



TRAINING NEED ASSESSMENT OF DAIRY FARM WOMEN IN DAIRY PRACTICES

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Abstract- Rural women play a great role in decision-making process of farm matter, perform many of the farm operations and undertake many responsibilities concerning care and management of farm animals. Therefore research study entitled "Training need assessment in dairy farming among farm women of adopted villages under RKVY project" was under taken with an objectives to determine the training need of dairy farm women in dairy farming practices. On the basis of mean score obtained for various areas of dairy farming the farm women shown interest in training regarding breeding, feeding, management and fodder production where as they shown less interest in animal health care practices as it is highly technical in nature and require expert advice.

Keywords- Training, Breeding, Feeding, Management

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Introduction

Dairy farming is an integral part of the rural agricultural economy. The word "training", is accepted as a synonym for all of the forms of knowledge, skill, and attitudinal development which one need to keep pace with the accelerating life involvement and the enlarging concepts of man's capabilities. Livestock has been an integral part of Indian agricultural production system. For the total population of cattle 18,51,81,000 and buffalo 9,79,22,000 in India. In Gujarat buffalo, sheeps and goats population is 7424, 7140, 2062 and 4541 (A.H. Bulletin 2007-08) respectively. In Banaskantha the population of cattle, buffalo, sheep and goats is 6,54,167 9,45,346 1,55,955 and 3,05,853 (A.H. Bulletin 2007-08) respectively. Gujarat occupies a place of pride in the dairy development map of India and proverbially known as "milk bowl of India". Training need in dairy farming practices like breeding, feeding, fodder, management, animal health care, are necessary to improve the productivity of dairy cattle and thereby making dairy-farming a more profitable enterprise. However, the training need in dairy farming practices by the cattle owners does not appear to be satisfactory. Therefore, livestock production and productivity is yet to be boosted to meet the felt need. There is a considerable gap between the present practices of dairy farming and available dairy farming technologies. Therefore, research study entitled "Training need assessment in dairy farming among farm women of adopted villages under RKVY project" was under taken with an objective to determine the training need of dairy farm women

in dairy farming practices.

Materials and Methods

The RKVY (Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana) project was operation in sixteen villages of Dantiwada block of Banaskantha district. All the villages were selected purposively. One hundred and fourteen dairy farm women were selected in proportion with number of dairy farm women in each village at random. They were interviewed personally with the help of structured interview schedule.

Result and Discussion

The result obtained are described below

Training needs in breeding practices

The milk production depends largely on type of breed and breeding practices. The data presented in [Table-1] indicate that according to the need hierarchy, the respondents assigned first rank to 'selection of breed' (2.58 mean score) followed by 'selection of adult and dairy heifer' (1.96 mean score) and 'heat detection' (1.92 mean score) were ranked first, second and third respectively. The sub-items vis., 'rearing the calves' (1.73 mean score), 'reproductive efficiency of dairy animal' (1.64 mean score), and 'pregnancy diagnosis' (1.61 mean score) were ranked as fourth, fifth and sixth.

Table-1 Training need of the dairy farm women with respect to breeding practices.

n=140

Sr. No	Sub – items of training	Degree of training need			Mean score	Rank
		Most needed (3)	Somewhat needed (2)	Not Needed (1)		
1	Selection of breed	93(66.43)	36(25.72)	11(7.85)	2.58	I
2	Selection of adult animal and dairy heifer	41(29.29)	53(37.86)	46(32.85)	1.96	II
3	Breeding programme	07(5.00)	37(26.43)	96(68.57)	1.36	VII
4	Reproductive efficiency of dairy animal	22(15.72)	46(32.85)	72(51.43)	1.64	V
5	Heat detection	42(30.00)	45(32.14)	53(37.86)	1.92	III
6	Artificial insemination	11(7.85)	17(12.15)	112(80.00)	1.27	VIII
7	Pregnancy diagnosis	24(17.14)	38(27.14)	78(55.72)	1.61	VI
8	Post – partum coverage	05(3.57)	08(5.71)	127(90.72)	1.12	XI
9	Rearing the calves	33(23.57)	37(26.43)	70(50.00)	1.73	IV

Remaining sub-items of the feeding practices were perceived by the dairy farm women as less important as their mean scores were less than average mean score 1.50. Based on the above findings it can be concluded that among the various breeding practices, selection of breed, selection of adult and dairy heifer and heat detection were the important sub-areas for which majority women demanded training might be due to the fact that above practices are milk production oriented practices and hence, dairy farm women would have shown interest in these practices. This calls for high training need among majority women. These findings are supported by the views expressed by Sumathi and Alagesan (2001) and Patil *et. al.* (2009) [2,4].

