving interval and lactation yield across different agro-ecological zones (AEZs) of Kashmir valley, as these aspects have a profound influence on the efficiency of milk production. For this study, a total of 250 dairy cows were selected randomly from five different agro-ecological zones of Kashmir valley i.e., Zone I, Zone II, Zone III, Zone IV and Zone V. Significant difference was found within the milk yield ($p<0.01$), age at first calving ($p<0.01$), post partum heat ($p<0.01$), lactation length ($p<0.01$), dry period ($p<0.01$), calving interval ($p<0.01$) and lactation yield ($p<0.01$). It was observed that productive and reproductive efficiency of crossbred species mainly Jersey and Holstein Friesian remains at the top followed by local/ Indigenous species. The study concludes that the crossbred cows are the best performers than the indigenous cows in dairy potentialities in the study area. It also reflects that due to the robust launching of livestock hybridization programme in the study area, the number of livestock is rapidly being replaced by the crossbreeding animals in order to meet the growing milk demand of the burgeoning human population.

Keywords: Agro-Ecological Zones• Crossbreeding Dry Period Efficiency • Indigenous• Lactation •

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