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Assessment of Veterinary Needs in Municipalities of the Third District of Cagayan: A Benchmark Survey for Extension

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Abstract The study was generally conducted to generate information in extension services particular in Veterinary Medicine practices at the seven municipalities of District III of Cagayan. Specifically, the research aimed to determine the current animal health care practices and the needed assistance received by the families in the municipalities of the third district of Cagayan. The benchmark survey utilized formulated questionnaires randomly distributed to 384, 378, 373, 383, 391, 388 and 395 (95% CI) household respondents from different barangays of Amulung, Enrile, Iguig, Penablanca, Solana, Tuao and Tuguegarao respectively. The household respondents served as the representative samples for the study and the source of the first-hand information for the bench mark survey. All data gathered were collated and analyzed descriptively. Results revealed that 62% of the respondents were aware of the health status of their animals. Seventy one percent (71%) could clearly recognize ill animals yet preferred to resort on other medication and herbal plants (54%) and do self- prescription (28%) rather than go to a veterinarian for advice and consultation. Fifty four (54%) attested that there are regular programs implemented in their community with vaccination (52%) and deworming (39%) as the primary services encountered. Fifty four percent (54%) claimed to have witnessed seminars conducted by other agencies with rabies (57%) as the main issue. Sixty three percent (63%) of the attendees asserted that services had regularly been followed-up by the implementers. Vaccination (37%) still remains to be the main concern and assistance needed by the respondents. As a result of the study, household respondents are very much dependent with the observed repeated activities implemented by some agencies yet remain to be uncertain with their responses and demands. Conclusively, it is apparent that lapses occur in the dissemination of information's that are made critical to the understanding of the community. Strong participation of veterinarians and technical experts should therefore be better emphasized in the program of activities in the community development and a continuing basis to keep tract of unknown barriers that may have caused the failures in implementation.

Keywords: benchmark, survey, veterinary, needs, extension

Introduction

The multi- facetted and continuing interrelated activities in animal care and management are inevitable in a certain animal production and are

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coterminous with the disciplines in Veterinary Medicine. Hence, the interlinking activities in different areas may impress better results and solid impact in community development, uplift the living conditions of the families, generate livelihood by raising healthy animals, diverts indolence by activating idleness in the course of enforcing job requirements on activities necessary in animal raising, augment financial resources for the family, sustain a ready supply of healthy food to sustain nourishment and others that are relevant to improving the family's socio economic condition to curb and resolve the pressing crisis attributed to unemployment and calamities that are beyond human raise control.

The "bench mark" survey concept radiates varieties of researches in specific area not only in the field of Veterinary Medicine and its related disciplines but possibly in other fields of interest that are unexplored of different magnitude and depth that are appropriate, relevant and categorized to specific degree in approach to a solution to reduce or curb poverty and elevate better survival in the midst of heightened crisis.

The bench mark survey concentrated in the third district of Cagayan, will expose the probable problems that greatly affect the living conditions and the true picture of the populace needing immediate attention and exacting indicators to trace the root cause of the gray areas for solutions. The information in the survey will be the guiding instrument to synchronize categorical accuracy in identifying the conduct of other appropriate research or extension activities conducted in a continuing cycle until the task for the development is fully achieved.

Materials and methods

The area chosen as the subject for the bench mark survey were the seven municipalities of the Third District of Cagayan namely; Amulung, Enrile, Tuao, Iguig, Penablanca, Tuguegarao and Solana.

A formal communication was delivered to the Provincial Veterinary Office, Municipal Officials and Barangay officials to provide further appropriate information on why the areas were chosen as the seat of the research areas.

Using the Slovins formula (95% CI) 384, 378, 373, 383, 391, 388 and 395 of the original household population (National Statistics Office Census of Population and Housing, 2010) of 9,694, 6764, 5553, 9,249, 16606, 13,004 and 26,649 of Amulung, Enrile, Iguig, Penablanca, Solana, Tuao and Tuguegarao respectively served as the representative samples for the study. Samples were randomly selected as respondents for the different barangays of the said municipalities. A formulated structured questionnaire were distributed to the

selected household/ family per municipality and served as the source of the first-hand information for the bench mark survey.