Training need in feeding practices

Feeding practices play a vital role in dairy farming as feeds affect milk production. So far as training needs in this aspect are concerned, some of the items are utmost important. The data depicted in [Table-2] revealed that, the highest mean score for training as desired by dairy farm women was feeding schedule of pregnant animal (2.16 mean score) ranked first followed by time and frequency of feeding (1.90 mean score) and feeding schedule of dry animal (1.77 mean score), and were ranked first, second and third respectively.

Table-2 Training need of the dairy farm women with respect to feeding practices. n=140

Sr. No	Sub – items of training	Degree of training need			Mean score	Rank
		Most needed (3)	Somewhat needed (2)	Not Needed (1)		
1	Selection of feed	19 (13.57)	28 (20.00)	93 (66.43)	1.47	VI
2	Feeding schedule of young calves	21 (15.00)	24 (17.14)	95 (67.86)	1.47	VI
3	Feeding schedule of young heifer	23 (16.43)	31 (22.14)	86 (61.43)	1.55	VIII
4	Feeding schedule of pregnant animal	58 (41.42)	47 (33.58)	35 (25.00)	2.16	I
5	Feeding schedule of dry animal	23 (16.43)	63 (45.00)	54 (38.57)	1.77	III
6	Feeding of milch animal	20 (14.28)	23 (16.43)	97 (69.29)	1.45	IX
7	Time and frequency of feeding	25 (17.86)	76 (54.29)	39 (27.85)	1.90	II
8	Advantage of compounded live stock feed					
	(a) Home made	30 (21.42)	42 (30.00)	68 (48.58)	1.72	IV
	(b) Manufactured by district unions	31 (22.15)	33 (23.57)	75 (53.58)	1.69	V

The mean score for the sub- items compounded homemade livestock feed and manufactured by district union was 1.72 and 1.69 respectively. It can be concluded from the above findings that of the various feeding schedule of pregnant animal, time and frequency of the feeding, feeding schedule of dry animal, and advantages of home-made livestock feed were the major sub-areas for which women want knowledge. Animal's feeding is generally taken care of by the women. In the early morning, women perform the task of preparation of feed mixture, feeding and milking of the animals. Since the above practices are performed by women, they should be well-equipped in these practices, training may satisfy their knowledge hunger. This finding is in contrast with the findings of Patil *et. al.* (2009) and Durgga Rani and Subhadra (2009) [1,2].

Training need in fodder production

Fodder crops are the important sources of animal food supply. The data presented in [Table-3] reveal that, among the various sub-items of fodder production, 'silage making' was the most important item and ranked first by respondents for the purpose of training. The mean score for this aspect was 2.94. The second rank was assigned by the respondents to the sub-area of 'selection of fodder crops' with a mean score of 1.37. The mean scores for the sub-items cultivation of fodder crops, selection of varieties of fodder crops and drying of fodder crops 1.30, 1.25 and 1.22 respectively. Thus, it can be concluded that 'silage making' was the major area in which respondents asked for training.

Table-3 Training need of the dairy farm women with respect to fodder production n=140

Sr. No	Sub – items of training	Degree of training need			Mean score	Rank
		Most needed (3)	Somewhat needed (2)	Not Needed (1)		
1	Selection of varieties of fodder crops	11 (7.85)	13 (9.29)	116 (82.86)	1.25	IV
2	Selection of fodder crops	9 (6.43)	35 (25.00)	96 (68.57)	1.37	II
3	Cultivation of fodder crops	15 (10.71)	13 (9.29)	112 (80.00)	1.30	III
4	Drying of fodder crops	9 (6.43)	13 (9.29)	118 (84.28)	1.22	V
5	Silage making	134 (95.72)	4 (2.85)	2 (1.43)	2.94	I

Above discussion leads to the conclusion that silage making is the important sub-area in which women demanded training. Researcher, while collecting the data, observed that the practice of silage making is not at all adopted in the study area. While explaining the importance of silage, women had shown good interest. They demanded detailed knowledge about silage making. Silage making is a skill-oriented practice, and hence all the women ranked it under the continuum of mostly needed training area. The present finding is in support of the finding

reported by Patil *et. al.* (2009) and Durgga Rani and Subhadra (2009) [1,2].

