



Training Needs of Tribal Farm Women in relation to Improved Animal Husbandry Practices of Chhotaudepur District of Gujarat

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ABSTRACT

The present investigation was carried out in Chhotaudepur district located in the eastern part of the Gujarat State to assess training needs of tribal farm women in relation to improved animal husbandry practices because this district is an important tribal majority milk pocket. A total of 120 tribal women were selected from twelve selected villages under study. The results revealed that animal health care practice was the most important area and ranked first for the purpose of training (mean weighted score 2.25). The second rank was assigned to the area of management practices with a mean weighted score of 2.13 followed by foundation practices (MWS 2.06), feeding practices (MWS 2.05), fodder production (MWS 2.04), breeding practices (MWS 2.03), marketing and Finance (MWS 2.02), clean milk production (MWS 2.01) and Value addition (MWS 1.84). From the study, it was concluded that it will help the extension agencies to organize the suitable training programmes for the dairy farm women in improved animal husbandry practices to improve their milk production and make the dairying a successful enterprise.

Key Words: Animal husbandry, Improved practices, Training needs, Tribal Farm Women.

INTRODUCTION

Dairying is a secure path and future of our rural development and it can contribute substantially to farmer's income (Gangasagare and Karanjkar, 2009) but in order to improve the economic condition of dairy farmers, it is of utmost importance to know their prevailing status which will help in identifying the major technological problems being faced by them in dairy farming. Women in the present age are facing the most challenging situation of performing their roles in and outside the home for social and economic development of the nation. Tribal women play a great role in decision making process, perform farm operations and undertake many responsibilities concerning care and management of farm animals.

According to Ingavale (2012) dairy sector in India is characterized by large number of cattle and low productivity. Though India has largest dairy animal population, the average productivity of

milch animals is quite low but the demand of milk is increasing day by day and is expected to reach 180 MT by 2020. For this, annual growth rate of milk production needs to be increased from present level of 2.5 per cent to 5.0 per cent (Bhattu *et al*, 2013). The low milk yield is mainly attributed to low genetic potential for milk production, poor nutrition and poor management and care of the animals. On an average a cow in India produced only 1500kg of milk per annum and buffalo yields 1200kg annually against 4000kg. of milk produced by cow in some countries advanced in dairying. Thus, there is a wide gap between the number of animals and milk production.

The remarkable low productivity of animals in India is largely due to traditional animal husbandry practices. During the last decade dairying and animal husbandry programmes have received considerable attention in India's planned development. Milk production programmes not only ensure better

Table 1. Training needs of tribal women about different animal husbandry practices. n=120

Sr. No.	Practice	Most needed	Somewhat needed	Least needed	Weighted score	Rank
A.	Milking characteristics					
	Characters of milch breeds	58	36	23	2.24	I
	Precaution during buying of the milch animals	52	37	23	2.11	II
	Characteristics of good milch animal	50	29	32	2.00	III
	Selection criteria of milch and dairy heifers	45	26	39	1.88	IV
B.	Reproductive parameters					
5.	Pregnancy diagnosis methods	50	51	19	2.26	I
6.	Heat detection	48	50	22	2.22	II
7.	Artificial insemination and its benefits	45	49	26	2.16	III
8.	Methods to reduce the dry period	41	52	27	2.12	IV
9.	Reproductive efficiency of dairy animals	39	46	35	2.03	V
10.	Breeding Programmes	36	48	36	2.00	VI
11.	Post partum coverage	37	42	41	1.97	VII
12.	Training of the tribal farm women about artificial insemination	05	21	94	1.26	VIII
C.	Feeding practices					
13.	Importance of feeding mineral mixture	46	54	20	2.21	I
14.	Preparation of balanced ration	46	52	22	2.20	II
15.	Time and frequency of feeding	42	53	25	2.14	III
16.	Balance feeding for young heifers and calves	39	57	24	2.12	IV
17.	Balance feeding of pregnant animals	40	50	30	2.08	V
18.	Selection of feed according to season	36	49	35	2.01	VI
19.	Preservation of fodder crops	38	44	38	2.00	VII
20.	Feeding of new born calves	31	51	38	1.94	VIII
21.	Feeding for dry animals	29	39	52	1.80	IX

and balanced nutrition for the people, but also offer opportunities to the tribal masses for gainful employment. In many tribal areas, dairying assumes a special significance as an effective instrument for economic and social uplift of the weaker sections.

Sharma *et al* (2013) revealed that 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

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Table 2. Training needs of tribal women on Fodder Production, management and health care practices. n=120

Sr. No.	Practice	Most needed	Somewhat needed	Least needed	Weighted score	Rank
A.	Fodder production					
	Scientific cultivation of fodder crops	49	51	20	2.24	I
	Selection of fodder crops	36	56	28	2.07	II
	Cultivation of <i>Kharif</i> fodder crops	31	48	41	1.92	III
	Methods of fodder preservation	33	43	44	1.91	IV
B.	Management practices					
	Awareness about Zoonotic diseases and its prevention	48	56	16	2.26	I
	Weaning, care and disbudding of calves	45	55	20	2.21	II
	Awareness about no cost method in dairy animals	41	54	25	2.13	III
	Care of animal during calving	40	53	27	2.11	IV
	Housing system for milch and dry animals	36	54	30	2.05	V
	General cleanliness of the cattle shed and maintenance of farm records	37	48	35	2.02	VI
C.	Animal health care practices					
	Causes of repeat breeding and its control measures	55	60	5	2.41	I
	Treatment against common diseases	53	60	7	2.38	II
	Deworming schedule and procedures	50	59	11	2.33	III
	Care and management of sick animals	48	55	17	2.26	IV
	Fertilty problem and its treatments	44	62	14	2.25	V
	Care and management of new born calves	41	59	20	2.18	VI
	Precautions and control measures of parasitic diseases	41	56	23	2.15	VII
	Precautions and treatment of contagious diseases	39	56	25	2.13	VIII
	Vaccination schedule and its advantages	39	52	29	2.10	IX

domestic and semi commercial farmers. Therefore, present study was undertaken to assess training needs of tribal farm women in relation to improved animal husbandry practices.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present investigation was carried out in