The instrument that was used in the study is a formulated questionnaire with information on the socio-economic status of a family, sources of income, number of siblings in the family, educational attainment, animals raised (livestock and companion animals), the manner of care and management practices, assistance received and assistance needed by the respondents.

All data gathered were collated and analyzed descriptively.

Results and discussion

This initial survey was conducted to serve as benchmark information as guide for the conduct of extension services in the municipalities of the third district of Cagayan.

Socio-demographic profile of the household respondents

A total of 384, 378, 388, 373, 383, 395 and 391 household respondents from the municipalities of Amulung, Enrile, Tuao, Iguig, Penablanca, Tuguegarao and Solana respectively were recipients of the formulated questionnaire for the benchmark survey. Results revealed that males are the predominating respondents of Amulung (50%), Enrile (55%), Tuao (73.2%), Iguig (71%), Penablanca (59%), Tuguegarao (57%) and Solana (69%).Majority are married, at 75%, 76%, 65%, 62%, 67% and 70% in municipalities of Amulung, Enrile, Tuao, Iguig, Penablanca, Tuguegarao and Solana, respectively. A greater number of respondents from municipalities of Amulung (40%), Enrile (37%), Iguig (35%), Tuguegarao (30%) and Solana (34.5%) are secondary school graduates whereas; areas of Tuao (42%) and Penablanca (29%) are elementary graduates.

Five were the most observed number of children recorded for the married respondents in Amulung (36%), Iguig (23%), Tuguegarao (30%) and Solana (35%) and four (4) numbers of children in municipalities of Enrile (23%), Tuao (38%) and Penablanca (20%). Majority of the number of household respondents in Amulung (28%), Iguig (28%) and Solana (26%) comprises of 9 family members, Enrile (22%) and Tuguegarao (23%) of 8 family members and Tuao (22%) and Penablanca (20%) of 7 family members.

As reflected from the result, majority of the household respondents in Amulung (63%), Enrile (67%), Tuao (45%), Penablanca (49%), Tuguegarao (34%) and Solana (43%) are engaged in farming. Few respondents belong to the group of varied occupations to include housewives, teachers, housekeepers/maids/helpers, engineers, drivers, barangay officials, health

workers, cloth washers, vendors, police, security guards, OFW's, Store and vulcanizing shop owners/house rentals, business man, beautician, carpenter, maintenance personnel/utility/laborer, accounting, "kutsero", gardener, criminologist, computer technicians, saleslady, welder, pet soldier, electricians, merchandizers, retired employees/pensioners/senior citizens, supervisors/ head, cook, clerk, construction workers, seaman, nanny and self- employed.

For the income generated by the respondents, majority of the municipalities of Amulung (40%), Enrile (35%), Iguig (23%) and Penablanca (23%) are 4,000 peso earners while municipality of Tuao (39.7%), Tuguegarao (44%) and Solana (31.2%) are below 4,000 peso earners. Although majority of the household respondents are 4,000 and below 4,000 peso earners, their family needs were still be augmented by other possible sources to include selling of goods in municipality of Amulung (39%) and Tuguegarao (37%) and farming in municipalities of Enrile (59%), Iguig (79.4%), Tuao (47%), Penablanca (69%) and Solana (42%). To a lesser extent, few respondents were engaged on a combination of farming, selling goods, washing clothes, driving, fishing and other sorts of agricultural activities.

The overall socio demographic profiles of the respondents for the whole district however, revealed that majority of the respondents are married (67%) and male (55%). Majority also attained the secondary level of schooling (33%) and elementary (28%). On the average, with four number of children (24%) constituting 9 (13%) number of family members. Majority are engaged in farming (51%) with income below 4,000 (31%). Farming (44%) and selling goods (32%) however, serves a supplemental measure to augment their family needs.

