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KNOWLEDGE AND USE OF SELECTED DRUDGERY REDUCTION TECHNOLOGIES RELATED TO ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AMONG FARM WOMEN

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Abstract- The present research was conducted in Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh. The purpose of the study was to find out the knowledge and use of selected drudgery reduction technologies related to animal husbandry among the women. The sample of the study consisted of 240 randomly selected farm women from two panchayat samities. Personal interview technique was used for collecting data. Appropriate statistical tools were used for the analysis of the data. Findings of the study reveal that the farm women lacked knowledge about agriculture technologies and its possession and use was also limited.

Keywords- Knowledge, Use, Drudgery Reduction, Farm women, Animal Husbandry

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Introduction

It is established beyond doubt that women always participated in dairy and animal husbandry activities in addition to their daily household chores. The role and contribution of women members of every rural family to dairying is not documented well, although known their contribution too well in rural India. According [1] About 75 million women as against 15 million men are engaged in dairying in India. Women play an important role in animal husbandry activities as manager, decision makers and skilled workers. Beyond the perform the functions related to house management, They helps in farm operations, take their animals for grazing, look after and sale of milk, and in addition,. Rural woman contributes a share of more than 75 per cent in animal husbandry operation [3]. In many places the entire management of livestock *viz*., chopping of fodder, feeding, milking, preparation of milk products, cleaning of cattle shed, collection of cow dung for manure pits and their storage is done by women lone. The amount of work done in these activities ranged from 75-100 per cent.

Most of the tasks performed by women are tedious as well as time consuming. As most of these operation are done manually (using hand, foot or head) or by using traditional tools, they are slow and cause considerable fatigue and drudgery. Also many of these operations are traditionally done in varying body posture some of which if done for long duration are not only inconvenient but also cause body pain. All these factors result in physical and mental fatigue, monetary hardship, exploitation, pain, economic stress etc. In India, women still follow the age old method whether it be a farm or animal husbandry. A desired change in the life of rural women, which is full of drudgery, can be brought by the use of application of simple, scientific and appropriate technologies. Such an outcome needs location specific package of technologies and a systematic approach of intervention. Therefore, it is necessary that women become technologically empowered in animal husbandry. It is possible to achieve this by upgradation of their knowledge and skills in technologies. Thus, the present paper attempts to find out Knowledge and use of selected drudgery reduction technologies related to animal husbandry among farm women.

MaterialsandMethods

The study was conducted in two purposively selected panchayat samities of Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh, namely Paraspur and Jhanjhari. From each selected panchayat samiti, four villages were purposively selected and from each village, 30 farm women engaged in animal husbandry were randomly selected constituting the total sample of 240 women for the present study. A list of drudgery reduction technologies related to animal husbandry was prepared according to the need of farm women of the study area. The five technologies related to animal husbandry i.e. rake, shovel, moving stool, wheel barrow and chaff cutter were selected to know the existing knowledge and use of selected drudgery reduction technologies related to animal husbandry among farm women. Data were collected with the help of structured interview schedule.

Knowledge and Use of Selected Drudgery Reducing Technologies in Animal Husbandry among Farm Women Regarding

The awareness of the respondents about any technology may initiate the sequence of later stages that leads to adoption or rejection of the technology. Hence, an effort was made to study the awareness of farm women regarding selected drudgery reducing technologies. The farm women were asked whether they have heard, seen, knew the name, cost and power required to operate the technologies.

[Table-1] regarding awareness of the respondents about selected drudgery reduction technologies in animal husbandry reveals that one fourth of the respondents (25%) had heard, seen and knew the power required for operating the chaff cutter and 18.75 per cent knew its name. The reason behind some awareness about the chaff cutter may be due to its easy availability in the market and it was used by the people in the village. Other technologies namely rake, shovel, wheel hoe and moving stool were heard and seen by very few of the respondents (0.83 to 12.5 %). It can be said that majority of the respondents were not aware of the selected drudgery reduction technologies in animal husbandry.

