Training needs of dairy farmers in Nagpur district

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Abstract

The present study was carried out to analyse the training needs of dairy farmers in Nagpur district. The study was conducted in 15 villages from 3 talukas of Nagpur district by personally interviewing 225 respondent farmers. Here, majority of the dairy farmers (62.67%) had perceived their training need as the most important in health care and disease prevention whereas 22.22% expressed it as important while 15.11% respondents as not important. As regards information about care and management of animals, most of the respondents (50.67%) opined their training need as the most important, 26.22% of the respondents as important while 23.11% expressed it as not important. In reference to breeding and management, majority of the respondents (41.33%) expressed their training need as the most important, 32.00% respondents as important whereas 26.67% respondents as not important. Majority of the respondents (54.67%) conveyed their opinion regarding training need about feeding and management of animals as the most important followed by 24.00% of the respondents as important while 23.11% respondents as not important. In the context of training needs about clean milk production, majority of the respondents i.e. 37.3% opined it as the most important, 29.78% as important while 32.89% of the respondents as not important.

Keywords: Training needs, Dairy farmers, Nagpur district, Animal management practices

Introduction

The rapid growth of milk production in India has been mainly because of the increase in the number of animals rather than that of improved productivity. The low productivity of dairy animals is of great concern and average productivity of Indian cow is only 987 Kg/ lactation as against the world average of 2038 Kg/ lactation. The gradual breed deterioration generally occurs from negligence over centuries and consequent rise in the population of non-descript cows (80 %) and buffaloes (50%) along with the chronic shortage of feed and fodder coupled with their nutritive values and low fertility of our dairy animals has resulted in the low productivity. In India, low animal productivity results due to climatic, social and economical factors. India possesses enormous bovine wealth, but their per capita production is one of the lowest in the world due to reasons that the farmers do not adopt improved dairy management practices at the desired.

For this, the reasons may be lack of knowledge about preparation of silage, scientific feeding of animals, non-availability of A.I. facilities and veterinary dispensary are the major constraints faced by the farmers (Thorat and Kulkarni, 1994). In addition to that, defragmentation of land, poor irrigation facilities, lack of proper market and market rate, excessive cost of transportation, high cost of feed and fodder, non-availability of loans for purchasing animals…etc. are some of the major constraints faced by dairy farm.

So the present study was conducted with the specific objective to ascertain the training needs of dairy farmers with respect to areas of training, duration, season, place, interval and month of the training.

Materials and Methods

1. Locale of the study:

The present study was conducted in Nagpur district of Maharashtra state. Nagpur district is centrally located district in Vidarbha region, which is the eastern part of Maharashtra state.

2. Methods of sampling:

(a) Selection of villages: For the study, in all 15 villages i.e. five villages from each block i.e. Kalameshwar, Hingana and Nagpur were selected randomly.

(b) Selection of animal management practices: Recommended practices viz. animal health and diseases control, care and management, breeding and management, feeding management and clean milk production were selected for the study.

3. Tools and techniques of data collection:

1. M.V.Sc. scholars 2. Head of The Department

The basic instrument used for the study was interview schedule. The questions were related to different training subjects of recommended animal husbandry practices.

4. Measurement of dependent variables:

Kherde (1981) developed a device to measure the training needs in five major areas viz. animal health and disease control, breeding and management, feeding and management and clean milk production. The same areas were used for the present study with slight modifications. Three point continuum was used and the training needs were quantified by assigning the score 2, 1 and 0 for the most important, important and not important for each area of training.

Results and Discussion

Majority of the dairy farmers (62.67%) had perceived their training need as the most important in heath care and disease prevention whereas 22.22% expressed it as important while 15.11% respondents as not important. Majority of the dairy farmers (62.67%) expressed their training need about health aspects as the most important, might be because of lack of technical knowledge about health and clinical aspects, heavy economic losses because of diseases and unavailability of timely veterinary services in remote and rural areas in emergency situations. These findings are supported by Meena (1994).

As regards information about care and management of animal, most of the respondents (50.67%) opined their training need as the most important, 26.22% of the respondents as important while 23.11% expressed it as not important. Majority of the respondents (50.67%) felt care and management as the most important, because of their perception about problems arising during care and management of animals particularly of pregnant animals, animals during parturition and of new born animals.

In reference to breeding and management of animal, majority of the respondents (41.33%) expressed their training need as the most important, 32.00 % respondents as important whereas 26.67% respondents as not important. Majority of the respondents conveyed their training need as the most important, might be because of low milk production by local breeds and superiority in milk production of crossbreds over local breeds of animals.

Majority of the respondents (54.67%) conveyed their opinion regarding training need about feeding and management of animals as the most important followed by 24.00 % of the respondents as important while 23.11% respondents as not important. This might be because of their will to know the ways to enhance milk yield through proper feeding, balanced feeding at cheaper rates which is the key to progress in this dairy enterprise particularly when effective cost of feed is increasing day by day.

In the context of training needs about clean milk production, majority of the respondents i.e. 37.33 % opined it as the most important, 29.78 % as important while 32.89% of the respondents as not important. This reluctance about clean milk production might be because of illiteracy, ignorance and disapathy towards sanitary measures and public health.