Respondents Current Animal Health Care Practices

Results revealed that 278/384, 202/378, 273/388, 133/373, 140/383, 166/395 and 207/391 of Amulung, Enrile, Tuao, Iguig, Penablanca, Tuguegarao and Solana respectively are livestock raisers. Majority of the livestock being raised in Amulung (26%), Enrile (27%) and Tuao (24%) are chicken. While results in the municipality of Solana provided a higher number of cattle (16.9%) and carabao (15%) raisers. The municipality of Iguig (29%) and Penablanca (25%) on the other hand, are much engaged in goat raising (29%). In addition, swine raising is found to be common in the municipality of Tuguegarao (26%) followed by goat (20%), cattle (19%) and Carabao (11%). Few of the respondents however are engaged in duck, geese, horse, turkey, pigeon or a combination of any of these animals. Some respondents also were engaged in raising exotic pets to include monkey, rabbit, fish, turtle and guinea pig.

Accordingly, the said animals were purposely raised for income generation in the municipalities of Amulung (37%), Enrile (30%), Penablanca (25%) and Tuguegarao (30%) while municipalities of Tuao (24.5%), Iguig (35%) and Solana (42%) prefer to raise the animals for food. Few of the respondents claim to raise the animals for draft purposes such as plowing or in any means of support and assistance to the farm. Some also used the animals for meat and milk and force multiplier purposes. While others used it to sustain their family needs, used as a support for education in the form of tuition fees for their children and for paying debts. Some also raised it for relieving stress, a company, a guard, a pet and something to be taken care of. Some just raised it in preparation for occasion or festivities and may be given to those who need it.

One hundred two (102) of the respondents in Amulung, 149 in Enrile, 128 in Tuao, 87 in Iguig, 135 in Penablanca, 162 in Tuguegarao and 145 in Solana are engaged in rearing dogs. Majority of the respondents in Amulung (71%), Enrile (61%), Tuao (54.7%), Iguig (45%), Penablanca (50%), Tuguegarao (43%) and Solana (51%) are purposely involved in fostering the animals for pet. Apart from being a pet, few respondents purposely raised the animal for relieving stress and a company. Some even raised it just to make themselves busy while others used it for generating income through breeding the animal and selling the offspring. Some foster it for catching, chasing snakes, rats and other pests. Others raise it as a guard to protect and warn the household respondents for the presence of thieves and/ or unwanted people.

In general, results both on livestock and companion animal raised in the different municipalities of District 3 coincide with the whole findings in Cagayan as proven in the BAS (2010) general record of 978,019 backyard chicken and 477,981 commercial chicken, 232,412 hog, 151,787 backyard duck, 118,404 Carabao, 116, 533 commercial duck, 37,349 goat, 24,087 Cattle, 6,371 horse, 577 sheep and 113,121 dogs. Other agricultural products based from the MPDC (2006) record are rice, corn, peanut, beans, and fruits. Fishing various species of fish from the coastal towns is also undertaken. Furthermore, Pacardo et. al. (2002) stated that the growth of major livestock and poultry production in Cagayan was attained by the intervention of the LGU Municipal Agriculture Office by extending technical services to the commercial and backyard poultry and livestock raisers. It gives them a year round extra income. The farmers could produce the cheapest farm by- products such as corn stoner, hay, rice straw and rice bran, which ordinarily turn into waste.

On the account of the respondents awareness on the animal health status of their animals, results revealed that 83%, 67%, 77%, 70%, 76%, 53% and 54% of the municipalities of Amulung, Enrile, Tuao, Iguig, Penablanca, Tuguegarao and Solana respectively claimed that they are aware of the health

condition of their animals. Majority of the respondents in Amulung (71%), Enrile (87%), Iguig (59%), Penablanca (55%), Tuguegarao (67%) and Solana (70.3%) attested that these animals are healthy. On the contrary, majority of the respondents of Tuao revealed that the present condition of their animal based on their own perception is unclassified (51.9%) though, majority have claimed that they are aware of the present health status of their animals. Majority of the respondents of Amulung (24%), Penablanca (20%), Tuguegarao (33%) and Tuao (14.5%) classified their animal as healthy due its observed good coat. While respondents of Enrile (30%), Iguig (23%) and Solana (63%) based it on the alertness of their animals. Aside from good coat and alertness, few respondents based their healthy perception of the animal on good appetite, fatness, rapid growth, good body condition, activeness, and mood, capacity to carry heavy load, strength or a combination of the said observations.