Existing knowledge of the farm women about different drudgery reduction technologies

Existing knowledge of the farm women about different technologies was assessed covering the aspects like parts, purpose, advantage, care, precaution and

difference between traditional method and selected technologies. Mean percent scores of existing knowledge of the respondents regarding selected drudgery reduction technologies in agriculture has been presented in [Table-2].

Table-1 *Awareness of the respondents regarding selected drudgery reduction technologies in animal husbandry*

n=240

S. No.	Technologies	Heard%	Seen %	Know the name of technologies %	Cost %	Types of power required %
1	Rake	12.5	12.5	6.25	0	12.5
2	Shovel	6.25	6.25	4.7	0	6.25
3	Wheel Barrow	1.67	1.67	0.83	0	1.67
4	Chaff cutter	25	25	18.75	0	25
5	Moving stool	8.33	8.33	6.25	0	8.33

Table-2 *Existing knowledge and technological gap among respondents in selected drudgery reduction technologies related to animal husbandry*

n=240

S. No.	Technologies	Purpose (MPS)	Parts (MPS)	Advantages (MPS)	Care (MPS)	Precaution (MPS)	Difference between traditional and selected technologies	Overall Mean Per cent Score (MPS)
1.	Rake	6.25	12.50	6.84	2.5	7.29	2.77	5.81
2.	Shovel	2.5	6.25	2.5	2.5	1.66	0.0	2.53
3.	Wheel barrow	0.55	0.55	0.37	1.25	0.33	1.66	0.62
4.	Chaff cutter	25.0	22.2	8.33	7.91	10.11	18.75	14.18
5.	Moving stool	8.33	7.63	3.61	1.56	4.86	2.77	4.30

Data presented in [Table-2] show the existing knowledge of the respondents regarding selected drudgery reduction technologies in animal husbandry and technological gap among the respondents. It can be seen from the table that the respondents knew about the chaff cutter upto some extent with overall mean per cent scores of 14.18. They were aware about the purpose (25 MPS) of chaff cutter, parts (22.2 MPS), advantages (8.33 MPS), care (7.91MPS), precaution (10.11MPS) and difference between traditional and selected technologies (18.75MPS). The existing knowledge of the farm women regarding technologies like rake, shovel, wheel barrow and moving stool was found to be very poor with MPS ranging between 0.62 to 5.81. The respondents who knew about these technologies reported that they were aware, as they possessed these technologies. The study has conformity with the progress report of NATP on "Empowerment of women in agriculture" (2003) [2] knowledge about new equipment and technologies was almost nil among the farm women.

Use of selected drudgery reduction technologies in animal husbandry among the farm women

Table-3 *Use of selected drudgery reduction technologies in animal husbandry among the farm women*

n=240

S. No.	Technologies	Possession (%)	Extent of use (%)			MPS
			Always	Often	Some Time	
1	Rake	6.25	0.0	0.0	6.25	3.75
2	Shovel	1.66	1.66	0.0	0.0	1.66
3	Wheel barrow	1.66	1.66	0.0	0.0	1.66
4	Chaff cutter	20.08	20.08	0.0	0.0	20.83
5	Moving stool	4.16	4.16	0.0	0.0	4.16

[Table-3] regarding use of selected drudgery reduction technologies in animal husbandry shows that chaff cutter was the only technology that was always used by one fifth of the respondents (20.08%), while other technologies like rake, shovel, wheel barrow and moving stool were used by very few of the respondents (1.66 to 4.16 MPS). the research findings has supported by Panwar (2004) [4] revealed that Chaff cutter was known to 5.83 per cent of the respondents but possessed and used by 0.83 per cent of the respondents.

Conclusion

On the basis of findings it can be concluded that wide technological gap existed knowledge and use of animal husbandry technologies which needs to be bridged with intensive training to develop knowledge and skills for women in used these technologies.

Conflict of Interest: None declared

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