

Training needs of farm women in dairy farming

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Abstract

A study was conducted in Thrissur taluk of Thrissur district to assess the training needs of farm women engaged in dairy farming. It was found that out of the five major farm operations studied, the farm women needed training the most in housing. The minor operations preferred the most for knowledge need were proper design of cattle shed, selection of breeds, compounding balanced feed using locally available ingredients, vaccination and banking and insurance. As for skill need, construction of scientific low cost cattle shed, selection of breeds, compounding balanced feed using locally available ingredients, symptoms of common diseases and banking and insurance were preferred the most.

Keywords : Training Needs, Farm Women, Dairy Farming.

Introduction

Dairying is one of the important enterprises, which supports the rural households by providing gainful employment and steady income. The importance of milk and milk products for the physical development and well being of human beings is universally recognized.

In India, women's involvement in livestock management is a longstanding tradition and dairy farming has been an integral part of homestead farming system. Although much of the work related to livestock farming is carried out by women, the areas in which they need training the most are not given due consideration while designing training programmes. Hence the studies on accessing the training needs of farm women engaged in dairy farming are of paramount importance to the extension agencies involved in rural development. So, the study has been undertaken with an objective to understand the training needs of farm women engaged in dairy farming.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in Thrissur district of Kerala state. Out of the 43 milk co-operative societies in two randomly selected blocks of Thrissur taluk, namely Cherpu and Ollukkara 12 milk co-operative societies were randomly selected. Further, a total of 120 members were drawn from the 12 milk co-operative societies by stratified random sampling procedure using proportional allocation. The women actively involved in dairy farming in the household of 120 selected members constituted respondents of the study. Data were collected by personal interviews

using a pre-tested structured schedule. The training need index for each of the major farm operation was calculated using the formula.

Results and Discussions

Table 1 revealed housing as the most preferred major farm operation followed by feeding and management for both knowledge and skill based training. The farm operations relating to housing, feeding and management were usually done by the farm women. This might be the reason for the farm women preferring housing and feeding and management as important training areas. The finding is in agreement with that of Sumathi and Alagesan (2001) who found that cent percent of the respondents needed training in maintenance of cattle shed. Madivanane (1990) also found that maintenance of cattle shed ranked as second for getting training in livestock keeping. Since the major farm operations of breeding, health care and marketing and finance require outside contact the involvement of farm women was less. This might be the reason for the farm women to perceive these major farm operations as the least preferred areas of training.

From table 2 it could be found that under housing, the farm women needed training the most on proper design of cattle shed for knowledge and construction of scientific low cost cattle shed for skill. It is worth mentioning the finding that the farm women perceived proper design of cattle shed for knowledge training and construction of cattle shed for skill training. With regard to the training need under breeding, selection of breeds ranked first for both knowledge and skill

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Table-1. Training needs pertaining to the major farm operations in dairy farming for knowledge and skill

S.No	Major farm operations	Knowledge		Skill	
		TNI	Rank	TNI	Rank
1.	Housing	75.97	I	68.19	I
2.	Breeding	50.17	V	48.79	IV
3.	Feeding and management	64.72	II	58.11	II
4.	Health care	58.38	III	44.72	V
5.	Marketing and finance	57.50	IV	49.72	III

oriented training needs. The farm women might have perceived, selecting a suitable breed as one of the primary factors in achieving productivity in dairy animals. This finding is in line with those of Fulzele and Meena (1995) who reported that selection of breed was a most needed area of training and Raju *et al.* (1999) who reported that selection of animals was one of the most needed areas of training.

As for feeding and management, it was observed that the highest training need for both knowledge and skill was for compounding balanced feed using locally available ingredients. The high cost of concentrates might have compelled the farm women to know and learn the mixing of locally available ingredients which in turn would reduce the feed cost. The result obtained in the present study is in line with that of Das and Mishra

(2002).