Basis on the other hand for stating that their animals are ill and/or unhealthy were based on their inactiveness as claimed by 45% of Amulung and 33% of Tuguegarao respondents. While 30% of the respondents from municipality of Enrile based it on poor body condition of the animal , 60% of Tuao by inappetence , 30% of Iguig by animals remaining recumbent for a long period of time , 27% of Penablanca by signs of lethargy and 33.3% of Solana by poor coat. Other basis of the household respondents were based on foul smelling breath, thin, white fecal material accompanied by diarrhea and may defecate with whole or segments of parasite, distinct skin disease, coughing, increase blood pressure, vomiting, big abdomen or any combination of the said observed signs by the respondents.

Majority of the respondents in Amulung (73%), Enrile (74%), Tuao (78.5%) Iguig (62%), Penablanca (68%), Tuguegarao (68%) and Solana (67%) asserted that they are aware if their animals get sick or are suffering from diseases. Majority also of the said respondents of Amulung (55%), Enrile (56%), Iguig (64%), Penablanca (56%), Tuguegarao (54%) and Solana (40%) prefer to resort on any possible medication and herbal medicine and perhaps do self-prescription as a second option than go to a veterinarian upon observation of any illness, disease or unhealthy condition of their animals. Some raiser respondents revealed that upon noticing the physical disturbances of their animal the raisers resorted to do some measures. Some respondents administered self-prescribed drugs or buy drugs/ medicine from their consulted friends, other people who might have little knowledge of the drug like the animal technicians , the paravets and feed centers. Some resorted to giving drugs that are commonly heard like vetracin. Some have tried to provide remedies by force feeding the animal, giving vitamins and antibiotics of their own choice or get ideas from the media, bathing their animal with hot water

and vinegar and use of herbal plants. Some preferred to slaughter or sell the animal immediately. Regretfully, some of the respondents just neglected and ignored their diseased animal and decided not to just provide any treatment as according to them there are no other choices that could be provided than to just let it die or if possible just let it survive on its own will.

Assistance Received and Assistance Needed by the Household Respondents

On the account of trying to consult a diseased animal to a veterinarian, results revealed that 54% of the respondents from Amulung, 57% from Enrile, 51% from Iguig, 54% from Penablanca, 58% from Tuguegarao and 70.3% from Solana acknowledged to have tried referrals from Veterinarians. However, majority of the respondents (51.5%) of Tuao admitted to have not really tried any consultative measures to a Veterinarian. While it is true that majority of the six municipality respondents claimed to have consulted Veterinarians, 32% of the claimers from Amulung, 38.8% from Tuao, 52% from Iguig, 43% from Penablanca, 41% from Tuguegarao and 41.5% from Solana accepted to have rarely visited a Veterinarian. On the other hand, 52% of the very few respondents from Tuao who claimed to have consulted veterinarians accepted to have regularly visited a veterinarian.

Among the respondents reasons for having not tried any referrals from Veterinarians, results revealed that majority of the responses relied on the inavailability of veterinarians in their area as proven from the 50% of the respondents of Amulung, 48% of Enrile, 66% of Tuao, 50% of Iguig, 51% of Penablanca, 62% of Tuguegarao and 49.1% of Solana. Few other reasons aside from the said main reason are the far distances and accessibility of the areas in the city where most of the veterinarians are perhaps concentrated. Some of the respondents claimed to have not been informed of the existence and/or presence of any veterinarian in their area. Some of the respondents said that they do not know of any veterinarian and that animal technicians could readily take their place. Few even observed that some of the Veterinarians are not really expert in their fields. In case a veterinarian is available in the area, some of the respondents attested that they are difficult to locate and is nowhere to be found and if present, rarely visit their area. Majority of the activities according to the respondents were purely vaccination and veterinarians visit only every vaccination and deworming activities. Some lacks the idea if there is really a veterinarian in their barangay contradicting with the response of other respondents who claim that all barangays in their municipality have doctors and there is no need for the assistance of other veterinarians in their area. Some of the respondents claimed that there is no need for a veterinarian because their animals seldom get sick and the conditions of their animals are not so serious.

