



Management Practices are Need of Rural Women involved in Animal Husbandry Activities in Auraiya District of Uttar Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

In present investigation was carried in Auraiya district of Uttar Pradesh. Twelve milk producing villages from Bhagyanagar and Acchalda blocks of Auraiya district were selected randomly and 10 farm women from each village who had minimum 5 years of experience in dairy farming were selected. Thus, a total of 120 dairy farm women were interviewed in the present study. Five major areas of animal husbandry practices i.e., breeding, feeding, fodder production, management and animal health care were identified. The results revealed that amongst various animal husbandry practices followed at a dairy farm, the participants ranked management practices at number 1 with a mean score of 2.98 followed by breeding practices (2.96), animal health care (2.91), fodder production (2.84) and feeding practices (2.54). Therefore, it can be said that while finalizing annual action plan by any agency in the field of dairy husbandry must take into account above area of training needs and include in the training programme for rural women in the district Auraiya of Uttar Pradesh.

Key Words: Animal, Dairy, Rural, Trainings, Women.

INTRODUCTION

Training and capacity building have had a major role to play in livestock sector and aim at improving knowledge, attitude, skills and information exchange so that improved techniques can be learned and implemented by eliminating doubts on technical know-how. Further, adoption follows a change in behavior and perception of farmers towards new ideas and innovation. However, change in the behavior is preceded by knowledge gain, change in understanding and developing competency in application of technical information. Sharma *et al* (2013) reported that the major problems of the small dairy farmers were cow dung management while for semi commercial and commercial farmers mastitis was the major problem. Training in the area of feed management was the top priority for domestic and semi commercial farmers. Similarly, Sharma (2015) observed that poor knowledge about the nutritive value of feed ingredients (86.5%),

high cost of raw feed ingredients (28%), shortage of skilled and committed labour (32.5%) were found to be major bottlenecks regarding adoption of cattle feed formulation technology at the dairy farm. Further, Sharma *et al* (2020) showed that for making the dairy farming a profitable market, farmers must follow the recommendations of the research institutes and take maximum care so that productivity as well as profitability can be sustained. Singh and Singh (2020) reported that the overall extent of adoption in general was found to be highest in large herd owners followed by medium and small in Punjab. In order to increase cattle and buffalo production and productivity, it was essential to provide input services (breeding, feeding and health) at the farmers' door step and create awareness among the livestock farmers about the latest technologies through a strong Animal Husbandry extension network system. The priority should be given to study the problems of small and medium

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farms and animal extension models for effective transfer of technology can be developed at farmer fields. Kaur (2015) revealed that the participation of majority of women was high in activities such as cleaning of cattle shed, watering, milking, feeding the animals and disposal of cow dung and least in dairy related record maintenance, getting loans or credits from the banks, taking animals for grazing, fodder collection and harvesting the fodder crops.

Therefore, the present study undertaken to identify the technological needs of farm women who were engaged in routine work at the dairy farm in the district Auriya so that accordingly a very effective training planning can take place in order to enhance their capacity building in the field of animal husbandry activities.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was carried out in Auraiya District of Uttar Pradesh. Twelve milk producing villages from Bhagyanagar and Acchalda blocks of Auraiya district were selected randomly and 10 farm women from each village who had minimum 5 years of experience in dairy farming were selected. Thus, a total of 120 dairy farm women were interviewed in the present study. Five major areas of animal husbandry practices *i.e.*, breeding, feeding, fodder production, management and animal health care were identified.

The training needs of the dairy farm women were assessed on 3– point rating scale *i.e.*, necessity, need and wants. The three categories were assigned with 3, 2 and 1 score, respectively. The training needs were worked out for each major

area considering the total scores obtained by the respondents and classified based on the mean score and ranks to the major area of training needs. The data were collected with the help of structured, pre-tested interview schedule through personal contact and tabulated and analyzed to draw the inference.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Training needs regarding animal husbandry practices

The data (Table 1) revealed that amongst various animal husbandry practices followed at a dairy farm, the participants ranked management practices at number 1 with a mean score of 2.98 followed by breeding practices (2.96), animal health care (2.91), fodder production (2.84) and feeding practices (2.54). This was in contrast to the finding of Sharma (2013) who reported training in the area of feed management was the top priority for domestic and semi commercial farmers. The reason may be that in Punjab, farmers have started dairy farming on commercial scale whereas in the district Auraiya, small dairy farming units are there and hence, farm women require training in the various management techniques to be followed at a dairy farm to run it on scientific lines.

The data (Table 2) revealed that individual housing (Mean core 2.98) was the most important area as perceived by the rural women for training followed by group animal housing (2.88) where as the minimum training need was found in dehorning (2.41) and castration 1.84. The results were in accordance with the finding of Saiyad and Badhe (2011).

Table1. Training need regarding animal husbandry practices of the rural women.

