

# Status of cattle and buffalo farming in Banepa, Panchkal, Panauti of Kavrepalanchok district, Nepal

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## Abstract

Livestock farming is traditional farming practice among Nepali farmers as an integrated farming with agriculture. Cattle and Buffalo farming has emerged as an important source of livelihood, which plays significant role in generating gainful employment and income generation opportunities, particularly among the landless, small, marginal farmers and women of rural sector, thus ensures regular flow of money from urban to rural areas which support the food and nutrition security at household level of rural and urban areas. Random purposive sampling technique household survey was conducted among 122 livestock farmers in Panauti, Banepa and Panchkhal Municipality of Kavrepalanchok district of Nepal. The study was based on the quantitative as well as qualitative data. The results showed that family with more number of females could reap better production. Cattle and buffalo farming's efficiency was found to be high among the farmers where care and management of animals was performed mostly by females however, 98% of females were involved in tedious task on livestock production. Improved housing system, higher the years of experience, roughages with added legumes, concentrate with added oilcakes, timely and proper medicinal services had positive impact in increasing production efficiency. Labour cost (52.37%) was the major cost component in total variable cost followed by feed cost (22.44 %).The study found that total cost of production, annual income, net return, gross return was more in buffalo farming than mixed farming of cattle and buffalo. B/C ratio of buffalo farming (1.36) was higher than mixed farming of cattle and buffalo (1.27), and cattle farming (1.25). Besides being preferred occupation by farmers, cattle and buffalo farming suffers from a lot of problems; high production cost, insecure market, shortage of feeds and fodder, high incidence of diseases, lack of skilled manpower and quality technical services. Farmers with women visibility need to be motivated to start the professional livestock farming of focusing on the increase in income.

**Key-words:** Buffaloes; Cattle; Cost; Dairy Farming; Nepal

## Introduction

Cattle and buffalo population is increasing. Similarly, growth rate of milk was accelerated from 1.72% to 3.09% per annum and out of total milk production, 70% comes from buffaloes and 30% from cattle. Whereas, the deficit milk is imported mostly from India in Nepal (MoAD, 2017). Cattle and buffalo farming has emerged as an important source of generating gainful employment in rural sector, particularly among the landless, small and marginal farmers which form an important livelihood activity who are supporting agriculture in the form of business. Cattle and buffalo farmers are struggling with lower milk production per cattle and buffalo in Nepal (Kam, 2017). This research was therefore performed with the aim to identify and address problems, assess the production status, know the factors affecting production efficiency and economic analysis with the profitability of the production process of cattle and buffalo farming.

## Materials and methods

Kavrepalanchok district, with Dhulikhel as its district headquarters, covers an area of 1,396 km<sup>2</sup> and has a population of 381,937. Kavrepalanchok consists of lower tropical climate zone in 0.1% of area which is below 300 meters, upper tropical climate zone in 23.6% of area which is 300 to 1000 meters, Sub tropical climate zone in 65.3% of area which is 1000 to 2000 meters and temperate climate zone in 9.6% of area which is 2000 meters to 3000 meters. Likewise, its geo-coordinates are 27° 37' 12" N, 85° 33' 0" E. Kavrepalanchok district had 71,598 and 66,252 total numbers of cattle and buffalo population. Similarly, annual growth rate of cattle and buffalo population were 1.03 percent and 6.98 percent. Also, annual growth rate of milk production was 25.64 percent. The annual growth rate of cow and buffalo milk production in Kavre were 9.71 percent and 29.52 percent. 4.58 percent of total milk is produced from Kavre district in Nepal (MoAD, 2017). The research site was Kavre district in 2019 because it has become the first district to become self-sufficient in dairy produce (Guragain, 2016).