Some even claimed that the presence of a veterinarian is impractical for few numbers of animals to be consulted. Some veterinarians need not to be consulted according to some respondents because drugs and medicines could easily be consulted install owners selling agrivet supplies. Some do not refer to veterinarians on account of financial affordability and could just resort on herbal medicine available in their area and free medicines coming from private companies. Some claimed to be so busy hence; they lack time to visit a veterinarian. Others feared that veterinarians will just kill their animals. This is possibly due to the presence of impostor veterinarians who perform a sensitive diagnosis as reflected in some of the responses of the household respondents. Finally, others do not really want their animals to be treated yet, are not certain of their answers and are hesitant to accommodate questions.

Results of the study clearly require a solid participation of veterinary medicine in the community program of activities. This however, could be possible by adopting measures such as those recommended by Ellis (1995) emphasizing that operational program must involve farmers in planning and implementation. These developments integrate with new types of service, which assist farmers in managing animal health and productivity. To meet all these, much greater emphasis should be placed on continuing education for the professions involved. Extension methods must also be expanded to promote the active involvement of everyone concerned in livestock industry. Kennedy (2000), further stated that, in order to make decisions on the relative importance of the various health problems of village livestock and the best ways of controlling them; it is necessary to carry out investigations in the villages. Obviously, according to Dohoo (1993), consideration of significant changes in veterinary activity implies expansion into questions management as well as broader technical involvement. The veterinarian will continue to be the key worker in villages and farms but the generation of techniques, ideas, and policies should involve relevant expertise of other specialists.

Seventy one percent (71%) of the respondents from Amulung and 60% of Tuguegarao, 60% of Enrile, 55,3% of Tuao, 65% of Iguig, 63% of Penablanca, and 54.2% of Solana claimed to have experienced purely vaccination of dogs from Veterinarians. Other few services that the respondents experienced from veterinarians include surgery, deworming, advice and animal care, acquisition of free medicines, vitamin administration in Carabao and vaccination against anthrax.

On the account of the existence of regular program implemented for their community majority of the respondents from Amulung (66%), Enrile (65%), Tuao (61.9%), Iguig (53%), Penablanca (56%) and Solana (73.9%) claimed to have observed a regular program for their community. On the

contrary, majority (65%) of the respondents from Tuguegarao ascertained to have not experienced any existing program implemented for their municipality. Among the respondents who attested the existence of a regular program in their community, majority from municipality of Enrile (51%), Tuao, (65%), Iguig (58%), Penablanca (56%), Tuguegarao (51%) and Solana (77.5%) claimed to have observed vaccination programs. On the other hand, the municipality of Amulung observed deworming practices as the major program implemented in their community. Aside from vaccination and deworming other observed programs were concentrated on right way of giving of medicines, vitamin administration, marking of carabao, livelihood training, animal care training particular on chicken, pig and cattle, AI in carabao, anti-rabies vaccination, castration, a combination of yearly vaccination, branding and marking, a combination of branding and castration and parturition assistance of pig and carabao. Some of the respondents however, observed that most of the said programmed activities are not followed up and regularly done. Results however, is not consistent with the statement of Dohoo (1993) claiming that comprehensive disease management that focused on prophylactic and preventive approach have been completely implemented in the localities of the country and the local chief executives provides most of the funds allocated primarily for the purchase of vaccines, dewormers, antibiotics and other drugs required for animal health maintenance.