Chhotaudepur district of Gujarat located in the eastern part and is an important tribal majority milk pocket in the Gujarat state. Chhotaudepur district consist 6 talukas out of these 4 talukas *i.e.*, Naswadi, Kawant, Jetpur Pavi and Chhotaudepur having more than 90 per cent tribal population were selected purposively. The list of tribal women livestock

keeper was obtained from twelve selected villages of Chhotaudepur district. Thereafter, random sampling method with proportional allocation was followed to select the respondents and a total of 120 tribal women were selected. The data were collected through personal interview method. The participants were asked about various management practices and classified into most needed, somewhat needed and least needed. Accordingly marks were allotted as 3, 2 and 1 for most needed, somewhat needed and least needed, respectively. Mean weighted score was calculated and ranking was calculated for different training needs of the tribal dairy farm women.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Training needs of the tribal farm women

The training needs of tribal farm women in relation to improved animal husbandry practices included the major practices of animal husbandry viz., milch characteristics of animals, breeding, feeding, fodder production, management and animal health care, clean milk production, value addition, marketing and finance etc. The results (Table 1) showed that farm women were not aware about various milk characteristics of the animals. Hence, this issue was ranked at the top priority. Similarly, pregnancy diagnosis methods were not known to the participants noted under reproductive parameters whereas importance of feeding mineral mixture was observed to be on the top of the list under feeding practices. These Findings were in conformity to the observations made by Gangil *et al* (2005); Patil *et al* (2009).

The data presented in Table 2 indicate that scientific cultivation of fodder crops (weighted score 2.24) was at first rank followed by selection of fodder crops (weighted score 2.07), cultivation of *Kharif* fodder crops (weighted score 1.92) and methods of fodder preservation (weighted score 1.91) got the second third and fourth ranks, respectively. Thus, it can be said that for dairy farming, fodder production technology need to be

popularized and for that it is must to know about the training needs of the farmers or farm women. Further, it was noticed that among the various sub-areas of management practices, awareness about Zoonotic diseases and its preventions was the most important area ranked first by the tribal farm women with a weighted score 2.26. These Findings were in conformity to the observations found by Gangil (2005).

Causes of repeat breeding and its control measures was perceived the most important area of training with a weighted score of 2.41 followed by treatment against common diseases (weighted score 2.38), deworming schedule and procedures (weighted score 2.33). Care and management of sick animals and fertility problem and its treatments got the fourth and fifth ranks, respectively with weighted score 2.26 and 2.25. These findings were in agreement with Patil *et al* (2009).

The data (Table 3) indicated that suitable time of milking (WS 2.08) got first rank followed by knowledge of zoonotic disease that spread through infected milk, storage methods and clean milk production. Further, among the various sub-areas of marketing and finance practices, banking and insurance was the most important area ranked first by the tribal farm women with a weighted score 2.21. The second rank was given to the sub area of marketing of livestock and livestock products with the weighted score of 1.83. Sharma *et al* (2014) reported that systematically planned training programmes and proper follow up action not only increased the knowledge and skill of the beneficiaries, but their production and profit as well. To be fruitful, the training programmes should be designed based on actual training needs and socioeconomic profile of potential trainees.

CONCLUSION

The aim of the study was to impact new knowledge, teach better skills to bring about more efficient performance in the production of livestock. Farmers have indicated areas of training need in their

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Table 3. Training needs of tribal women on clean milk production. n=120

Sr. No.	Practice	Most needed	Somewhat needed	Least needed	Weighted score	Rank
A.	Milk production					
	Type and suitable time of milking	40	50	30	2.08	I
	Knowledge of zoonotic disease that spread through infected milk	37	54	29	2.06	II
	Storage methods of excess milk	35	51	34	2.00	III
	clean milk production	32	46	42	1.92	IV
B.	Value addition					
	Advantages of value addition in dairy technology	35	54	31	2.03	I
	Preparation of Dahi and Chhaas	32	52	36	1.96	II
	Preparation of Butter and Ghee	30	48	42	1.90	III
	Preparation of <i>Khoa</i>	20	38	62	1.66	IV
	Preparation of <i>Paneer</i>	21	36	63	1.65	V
C.	Marketing and finance					
	Banking and insurance	46	52	22	2.21	I
	Marketing of livestock and livestock products	29	41	50	1.83	II

activities. Adequate training in areas of management is a necessary factor to sustainable rural livelihood and consequently rural development. There is a need for conducting more number of needs based and well tailored training programmes suited to tribal farm women which would in turn help them to have more extension agency contacts. Farm operations related to housing, disposal of animal carcass and waste, knowledge about different breeds, preparation of balanced ration using locally available feed items and contagious diseases and its symptoms should be given top priority in the curriculum of training programmes. From the study it was observed that it will help the extension agencies to organize the suitable training programmes for the dairy farm women in improved animal husbandry practices to improve their milk production and make the dairying a successful enterprise.

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