Training need in management practices

Management practice is one of the important aspects of dairy farming. The data presented in [Table-4] revealed that among the various sub-items of management practices, raising the replacement stock at home by 'artificial system' was the most important areas ranked first by the respondent for the purpose of training.

Table-4 Training need of the dairy farm women with respect to management practices. n=140

	Sub – items of training	Degree of training need			Mean score	Rank
		Most needed (3)	Somewhat needed (2)	Not Needed (1)		
1	Animal housing					
	(a) Individual housing	118 (84.29)	18 (12.86)	4 (2.85)	2.81	II
	(b) Group housing	05 (3.56)	12 (8.57)	123 (87.57)	1.15	VIII
	(c) Café pen	08 (5.71)	11 (7.86)	121 (86.43)	1.19	VII
2	Replacement stock					
	(a) Through purchase	52 (37.15)	46 (32.85)	42 (30.00)	2.07	IV
	(b) Raising the replacement stock at home					
	(i) By natural system	3 (2.15)	05 (3.57)	132 (94.28)	1.07	XI
	(ii)Artificial System	128 (91.43)	7 (5.00)	05 (3.57)	2.87	I
3	Other management practices					
	(a) Dehorning	109 (77.85)	17 (12.15)	14 (10.00)	2.67	III
	(b) Castration	28 (20.00)	34 (24.28)	78 (55.72)	1.31	V
4	Upkeepment of the various records of animal husbandry	19 (13.57)	6 (4.28)	115 (82.15)	1.31	V

The mean score for the item was 2.87. The second rank was assigned to the sub-area of 'individual housing' with a mean score of 2.81. The third and forth ranked items were dehorning and 'replacing the stock through purchase' (2.67 mean score) and (2.07 mean score), respectively. Rest were considered least important by the respondents and their mean score was below average mean score 1.82. The present finding is in support of the finding reported by Patil *et. al.* (2009) [2].

Training need in animal health care practices

Animal health care practice plays a vital role in dairy farming. Parasites and various diseases affect the health of animals, which influence the quality and quantity of milk.

Table-5 Training need of the dairy farm women with respect to animal health care practices

n=140

Sr. No	Sub – items of training	Degree of training need			Mean score	Rank
		Most needed (3)	Somewhat needed (2)	Not Needed (1)		
1	Treatment against contagious diseases	35 (25.00)	30 (21.42)	75 (53.58)	1.71	III
2	Precaution against parasitic diseases	41 (29.28)	72 (51.43)	27 (19.29)	2.10	I
3	Vaccination schedule	52 (37.15)	46 (32.85)	42 (30.00)	2.05	II
4	Sterility treatments	24 (17.14)	38 (27.15)	78 (55.71)	1.61	IV
5	Control of parasites	21 (15.00)	17 (12.14)	102 (72.86)	1.42	V

The data depicted in [Table-5] indicate that according to need hierarchy, among the various sub-items of animal health care, 'precaution against parasitic diseases' was assigned first rank with a mean score of 2.10, followed by 'vaccination schedule' and 'treatment against contagious diseases' with mean score of 2.05 and 1.71, respectively. The rank assigned to the sub-items, viz., sterility treatment, and control of parasites were fourth and fifth were considered list important for training.

It can be concluded from the above discussion that precaution against parasitic diseases and vaccination schedule were the important areas for which women asked for training. It has been observed that it may be due to lack of knowledge about vaccination and precaution against parasitic diseases of animals. This finding is in partial support of the finding of Sharma *et. al.* (2009) and Patil *et. al.* (2009) [2,4].

Conclusion

From the above study it can be concluded that in various breeding practices, selection of breed, selection of adult and dairy heifer Whereas in feeding practices, feeding schedule of pregnant animal, time were the major sub-areas of training. In fodder production, silage making is the important sub-area in which women demanded training. In management practices raising the replacement stock at home by artificial system, individual housing, were most important. In

animal health care practices precaution against parasitic diseases and vaccination schedule were the important areas for which women asked for training.

Conflict of Interest: None declared

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