Seventy percent (70%) also of the respondents from Amulung, 52% from Enrile, 59% from Tuao, 51% from Iguig, 65% from Penablanca and 50.1% from Solana admitted to have observed and experienced seminars conducted by other agencies far from the respondents response in Tuguegarao where majority (66%) claimed to have not really experienced seminars/ trainings from the supposedly agency implementers. Among the respondents who have observed seminars/ trainings conducted by other agencies, 45% from municipality of Amulung, 69% of Enrile, 60.3% of Tuao, 55% of Iguig, 63% of Penablanca, 52% of Tuguegarao and 55.6% of Solana claimed to have witnessed seminars mostly on rabies topic. Other few respondents experienced seminars on hog cholera, hemorrhagic septicemia, flu, dysentery, FMD, animal care particularly on chicken and pig, vaccination and deworming, proper management, support, care and respect of animals, anthrax, feeding, management of pigs, artificial insemination and topics on rabies at all times according to one respondent.

From the above information disseminated by other agencies, 80% of the respondents from Amulung, 70% from Enrile, 58.5% from Tuao, 65% from Iguig, 59% from Penablanca and 54.6% from Solana have observed the actual operation and implementation of the topics and/or programs. Some respondents

however claim that there are programs implemented in their community but was not regularly being followed-up.

Finally, on the account of the services or assistance needed by the respondents, majority still requested for vaccination as revealed by the 42%, 27%, 47.2%, 39%, 33%, 46%, 34% respondents from Amulung, Enrile, Tuao, Iguig, Penablanca, Tuguegarao and Solana respectively. Other services needed by few of the respondents include treatment, discovery of disease, surgery, animal care and disease diagnosis. Others requested for free seminars and training with emphasis on domesticating and training dogs, pet animals, appropriate drug administration while others were still uncertain of the topics on seminar or trainings requested. A regular follow-up and implementation of the seminars or trainings conducted was also requested by the respondents. Program of activities according to the respondents should be properly coordinated and a hundred percent information dissemination should be provided to the people. Good service is generally expected to the implementors. The need of a permanent veterinarian to regularly visit and provide immediate services or possibly home services in emergency cases is anticipated by the respondent, this is true for those who have sick, heavy and hard to handle/manage animal. Such is also true for animals undergoing parturition like requested by some of the respondents. Attendance to meetings with the barangay officials regarding animal health care and management along with free consultative activities with the veterinarians was also emphasized by the respondents. Few other respondents requested the government to look for people below poverty line and provide agricultural support particular on animal dispersal and also for the government to provide free services to those who could not afford it to include free medicine, dewormer, vitamins in pigs, antibiotics for cattle free dewormer, vaccines for carabao, pig, dogs and cats. Furthermore, some respondents emphasized that the said medicines should not only be given during outbreak period. Free food for their animals along with caponization, AI in carabao, hog cholera treatment and other activities that are vital to improvement of the health and number of animals in their area was also requested.

Regardless of the municipality, majority of the household respondents in district 3 are chicken (18%), goat (17%), cattle (16%) and carabao (15%) raisers. Majority also of the respondents are engaged in rearing and fostering dogs (66%). Livestock raisers purposely grow the animals for food (28%) and income (26%) while respondents who are involved in rearing companion animal used it as a pet (54%). Sixty two percent (62%) of the respondents claimed to be aware of their animal health status with good coat (32%), alertness (29%) and good body condition (24%) as the basis for their healthy

