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Training Needs of Dairy Farmers in Kathua district of Jammu

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted in Kathua district of Jammu & Kashmir with 80 dairying farmers purposively selected who were intensively involved in agriculture and dairying activities. An interview schedule was prepared to collect the required information and it was collected by personal interview method. Ten-item statements were presented and assessment based on a three point Likert-type rating scale of most needed coded 3, somewhat needed coded 2 and not needed coded 1, mean scores was calculated. The collected data was further quantified, categorized and tabulated. The study concluded that overall distribution of dairy farmers according to training need, 52.5 per cent had medium training need followed by high training need. Dairy farmers had most needed training in aspect of animal nutrition practices (WMS=2.39) and animal breeding practices (WMS=2.28). Hence, realistic and effective planning for education and training need to be done to enhance the skill and adaptation of better scientific practices for livestock farmers in an appropriate way. Further, it can also be suggested that the livestock owners should be acquainted with scientific animal husbandry practices.

Key Words: Dairy farmers, Training needs, NICRA, Animal husbandry.

INTRODUCTION

The animal husbandry sector plays an important role in the country. There is a long tradition of rearing dairy animals by the farmers in the state of Jammu & Kashmir especially by Gujjar and Bakerwal communities. Large number of landless families are also engaged in dairy animal rearing and it has ensured livelihood security to them. Dairy management training provides a systematic improvement of knowledge and skills which in turn helps the trainees to function effectively and efficiently. So, effective training requires a clear picture of how the trainees will need to use information and technology after training in place of such local practices what they have adopted before in their situation (Sharma *et al,* 2017). Though dairy farmers are wholly engaged in care and management of dairy animals but lack of scientific management hinders the progress. It is thus, imperative that dairy development is not feasible unless dairy farmers are trained in scientific dairy farming. 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. The adoption of improved animal husbandry practices like breeding, feeding, management, health care etc., are necessary to improve the productivity of dairy cattle and thereby making dairy farming a

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more profitable enterprise. Hence, a study this was conducted to evaluate the training needs of dairy farmers with respect to scientific animal husbandry practices.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in the Kathua district of Jammu & Kashmir. Two villages were selected randomly for conducting the present study. These villages were further purposively selected as dairy husbandry is being practiced on large scale. Initially, an exhaustive list of livestock owners was prepared from the selected villages. Then from each village a total sample of 40 farmers was selected who were engaged in dairy farming. An interview schedule was prepared to collect the required information as per the objective of the study. Data was collected by personal interview method. The collected data was further quantified, categorized and tabulated. Analysis was carried out by using frequency and percentage (Table 1).

Measurement of variables

To find out the socio-economic characteristics, frequency and percentage were worked out and discussed further. To assess dairy farmers training need about animal husbandry practices, ten-item statements were presented and assessment based on a three point Likert-type rating scale of most needed coded 3, somewhat needed coded 2 and not needed coded 1, mean scores was calculated. A unit score was calculated and total score obtained by individual respondents for all the statement was calculated. With the help of mean and standard deviation the respondents were categorized as low, medium and high category. To find out the subject wise training need of dairy farmers about animal husbandry practices, weighted mean score was find out and ranks were given according to WMS.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data (Table 1) indicated the personal and socio economic characteristics of dairying farmers and revealed that majority (51.25 per cent) of the respondents were in the middle age group followed by 26.25 and 22.50 per cent of the respondents belonged to the young and old age group, respectively. The probable reason that could be attributed to these findings may be that this was the major group who can physically look after their animals. While in case of education majority 32.50 per cent of the respondent were educated up to secondary level whereas, 18.75 per cent of the respondents were educated up to primary level followed by 31.25 per cent respondents were educated up to high secondary level, 12.50per cent respondents were graduate and 0.05 per cent respondents were illiterate. These findings were similar with the findings of Durga *et al* (2009) and Das *et al* (2002).

The data further revealed that higher percentage (37.50) dairy farmers were found to have medium size land holding, while 27.50 per cent dairy farmers were found to have small size of land holding, whereas 13.75 per cent dairy farmers had marginal size of land holding and only 21.25 per cent dairy farmers had large size of land holding. It might be due to that dairy farmers primary occupation is rearing the animals, and in order to maintain their animals, they may be cultivating the land. The perusal of data further indicated that 38.75 per cent of dairy farmers belonged to very high annual income followed by 31.25 per cent of dairy farmers had high annual income. Whereas 15 and 10 per cent dairy farmers belonged to medium and low annual income group respectively. Only 5 per cent of dairy farmers had low annual income i.e. up to Rs. 100000/-. These results are in par with the findings of Durga *et al* (2009) and Sharma *et al* (2017)

The data of dairy farmers distribution according to their dairying experience depicted further and found that majority 72.50 per cent of dairy farmers had medium experience as dairying followed by 17.50 per cent respondents had high dairying experience. Only 10 per cent farmers possessed low dairying experience. The data further revealed

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to their characteristics.