Regarding health care, vaccination was ranked first for knowledge need and symptoms of common diseases with respect to skill need. The farm women might have been interested to know about the control and identification of important diseases. The results are in par with the findings of Fulzele and Meena (1995), Raju *et al.* (1999), Lalitha and Seethalakshmi (1999), Sujaths and Nanjaiyan (1999), Umarani and Thangamani (2000), Das and Mishra (2002) and Gupta and Tripathi (2002).

About the training need with respect to the minor operations of marketing and finance, the farm women needed training the most in banking and insurance for both knowledge and skill. This might be because the farm women had limited information regarding the

Table-2: Knowledge and skill oriented training needs of farm women in minor farm operations

Sr. No.	Farm operations	Knowledge		Skill	
		TNI	Rank	TNI	Rank
I	Housing				
	1. Construction of scientific low cost cattle shed 2. Proper design/structure of cattle shed	74.17 77.78	II I	69.44 II	I
II	Breeding				
	1. Selection of breeds	62.50	I	56.94	I
	2. Heat detection	40.83	V	37.50	III
	3. Time of insemination	42.50	IV	-	-
	4. Maintenance of records on breeding	55.28	II	51.94	II
	5. Time of post partum insemination	49.72	III	-	-
III	Feeding and management				
	1. Balanced feeding	70.83	II	63.33	II
	2. Care and management of different age groups	48.61	V	55.83	III
	3. Compounding balanced feed using locally available ingredients	86.94	I	67.50	I
	4. Fodder cultivation	61.67	III	51.94	IV
	5. Clean milk production	55.56	IV	51.94	IV
IV	Health care				
	1. Deworming	61.94	II	-	-
	2. Vaccination	75.00	I	-	-
	3. Control of ectoparasites	44.72	V	40.28	III
	4. Identification and isolation of sick animals	51.11	IV	46.67	II
	5. Symptoms of common diseases	59.17	III	47.22	I
V	Marketing and finance				
	1. Banking and insurance 2. Marketing of livestock and livestock products	60.83 54.17	I II	52.50 46.94	I II

various sources from which they could obtain financial assistance and also about the insurance policies. This finding is in line with that of Raju *et al.* (1999).

Implications

There is a need for conducting more number of need based and well tailored training programmes suited to farm women which would in turn help them to have more extension agency contacts. Farm operations related to housing should be given top priority in the curriculum of training programmes.

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LATEST OUTBREAKS

Egypt

Avian Influenza

May 22, 2009 - Between 13 to 20 May, the Ministry of Health of Egypt reported five new confirmed human case of avian influenza. The first case is a 4-year old boy from Kafr Sakr District, Sharkia Governorate. The second case is a 3-year old boy from Mahalla District, Gharbia Governorate. The third case was a 4-year old girl from Meet Ghamr District, Dakahlia Governorate. Her symptoms began on 9 May 2009 and she was admitted to Mansoura Chest Hospital on 17 May 2009 . She died on 18 May 2009 . The fourth case is a 4-year old boy from Sherbin District, Dakahlia Governorate. The fifth case is a 3-year old boy from Sohag District, Sohag Governorate. Investigations into the source of infection indicated that all the above cases had close contact with dead and sick poultry. All five cases have been confirmed by the Egyptian Central Public Health Laboratory. Of the 74 cases confirmed to date in Egypt 27 have been fatal.

http://www.who.int/csr/don/2009_05_22a/en/index.html

France

Trichinellosis

May 21, 2009 – 3 cases of trichinellosis were identified in early May, 2009 in France. The three patients were accommodated in a hotel in Senegal and were infected by the consumption of smoked warthog ham. www.promedmail.org

USA & Canada

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has confirmed bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in an 80 month old dairy cow from Alberta. No part of the animal's carcass entered the human food or animal feed systems. The animal's birth farm has been identified, and an investigation is under way. The age and location of the infected animal are consistent with previous cases detected in Canada. This case was detected through the national BSE surveillance program, which continues to play an important role in Canada's strategy to manage BSE. <<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/disemala/bseesb/ab2009/16notavie.shtml>>