

Animal Husbandry Training Needs of Rural Women

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ABSTRACT

The present research confined to study animal husbandry training need of rural farm women. The rural women perceived maximum training need in management practices followed by breeding practices. Detailed training needs for different main areas are also analyzed.

Introduction

Rural women play a key role in dairy farming. It is imperative that dairy development is not feasible unless rural women are trained in scientific dairy farming. For training to be effective, it should be based on the felt needs of trainers. The training, which is not need based, may have a little impact on bringing desired change in the clientele system. The present study was planned with an objective to study the training needs of rural women in various areas of animal husbandry practices.

Methodology

The present study was conducted in Junagadh district of Gujarat state, as the district is famous for 'Zafarabadi Buffalo' and 'Gir Cow'. Five villages from each of the two taluka were selected at random. A total of 105 respondents were selected from these villages using proportionate random sampling.

Training need inventory was developed and rural women were asked to

rate each training area on three point continuum viz. 'most needed', 'needed' and 'not needed'. The mean score for each of the main and sub items was then calculated.

Results and Discussion

Five major areas of animal husbandry viz., breeding, feeding, fodder, production management, and animal health care were identified. The results for the major areas as well the sub-areas of the major areas are presented hereunder.

(A) Training needs in major areas of animal husbandry practices

The data in table 1 reveal that the rural women perceive maximum training need in 'management practices' followed by 'breeding practices' and 'animal health care practices'. The training in 'fodder production' and 'feeding practices' were considered as less important.

The details regarding training needs for each of the sub-areas are discussed hereafter.

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Table 1: Training needs of rural women for major areas of animal husbandry

(n= 105)

Sr. No.	Main items of training	Mean score	Rank
1	Management practices	1.82	I
2	Breeding practices	1.66	II
3	Animal health care practices	1.56	III
4	Fodder production	1.43	IV
5	Feeding practices	1.42	V

(B) Training need in breeding practices

The data presented in Table 2 indicate that the respondents assigned first

as fourth, fifth and sixth respectively. Remaining sub items of the breeding practices were perceived as less important for training purpose.

Table 2: Training needs of rural women for breeding practices

(n= 105)

Sr. No.	Sub-items of training	Mean score	Rank
1	Artificial insemination	2.69	I
2	Pregnancy diagnosis	1.99	II
3	Breeding programmes	1.97	III
4	Reproductive efficiency of dairy animals	1.68	IV
5	Selection of breed	1.67	V
6	Selection of adult animals and dairy heifers	1.60	VI
7	Rearing the calves	1.14	VII
8	Heat detection	1.12	VIII
9	Post partum coverage	1.11	IX

rank to 'artificial insemination' followed by 'pregnancy diagnoses' and 'breeding programme' for receiving training. The sub items viz. 'reproductive efficiency of dairy animals', 'selection of breed', 'selection of adult animals and dairy heifers' were ranked

(C) Training need in feeding practice

The data depicted in Table 3 reveal that the highest mean score for training desire by rural women was for 'time and frequency of feeding' followed by 'home

Table 3: Training needs of rural women for feeding practices

(n= 105)

Sr. No.	Sub-items of training	Mean score	Rank
1	Time and frequency of feeding	1.80	I
2	Advantages of home made livestock feed	1.77	II
3	Feeding schedule of dry animals	1.75	III
4	Advantages of live stock feed manufactured by district union	1.50	IV
5	Selection of feed	1.35	V
6	Feeding schedule of young calves	1.35	VI
7	Advantages of livestock feed manufactured by private companies	1.23	VII
8	Feeding schedule of young heifers	1.21	VIII
9	Feeding schedule of pregnant animals	1.15	IX
10	Feeding of milch animals	1.11	X

Table 4: Training needs of rural women for fodder production (n= 105)

Sr. No.	Sub-items of training	Mean score	Rank
1	Silage making	3.00	I
2	Selection of varieties of fodder crops	1.20	II
3	Selection of fodder crops	1.16	III
4	Storage of fodder products	1.08	IV
5	Cultivation of fodder crops	1.06	V
6	Drying of fodder products	1.06	V

made live stock feed' and 'feeding schedule of dry animals' respectively.

The sub-item, 'live stock feed manufactured by district union' was ranked fourth for training need. The remaining sub-items were perceived as of less important in order of preference for training.

stock at home' were the important areas and ranked first by the respondents. The third rank was assigned to 'dehorning'. The fourth and fifth rank were assigned to 'replacing the stock through purchase' and 'castration' respectively. The respondents perceived remaining sub-items as less important.

Table 5: Training needs of rural women for management practices (n= 105)

Sr. No.	Sub-items of training	Mean score	Rank
1	Individual housing	3.00	I
2	Replacement of stock at home	3.00	I
3	Dehorning	2.90	III
4	Replacement of stock through purchase	2.08	IV
5	Castration	1.68	VI
6	Raising the replacement stock by feeding colostorm	1.35	VII
7	Up keeping of the various records	1.22	VIII
8	Group animal housing	1.00	IX
9	Cafe pan animal housing	1.00	IX
10	Raising replacement stock by natural system	1.00	IX

(D) Training needs in fodder production

The data presented in table 4 reveal that among various sub-items of fodder production, only 'silage making' was perceived as important. The respondents perceived other items as of less importance.

(E) Training needs in management practices

The data in table 5 show that 'individual housing' and 'raising replacement

(F) Training needs in animal health care practices

The data depicted in Table 6 indicate that 'sterility treatment' was assigned first rank followed by 'precaution against parasitic diseases' and 'vaccination schedule'. In the remaining sub-areas, rural women perceived less training need as their mean score was below 1.50.

Table 6: Training needs of rural women for animal health care practices (n= 105)

Sr. No.	Sub-items of training	Mean score	Rank
1	Sterility treatment	2.14	I
2	Precaution against parasitic diseases	2.09	II
3	Vaccination schedule	1.63	III
4	Treatment against contagious diseases	1.36	IV
5	Treatment against common diseases	1.35	V
6	Control of parasites	1.10	VI

Conclusion

Looking to main areas, rural women perceived maximum training need in management practices followed by breeding practices. As regards breeding practices, majority women preferred training in artificial insemination followed by pregnancy diagnosis. In case of feeding practices, rural women perceived more training in time and frequency of feeding followed by home made livestock feed. In fodder production, silage making was the first ranked item followed

by selection of varieties of fodder crops. Looking to management practices, individual housing and raising the replacement stock at home were ranked high by the respondent rural women. In animal health care, women felt more training needs in sterility treatment followed by precaution against parasitic diseases.

The training/ extension institutes while finalizing training programmes should concentrate on management and breeding practices.