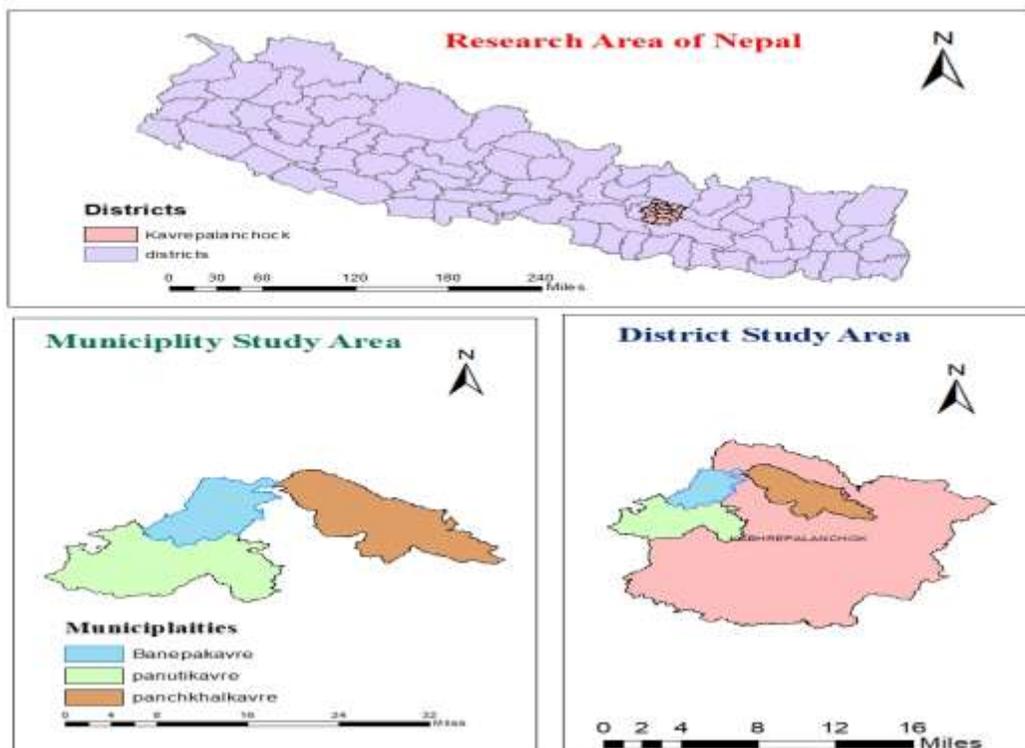


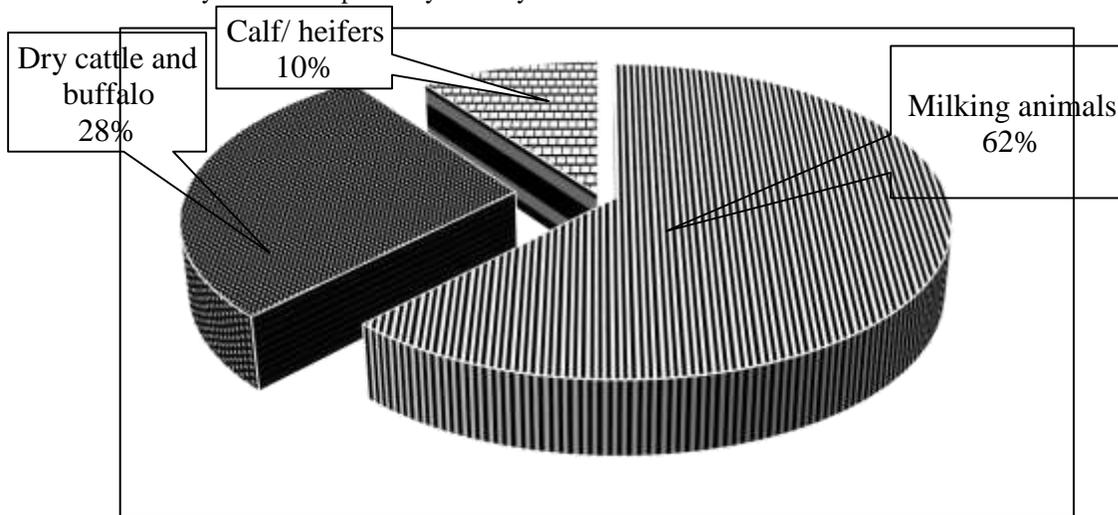
Fig 1. Geopolitical map of Kavrepalanchok of Nepal

Pilot study was conducted to gather the preliminary information. Questionnaire was prepared which consisted of sociodemographic characteristics, institutional access of farmers and farming practices, diseases or

disorders, constraints and production of cattle and buffalo. The random sample were selected among the farmers who were rearing cattle and buffalo. The primary and secondary data was collected and it was coded first, tabulated, and entered. Microsoft excel spread sheet, Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS), and STATA were used for analysis of data. From that sample frame, 42 farmers were from Panchkhal, 40 farmers were from Banepa, 40 farmers were from Panauti. A total of 122 samples of cattle and buffaloes farmers were selected from Kavre district. Socio demographic characteristics, institutional aspects, farm practices, production of cattle and buffalo were analyzed descriptively. A multiple regression analysis was performed by taking variables like milk yield per lactation and lactation length as dependent variables whereas, independent variables were different socio-demographic characteristics, farming practices. A Stochastic frontier analysis was performed by taking variables like number of male and female population in household, level of experience and education, quantity of feed stuffs, impacts of training and programs and livestock Unit showing its effects in milk production per lactation. Farmer perception to different diseases, disorders and constraints were analyzed and ranked on the basis of responses frequencies. Economic analysis was access along with the profitability of the production process.