Sr. No.	Training need	Mean Score	Rank
1.	Management Practices	2.98	I
2.	Breeding Practices	2.96	II
3.	Animal health care practices	2.91	III
4.	Fodder production	2.84	IV
5.	Feeding practices	2.54	V

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Table 2. Training needs regarding management practices of dairy animals.

Sr. No.	Area of training need	Mean Score	Rank
1.	Individual housing of animals	2.92	I
2.	Group animal housing	2.88	II
3.	Clean milk production	2.86	III
4.	Replacement of stock at home	2.82	IV
5.	Replacement of stock through purchase	2.53	V
6.	Dehorning	2.41	VI
7.	Castration	1.84	VII

Training needs for Breeding Practices

Proper adoption of breeding practices helps in maintaining quality of breeds and increased milk production, hence the data regarding training needs for breeding practices were assessed for rural farm women engaged in dairy farming enterprise (Table 3).

It was found that the major area of training needs were pregnancy diagnosis (2.93), reproductive efficiency of dairy animals (2.86), selection of breeds (2.67), selection of adult animals and dairy heifers (2.60), artificial insemination (2.51), heat detection (2.48), rearing of calves (2.44) and breeding programme (2.35).

Table 3. Training needs for Breeding Practices.

Sr. No.	Area of Training need	Mean Score	Rank
1.	Pregnancy diagnosis	2.93	I
2.	Reproductive efficiency of dairy animals	2.86	II
3.	Selection of breeds	2.67	III
4.	Selection of adult animals and dairy heifers	2.60	IV
5.	Artificial insemination	2.51	V
6.	Heat detection	2.48	VI
7.	Rearing of calves	2.44	VII
8.	Breeding programme	2.35	VIII

Table 4. Training needs for Animal health care Practices.

Sr. No.	Area of Training need	Mean Score	Rank
1.	Precaution against parasitic diseases	2.91	I
2.	Vaccination schedule	2.86	II
3.	Sterility treatment	2.81	III
4.	Control of parasites	2.74	IV
5.	Treatment against contagious diseases	2.58	V
6.	Treatment against common diseases	2.47	VI

Table 5. Training needs for Fodder production.

Sr. No.	Area of Training need	Mean Score	Rank
1.	Selection of variety of fodder crops	2.85	I
2.	Selection of fodder crops	2.77	II
3.	Cultivation of crops	2.59	III
4.	Storage of crop	2.40	IV
5.	Drying of fodder Crop	2.37	V
6.	Silage and hay making	2.11	VI

Training needs for Animal health care Practices

Proper adoption of animal health care and practices keep animal healthy and improved quality as well as quantity of milk production and reduce expenditure on animal health (Table 4).

The data reveal that precaution against parasitic diseases (2.91) was the major thrust area for the rural women in animal health care practices followed by vaccination schedule (2.86), sterility treatment (2.81), control of parasites (2.74) and treatment against contagious diseases (2.58) and against common diseases (2.47). These results have been supported by Seetaram (1992).

Training needs for fodder production

The data indicate that selection of variety of fodder crops (2.85) was the major thrust area of the rural women in fodder production followed by selection of fodder crop (2.77), cultivation of fodder crops (2.59), storage of fodder crop (2.40), drying of fodder crops (2.37), silage and hay making (2.11) and were in agreement with Sri Shankar and Uma (1995).

Table 6. Training needs in fodder production.

Sr. No.	Area of Training need	Mean Score	Rank
1.	Time of training needs	2.92	I
2.	Home mixing of livestock feed	2.90	II
Feeding schedule for			
3.	Dry animals	2.88	III
4.	Pregnant animals	2.87	IV
5.	Milch animals	2.86	V
6.	Young heifers	2.66	VI
7.	Calves	2.43	VII

Training needs of Rural Women for feeding practices

Proper management of feeding helps in keeping animal healthy, saving quantity of feed and fodder and reduced fodder wastage (Table 6).

The highest mean score for time and frequency of feeding (2.94) followed by home mixing of livestock feeds (2.90), feeding schedule for dry animals (2.88), pregnant animals (2.87), milch animals (2.86), young heifers (2.66) and calves (2.43). It was interesting to note that however, feeding practices were given lowest importance but all the participants were ignorant about feeding schedule for different categories of animals at a dairy farm.

CONCLUSION

It was revealed that the rural women perceived maximum training needs in management practices. As regarding breeding practices, majority of rural women preferred training in pregnancy diagnosis, reproductive efficiency of dairy animals,

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selection of variety of fodder crop, cultivation of fodder crops, storage of fodder crops, precaution against parasitic diseases, sterility treatment and vaccination schedule. The different training centers viz., National Dairy Development Board, KVKs, AMUL, SSKs, Farmer training center and ATMA while finalizing training programmes should concentrate on above area of training and include in the training programme for rural women.

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Received on 27/01/2021

Accepted on 15/04/2021