Sr. No.	Characteristic	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age		
	Young age (up to 35 yr)	21	26.25
	Middle age (36 to 55 yr)	41	51.25
	Old age (above 55 yr)	18	22.50
2 .	Education		
	Illiterate	04	0.05
	Primary	15	18.75
	Secondary	26	32.50
	Higher Secondary	25	31.25
	Graduate	10	12.50
3.	Size of Land Holding		
	Marginal (upto 1 ha)	11	13.75
	Small (1- 2 ha)	22	27.50
	Medium (2 to 4 ha)	30	37.50
	Large (> 4 ha)	17	21.25
4.	Dairying Experience		
	Low experience (below 4.72)	08	10.00
	Medium experience (4.72 to 12.36)	58	72.50
	High experience (> 12.36)	14	17.50
5.	Annual Income		
	Very low annual income (upto 1 lakh)	04	5.00
	low annual income (1 to 1.5 lakh)	08	10.00
	Medium annual income (1.5 to 2 lakh)	12	15.00
	High annual income (2 to 2.5 lakh)	25	31.25
	Very high annual income (> 2.5 lakh)	31	38.75
6.	Herd size		
	Low herd size (up to 2 animal)	09	11.25
	Medium herd size (3-7 animal)	51	63.75
	High herd size (> 7 animal)	20	25.00
7.	Social participation		
	Low social participation (< 1.01)	15	18.75
	Medium social participation (1.01 to 3.24)	60	75.00
	High social participation (> 3.24)	05	6.25
8.	Milk Yield		
	Low Milk production (< 3300 lt.)	31	38.75
	Medium Milk production (3300-9600 lt.)	35	43.75
	High Milk production (> 9600 lt.)	14	17.50

Table 2. Distribution of respondents according to their training need

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low training need	15	18.75
2	Medium training need	42	52.50
3	High training need	23	28.75

Table 3. Distribution of respondents according to their subject-wise training need

Sr. No.	Subject	Most needed	Somewhat needed	Not needed	WMS	Ranking
1.	Animal Nutrition practices	30	48	02	2.39	I
2.	Animal Breeding practices	29	45	06	2.28	II
3.	Animal health care practices	27	44	08	2.25	III
4.	Feeding practices in milking and dry animals	23	51	06	2.19	IV
5.	AI and heat detection	16	58	06	2.08	V
6.	Vaccination and deworming	16	49	15	2.02	VI
7.	Care of new born calves	16	39	25	1.98	VII
8.	Care and management of mastitis in milking animal	14	40	26	1.93	VIII
9.	Animal husbandry practices in the agricultural operation	15	39	26	1.89	IX
10.	Importance of record keeping in the dairy business	13	37	30	1.81	X

that 75 per cent dairy farmers fell in medium social participation category followed by 18.75 per cent dairy farmers fell in low social participation category and 6.25 per cent dairy farmers belonged to high social participation group. This variation might be due to their economic status. In case of herd size, 63.75 per cent dairy farmers had a medium herd size (i.e. 3-7 animal) while 25 per cent dairy farmers had more than 7 animals. Only 11.25 per cent dairy farmers had less than 2 animals. Milk yield production data presented in table 1 in which 43.75 per cent dairy farmers had medium milk yield followed by 38.75 per cent dairy farmers had low milk yield, while 17.50 per cent dairy farmers had high milk yield. These findings were in accordance with the findings of Durga *et al* (2009) and Sharma *et al* (2017)

Distribution of the dairy farmers according to their training need

It was quite clear from the data (Table 2) that 52.50 per cent of dairy farmers had medium training need whereas, 28.75 per cent had high followed by 18.75 per cent had low training need about animal husbandry practices. This might be due to fact that dairy farmers had medium social participation and medium dairying experience. The results were in agreement with those of Durga *et al* (2009) and Sharma *et al* (2017)

The data in (Table 3) represented about area-wise training need of dairy farmers about animal husbandry practices viz., breeding, feeding, health care, management of the Mastitis. It was assessed by personal interview method using structured interview schedule. The results were calculated as

weighted score and accordingly ranks were given for each of the thrust area of animal husbandry practices identified for the training. Among ten subject, highest to lowest needed training were: Animal nutrition practices (WMS=2.39) ranked first, Animal breeding practices (WMS=2.28) ranked second whose findings were in consonance with Vahora et al. (2015) who also reported that adequate and proper breeding practices helps to maintain optimum production of dairy animal, animal health care practices (WMS=2.25) ranked third, Feeding practices in milking and dry animal (WMS=2.19) ranked fourth, artificial insemination and heat detection of animal (WMS=2.08) ranked fifth, vaccination and deworming in the animal (WMS=2.02) ranked sixth and the same results are in par with the findings of Durga et al. (2009) and Sharma et.al. (2017) care of new born calves (WMS=1.94) ranked seventh, Care and Management of the mastitis in milking animal (WMS=1.98) ranked eighth, animal husbandry practices in the agricultural operation (WMS=1.89) ranked ninth and Importance of record keeping in the dairy business (WMS=1.81) ranked tenth.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that the aim of this study was to find out the ways where better training skills are needed to bring more efficient performance in the livestock production. Adequate training in areas of animal nutrition practices and animal breeding practices was needed. There is a great need for conducting more number of needs based and well-tailored training programme suited to dairy farmers. Training need was irrespective to their size of land holding, annual income and social participation. To organize more effective training must be subject-wise at KVK before monsoon and before cropping season. The one-day training duration was most appropriate and four times in a year. Thus, the livestock owners should be acquainted with improved management practices through appropriated training programmes to obtain better output from their livestock.

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