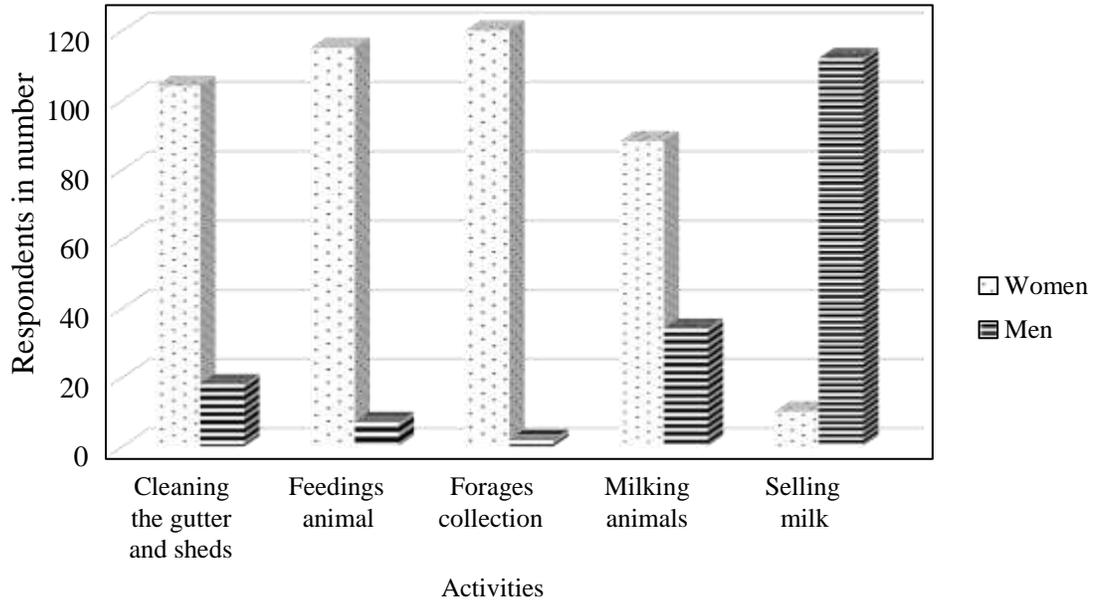
## Results and discussion

Majority were smallholder farmers with some medium sized and few large scale producers with mean dairy herd size of 4.7. Figure 1 shows that, herd size of dairy livestock comprised 62 % milking animal, 28 % Calf / Heifers and 10 % dry animals respectively in study sites.



**Fig 2.** Herd composition of dairy livestock per household

Commercial oriented framers mostly followed conventional housing system while small scale farmers raised in intensive system where small scale farmers mostly practice mixed traditional farming system and tie-stall feeding system with complete integration of crops, livestock and forest resources. In concentrate, maize was the main feed ingredient followed by rice bran, wheat bran, soybean meals, mustard cake, sunflower cake and other legumes by-products. Vitamins and minerals were provided when the cattle and buffaloes were weak and during milking stage. AI breeding method was highly used then natural breeding method in study areas. Figure 2 reveals that, womens were supposed to work in most of the difficult tasks like forage collection and carriage, cleaning the gutter/sheds and feeding animals whereas mens were involved relatively in easier and attractive tasks of such as milking animals and selling of milk in study sites. Poudel et al. (2009) reported that, 70-90% of livestock –related works such as forage collection, cleaning the gutters and sheds, and feeding animals performed by women; whereas milking animals is mainly performed by both women and men, and the selling of milk to generate cash income is considered to be the men’s domain and higher women’s involvement in livestock management as compared to men’s; mostly involved in difficult tasks such as forage collection and grass cutting (Karki, 2014).



**Fig 2.** Different activities performed by different gender for cattle and buffalo farming

As from table 1, cattle had an average milk yield per lactation of 1800 lt with an average lactation period of 300 days whereas, buffalo had an average milk yield per lactation of 1300 lt with an average lactation period of 320 days in study sites. Farmers are struggling with lower milk production per cattle and buffalo (Kam, 2017).

