Abstract

This study was based on a sample survey of 60 cattle raising farmers (20 cattle owner, 20 cattle share and 20 cattle contract farmers) from six selected villages of Companygonj thana under Sylhet district. Tabular technique and some functional input-output analysis were used in this study. The study indicated that on an average, 27 cattle were raised in a cattle farm in the study area. According to type of farms, 10 cattle were raised by the cattle owner farm, 9 cattle by the cattle share farm and 62 cattle by the cattle contract farm. The management practices followed by the farmers in cattle raising were mainly the acquisition, feeding, housing, medical care and sale of cattle. Grazing on fallow lands was the main source of cattle feeds. The cattle owner farmers were found to be more rational in management of cattle compared to the cattle share and cattle contract farmers. The major findings of this study were that gross costs of raising a cattle for four months were Tk. 6133.61, Tk. 627.09 and Tk. 193.19, and gross returns were estimated to be Tk. 9097.69, Tk. 2138.95 and Tk. 438.85 for cattle owner, cattle share and cattle contract farms, respectively. Net returns per cattle were Tk. 2964.08, Tk. 1511.86 and Tk. 245.66, and net return per Taka invested were Tk. 0.48, Tk. 2.41 and Tk. 1.27 for cattle owner, cattle share and cattle contract farms, respectively. The return from cattle raising was positively related with acquisition cost, labour, feed and number of cattle per farm both in case of cattle owner and cattle share farms. On the other hand, return from cattle was positively related with the labour, feed, and housing & equipment cost in case of cattle contract farm. The study also revealed that all categories of farmers were not using their inputs efficiently in cattle raising. Either these inputs were over used or under used. The present study also identified some problems and constraints faced by the cattle raising farmers such as lack of improved breed, inadequate treatment facilities, lack of capital, absence of institutional credit, flood and housing problem, etc. To overcome these problems, government and nongovernment supports are needed.