animals and inactiveness (24%), poor coat (21%) and poor body condition (11%) for the diseased or unhealthy animal. Seventy one percent (71%) claimed that they are aware if their animal gets ill and prefer to resort on other medication and herbal plants (54%) and do self- prescription (28%) rather than go to a veterinarian for advise and consultation. Fifty six (56 %) claimed to have tried consultation from vets however it is rarely (46%) done. Primary reasons are the lack of veterinarian in the area (54%) and far from the city (40%). Majority of the services experienced is vaccination (53%). Fifty four (54%) attested for regular programs implemented in their community. Majority of the services are vaccination (52%) and deworming (39%). Fifty four percent (54%) claimed to have witnessed seminars conducted by other agencies with rabies (57%) as the main issue. Among the attendees of the seminars, 63% claimed that services have been followed-up regularly. Vaccination (37%) still remains to be the main concern and assistance needed by the respondents. The common belief and knowledge of the people in different municipalities suggest that injection is vaccination itself or vaccination to them literally is injection most likely can be interpreted that appropriate dissemination of information's were not explicitly deliberated, discussed or defined and is misleading and were not given appropriate action or attention that is reflective to emphasize and to understand the real meaning of the technical terms foreign to the respondents or general community. Such responses may also be associated with the educational background of the majority of the respondents as most of the respondents reached secondary and elementary level of schooling and some were unemployed yet are engaged in farming where critical decision particular management is a necessity.

In general, the respondents' uncertainty of their responses is greatly associated with the lack of information dissemination clarity and follow up . Respondents as well were not provided with broader information for other solutions to situations that are not yet known to them nor being aware of the use of the terms aside from the actual practices. Such complicates the animal health management in the community as concluded by Dohoo (1993) stating that management decisions affecting animal health and productivity are increasing in complexity- regardless of whether they are made at national, regional or farm level. Consequently, decision makers whether they be administrators, veterinarians in clinical practice or producers need reliable quantitative information about the health and productivity in their care (Dohoo, 1993). Abila (1997) stated however that the Philippines have a relatively developed veterinary infrastructure with information being managed by the Disease Intelligence Section of the Animal Health Division and Epidemiology section of the Philippines Animal Health Center. However, Veterinary services are

primarily under the control of provincial governors, leading to difficulties in the coordination of programs. The main constraints to the information system include a lack of reliable population information to calculate rates, lack of staff trained epidemiology and information management at the provincial and regional levels, under- reporting and delayed reporting and lack of equipment for computerized information management. Despite these limitations, key data is maintained and a village based health and production collection system is being continuously trialed. He further stated and stressed that traditional data regarding animal diseases and health reports currently exist in the different localities of the country however, lacks validity since reports are prepared by the agricultural technicians who are not really trained on recognizing priority diseases in the country. It was further mentioned that laboratory diagnostic reports lack the essential information on health status of those farms. The traditional monitoring of diseases by collecting and collating does not give confidence that data received reflect what is going out in the area. Furthermore, Eliss (1993) added that information on particular animal disease cases rarely provides a useful indication of disease situation in the country due to underreporting of diseases by farmers and the inability of veterinary government services to provide coverage of all livestock producers.

Though the prospects to develop an animal health information in the Philippines is bright Abila (1997) further added, it is not that easy to accomplish. This activity has to compete with other priorities of veterinary services; there is a need to face the problem of allocating limited resources. He then concluded that periodic assessment or evaluation of the information needs of the policy/ decision makers, program formulators/ implementors, field extension workers and farmers, a consultant is needed to help identify the information needs and how to get information.

Conclusion and recommendation

Although majority (62%) of the respondents attested of their awareness of the present health status of their animals, results revealed that only few requested for the assistance of those concerned instead, resorted to self-medication and prescription without taking into consideration the possible interactions impact that may produce ill effects on the animal consuming it . As per observation, some of the respondents also were uncertain of their needs possibly due to the lack of knowledge on what program of activities should appropriately be given to their animals hence; only depend on repeated activities observed which they claim that already existing. Such situation complicates the implementation whether a respondent understood or not the

importance, relevance and impact into their existence and development. Certainly, there is a need to review the program of implementation or a follow-up until everything is made clearly understood by the recipients/ respondents for proper assessment of results of learned knowledge by the respondents.

As a result of the study, it is apparent that there are some lapses in the dissemination of information's that are made critical to the understanding of the community. Such lapses are yet to be observed or studied. Stronger stressed in the dissemination of technical expertise and veterinary medicine should be better emphasized in the program of activities in community development and a continuing basis to keep tract of unknown barriers that may possibly cause failures in implementation.

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