**Table 1.** Milk production and lactation length of cattle and buffalo

Livestock	Milk production (litres / Lactation)	Lactation length (days)
Cattle	1800	300
Buffalo	1300	320

Table 2 shows that that there is significant effect of roughages, concentrates, minerals, vitamins and feed additives, improved housing system, cultivation of fooder crops, vaccination and deworming on milk yield per lactation and lactation length in study sites. Scarce and poorquality food resources limit smallholder dairy production (Muinga *et al.*, 1992). Increasing the total amount of concentrate offered which resulted in increased milk production (Jha, 2002). The effect of mineral supplementation containing per lactation period mixed with Khole on milk yield in buffaloes was found to be significant (Shrestha, 1992). Quality of dairy cows was greatly influenced by the housing system, and that the loose system was more advantageous when it comes to the feeding, housing and behaviour of the dairy cow. Vaccination was vital in promoting both animal health and animal welfare (Morton, 2007). Anti-parasitic treatment in cattle had positive effects on milk yield (Thapa *et al.*, 2019).

**Table 2.** Effect of different variables on milk production and lactation length

Variables	Milk production (lt/day)		Lactation length	
	B	Sig	B	Sig
Roughages ( kg/day/milch animal )	.096	.002	4.250	.000
Concentrates ( kg/day/milch animal )	.011	.004	2.724	.003
Minerals, vitamins	.238	.000	3.194	.004
Housing system	.032	.008	1.420	.000
Cultivation of fodder crops	.018	.000	2.590	.001
Vaccination and deworming programmes	.037	.000	2.380	.000
R <sup>2</sup> Value	0.675		0.81	

B “+” shows positive relation and P > 0.05 gives significant effect.

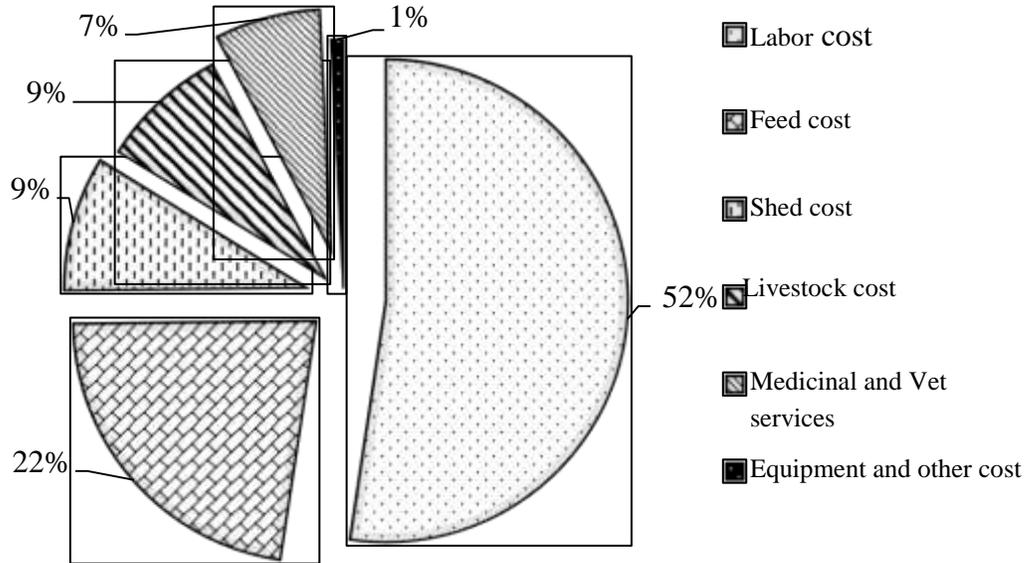
Table 3 findings showed higher the number of male members in family has non-significant effect on production efficiency while higher the number of female members in family higher is the production efficiency. Women’s economic activity is still low in non-agriculture sectors. Naturally, women engaged in self-employment activities or unpaid family labour is very high. Participation in training has non-significant effect in production efficiency. This might be because trainings are not provided as per need of the farmers. Improved housing system has positive impact in increasing production efficiency. Higher the years of experience in farming more is the production efficiency. The total milk yield of the medium size herd was significantly greater than the herd size for small and large size herd (Abdelgawad, 2017).

