Short Communication

Training Need Assessment of General Management for Livestock and Poultry Farmers of Baksa District of Assam

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ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out in five blocks of Baksa district of Assam with the objective to assess the training needs on managemental strategies for livestock and poultry farmers of the district. For exploring the critical areas, different presumptive training needs on several topics were incorporated into an interview schedule in local language among 240 farmers selected randomly. The study depicted that more male farmers were engaged in livestock farming activities which warns the need for creating awareness and attract women and empower them to participate in livestock and poultry farming. Majority of the farmers (52.08 %) belonged to middle age group (30-39 yr) with high school level education having small farm holding (1 -2 ha) were involved in livestock and poultry farming. The training need index (TNI) of the livestock and poultry farmers was highest for special care during pregnancy/ calving followed by regular cleaning of farm premises. The study revealed that there was need to re-orient the training programs and also to increase the number of training programmes for reducing the knowledge gap and gap on adopting technologies among the livestock farmers of the district.

Key Words: Assessment, Farmer, Livestock, Poultry, Training needs.

INTRODUCTION

Training is an important tool for empowering farming community with technological know-how which increases their work efficiency contributing to growth in rural economy and livelihood standards for an ever progressive and atmanirbhar Bharat. Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) have been making untiring efforts through contemplation of area specific suitable technologies in farmers' field. Sharma *et al* (2020) observed that landless category of farmers obtained the minimum wet average (4.27 L/d) and herd average (2.78 L/d) contrary to the large farmers having land holding of more than 4 ha area where wet average and herd average were 9.09 and 6.17 L/d, respectively. Therefore, depending on the feeding management practices followed, there was a difference in the milk yield obtained. A lot of variation was observed within different categories of farmers using different practices. Deka *et al* (2020) revealed that there was need to reorient the training programs and also to increase the number of training programmes for reducing the knowledge gap and also the adoption gap among the livestock farmers of the district.

The government's vision of doubling farmers' income will not come true if farmers are not trained effectively to apply new and relevant knowledge at the farm level (Chand, 2017). A successful *training needs analysis* will identify those who need training and what kind of training is needed. *It* addresses the problem of identifying performance requirements and the gap between what levels of performance is required and what present level of performance is. Considering the importance of training needs

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Table 1. Profile of the respondent farmers.

Characteristics		Frequency	% of the respondents
Sex			
	Male	198	82.50
	Female	42	17.50
Age (Years)			
	Below 30	57	23.75
	30-39	125	52.08
	40-49	38	15.83
	Above 50	20	8.33
Education level			
	No formal	43	17.92
	Primary	53	22.08
	High School	131	54.58
	Graduate	13	5.42
Category			
	Landless (No own land)	8	3.33
	Marginal (below 1 ha)	44	18.33
	Small (1-2 ha)	108	45.00
	Semi Medium (2 to 4 ha)	65	27.08
	Medium (4 to 10 ha)	15	6.25
	Large (Above 10 ha)	0	

assessment, the present study was undertaken to assess the training needs of the livestock and poultry farmers in Baksa district.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted to assess the training needs of livestock and poultry farmers in Baksa district of Assam emphasizing general management thematic areas and under this, specific training needs topic were incorporated into an interview schedule in local language. The thematic area and specific training need topic under this area was prepared and collected through different review of literature and field experiences. A total of 240 farmers were selected by random sampling selection technique covering five (5) Blocks of the district. The collated data were classified according to sex (male and female), age group (Below 30 yr, 30-39 yr, 40-49 yr and Above 50 yr), education level (No formal, Primary, High School and Graduate) and category of farmers Landless (No own land), Marginal (below 1 ha), Small (1-2 ha), Semi Medium (2 to 4 ha), Medium (4 to 10 ha) and Large (Above 10 ha). Amongst the different groups the category representing highest number of farmers has been considered for the study.

In this study, the farmer's responses were collected in a 3 point continuum scale as very important (VI), important (I) and not important (NI) by assigning scores 3, 2 and 1 respectively. The Training Need Index (TNI) was computed with the help of following formula (Patil and Kokate, 2011). The data was analysed by descriptive statistical method such as percentages, rank order and scoring techniques.

Table 2. Training needs index of farmers for general management in Baksa district.

Parameters	General management					
	Regular cleaning of farm premises	**Isolation of diseases animal**	**Special care of new born**	**Special care during pregnancy / calving**	**Castration**	**Management during extreme heat and cold**
Total score	449	399	342	454	368	351
Mean	1.87	1.66	1.42	1.89	1.53	1.46
TNI	62.35	55.41	47.49	63.05	51.10	48.74
Rank	2nd	3rd	6th	1st	4th	5th
Sex						
Male	63.17	56.09	48.29	64.15	52.47	49.28
Female	58.48	52.21	43.72	57.86	44.64	46.19
Age group (years)						
Below 30	61.65	54.52	46.95	62.45	50.85	47.63
30-39	63.15	56.05	48.17	64.52	52.38	49.66
40-49	62.05	55.57	47.25	63.29	51.01	48.32
Above 50	59.84	53.58	45.18	55.04	43.92	46.89
Education level						
No formal	59.17	53.24	45.69	60.97	48.28	45.76
Primary	61.13	54.14	46.71	62.45	49.58	47.55
High School	63.42	55.57	47.87	63.34	52.33	49.83
Graduate	66.95	66.05	52.71	69.34	54.14	52.38
Category						
Landless	60.41	53.51	45.76	60.27	48.36	46.76
Marginal	63.27	54.75	46.49	62.27	49.36	48.28
Small	62.46	55.98	47.96	63.66	52.83	49.05
Semi medium	62.24	55.28	47.75	63.22	51.18	48.59
Medium	60.27	54.73	46.76	61.59	44.78	45.17
Large	0	0	0	0	0	0

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Profile of the farmers

The study showed that majority of the respondents were male (82.50 %) and very less number female farmers (17.5%) among livestock and poultry farmers in the study area (Table 1). Similar findings were also reported by Rahman *et al* (2018) among the crop producing farmers of Bangladesh. The highest number of respondent farmer belonged to 30-39 yr age group (52.08%), high school education level (54.58%) and small farmers (45.00%).

Training Needs in General Management

Training needs on special care during pregnancy/calving (TNI 63.05) ranked top followed by regular cleaning of farm premises (TNI 62.35), Isolation of diseased animals (TNI 55.41), castration (51.10), management during extreme heat and cold (48.74) while special care of new born ranked last by the farmers of Baksa district (Table 2).

The study showed that majority of small farmers particularly male farmers of middle age group (30-39) having high school level education were engaged in livestock and poultry farming. There was an urgent need to design regular training programs in identified topics to minimise the knowledge gap and adoption gap among the farmers. Training on general management should be prioritized across all sectors. Special care during pregnancy/calving was the most preferred subtopic among the farmers. A similar observation was also made by Sajeev *et al* (2012) from their study in different districts of Manipur as even though considerable efforts have been made in training of farmers in common vocations and areas of interest, there still remains a gap which needs to be addressed and KVKs have to re-orient their trainings based on findings to fill the gap existing with respect to imparting need based trainings in respective districts. The government vision of achieving doubling farmers' income by 2022 without the successful delivery of agricultural extension to rural small holder farmers is a daunting task if the issues not addressed timely.

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