Training needs of dairy farmers engaged in dairy enterprise in different sub-areas of animal management practices:

It is observed that, majority of the respondents (71.56%) opined to have training in overall information about infectious diseases as the most important, 17.33% of the respondents as important while 11.11% as not important. This might be due to the fact that, rural dairy farmers have inadequate knowledge about technical aspects of diseases such as etiology, symptoms, diagnosis, prevention and control measures of the diseases.

Again, majority of the respondents (63.11%), perceived training need about vaccination schedule as the most important, followed by 26.22% as important whereas 10.67% as not important. As regards training needs about de-worming, majority of the respondents (46.22%) found it as the most important, 28.00% respondents as important whereas 25.78% as not important. These Findings are in conformity to the observations found by Gangil (2005).

In reference to the training need about the sub-area care and management of pregnant animal, 60.89% of the respondents conveyed it as the most important, 27.11% respondent as important whereas 12.00% as not important. Training needs were perceived as the most important in care and management of new born calf by 64.00% of the respondents, followed by 25.33% of the respondents and by 10.66% of the respondents as not important. About 43.11% of the respondents expressed their interests for training in care and management of milking animal as the most important, 45.78% as important and 11.11% as not important. 21.33% of the respondents opined the training need about information regarding animal housing as the most important, 19.11% respondents as important while 59.56% as not important.

With reference to training needs about breeding management of animals, 33.78% of the respondents have found identification of heat symptoms in animals as the most important, 18.22% as important whereas 48.00% respondents as not important. Whereas 56.89% of the respondents expressed their

willingness for training about information in artificial insemination and its advantages as the most important, followed by 24.00 % respondents as important while 19.11% of the respondents were recognized as not important. Similar findings were reported by Jondhale and Chole (1989). As regards training needs in the area of pregnancy diagnosis and is advantages, 38.22% of the respondents opined it as the most important, 20.89% of the respondents as important while 40.89% of the respondents as not important. This finding is in contrast to those of findings of Gangil (2005).

As regards conservation of fodder crops for animals, majority of the respondents (40.44%) perceived it as the most important, 30.67% respondents as important while 28.89% if the respondents as not important. Whereas 51.11% of the respondents expressed their willingness to have training regarding feeding of milching animals as the most important, followed by 28.00% as important and 20.89% of the respondents as not important. About feeding of pregnant animals, 45.77% of the respondents perceived their training need as the most important, followed by 25.77% respondents as important while 28.44% of the respondents conveyed it as not important. Regarding feeding of new born calves, 36.88% of the respondents expressed their training need as most important, followed by 21.89% as important while a majority i.e. 41.33% expressed as not important. This finding is in contrast with those of Gangil *et al.* (2005).

Regarding training needs about information on clean milk production, majority of the respondents (43.11%) expressed it as important, followed by 32.89% respondents as the most important while 24.00% of the respondents as not important. Majority of the respondents i.e. 83.56% perceived their training need about types of milking and their advantages as not important, followed by 9.33% as the most important and 7.11% as important.

Regarding the assessment of training needs about information on zoonotic diseases spreading through infected milk, most of the respondents (83.56%) expressed it as not important, followed by 9.33% respondents as important while 7.11% respondents as the most important. These findings are in contrast with those of Jondhale and Chole (1989).
In reference to assessment of respondents according to season, majority of the respondents i.e. 70.67% expressed their willingness to have their training in summer months, followed by 18.22% in winter while 11.11% of the respondents preferred monsoon as their season for training. As regards month of training, most of the respondents i.e. 36.00% expressed their desire to have training in March, followed by 23.11% respondents in February, 16.89% respondents in November and 6.22% respondents in January while 4.89 % of the respondents desired to have training in the month of December. The month for training might be selected on the basis of their work schedule owing to agriculture and also to their festivals etc.

About the place of training, majority of the respondents i.e. 91.55% expressed their interest to attend training in their resident village, followed by 4.89% respondents in training institutes while 3.56% of the respondents were interested to attend the training in Veterinary College. As regards duration of training, majority of the respondents i.e. 80.44% were expecting the duration of training as one week followed by 14.67% respondents as two weeks while 4.89% respondents expected it as for three weeks. Referring to interval of training, majority of the respondents i.e. 78.22% opined to have training after an interval of one year, followed by 15.11% respondents with six months interval while 6.67% respondents expressed to attend training with two years of interval.

Conclusion

From the present study, it was concluded that:

1. Among five broader areas of training, respondents expressed their willingness to have training in the descending order as: animal health care and disease control, breeding and management of animal, feeding and management of animal and clean milk production.
2. As regards to training needs about health care and disease control, most of the respondents preferred to have training about information on infectious diseases, vaccination schedule, importance and use of insecticides and on importance and use of insecticides in order of its importance.
3. Training needs with respect to care and management of animal suggested that care and management of new born calves, care and management of pregnant animals, care and management of milking animals and information about animal housing as most important areas in order of its merit to be included as training programme.
4. Artificial insemination and its advantages followed by selection of animal by traditional breeding system, pregnancy diagnosis and its advantages and symptoms of heat detection in animals were pointed out as important areas for training with respect to breeding and management of animal.

5. As regards to training programme about feeding and management of animal, majority of the respondents selected feeding of milching animals followed by feeding of pregnant animals, conservation of fodder crops in its order of preference.
6. With respect to clean milk production, majority of the respondents expressed their interests to have training on information and importance on clean milk production followed by preservation of milk and milk products, types of milking and their advantages and information on zoonotic diseases spreading through infected milk respectively, in descending order.

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