**Table 3.** Production efficiency on milk production per lactation

Variables	Cattle ( lt/lactation)		Buffalo(lt/lactation)	
	Coefficient	Std. Error	Coefficient	Std. Error
Schooling year of household head	0.002	0.003	0.473	0.204
Number of Males (15-60 yrs)	-0.023	0.005	-0.083	0.086
Number of Female (15-60 yrs)	0.066***	0.004	0.193***	0.124
Housing system	0.054**	0.011	1.395**	0.052
Farming experience	0.009**	0.001	0.040**	0.019
Concentrates ( kg/day/milch animal )	0.029**	0.011	0.377**	0.166
Roughages ( kg/day/milch animal )	0.023**	0.038	0.052**	0.010
Minerals and Vitamins	0.009**	0.045	0.028**	0.125
Participation in Training programs	0.000**	0.000	0.053**	0.023
LSU	0.026***	0.004	0.141**	0.067
LSU sq	-0.001***	0.000	-0.010***	0.002
LSU Constant	7.264***	0.048	13.525***	3.166
Mu who does care and management (gender)	-17.596**	4.870	-3.610**	1.57
Sigma U	0.063**	3.205	0.446**	0.101
Sigma V	0.001	1.280	0.000	0.000

\*\*\*- significant at 1%, \*\* - significant at 5%, \*- significant at 10 % level of significance

Figure 5 shows that the highest cost of production was seen from annual labour cost (52.37%) which was followed by annual feed cost (22.44%), depreciated shed cost (8.98%), depreciated livestock cost (8.48%), annual medicinal - vet services cost (6.98%) and annual other cost (water, electricity, communication charges, equipments etc.) (0.75 %) respectively in study sites. Labor cost was included by calculating spent hours while collecting fodders. Table 4 shows that total cost of production, annual income, net return, gross return was more in buffalo farming than mixed farming of cattle and buffalo, cattle farming. B/C ratio of buffalo (1.36) was high than mixed farming of cattle and buffalo (1.27), cattle (1.25) farming in a farm of respondent farmers.



**Figure 3.** Annual production cost percentages

Total cost of production, annual income, net return and gross return was more in buffaloes than cow (Kumawat & Singh, 2014; Sharma & Singh, 2020). Buffalo is multi-purpose livestock. So, Benefit- cost ratio of buffalo is higher than cow in small holder farmers (Timilsina, 2010).

**Table 4.** Annual income, Net return, Gross return and B/C ratio per household

Livestock	Total cost of production (NRs/household)	Annual income (NRs/household)	Net return (NRs/household)	Gross return (NRs/household)	B/c ratio
Cattle	207500	260000	52500	78500	1.25
Buffalo	217900	297000	79100	115100	1.36
Mixed	212700	270129	57429	88429	1.27

Table 4 reveals that there is high significant effect of economic active females, whereas, significant effect of vaccination and deworming programs, livestock unit. Also, there was positive impacts of cultivation of crops, roughages, concentrates, minerals and vitamins but negative impact of economic active males on B/C ratio in study sites.

**Table 5.** Effect of different variables on B/C ratio in a farm of respondents

Variables	Coefficient	Std. Error
Number of Males (15-60 yrs)/household	-0.034	.048
Number of Females (15-60 yrs)/household	0.071***	.053
Housing system	0.129	.140
Cultivation of crops	0.115	.100
Vaccination and deworming programs	0.164**	.081
Concentrates ( kg/day/milch animal )	0.003	.018
Roughages ( kg/day/milch animal )	0.015	.057
Minerals and Vitamins	0.016	.019
LSU	0.014**	.015
R <sup>2</sup> Value	0.61	

\*\*\*- significant at 1%, \*\* - significant at 5%, \*- significant at 10 % level of significance

## Conclusion and recommendation

There were few farmers who had done the farming professionally to increase the earning, otherwise, farmers were doing farming only for their own needs. Farmers felt no any significant changes and improvement in their economic status due to long years of involvement in dairy farming. Major health problems was mastitis followed by stomach disorder, intestine discomfort, diarrhea, loss of appetite, weakness, low immunity and itching whereas, major constraints was lower price of product followed by lack of credit, lack of forages cultivation, unavailability of input in time, poor availability of improved breed and traditional farming techniques in study sites. The identified problems can be improved by providing quality feed and fodder throughout the year, sound health and management practices and selecting appropriate cattle/buffalo breeds for particular regions. The profit margin must be increased, by decreasing the cost of production. The institutional efforts should aim to promote and nurture the grassroots level participatory as per their need. Also, it should encourage and promote adoption of appropriate technologies, enhance productivity, increase effectiveness of small holders, particularly women.

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