

RESEARCH NOTE

Training Needs of Rural Women

R. F. Thakor¹ and K. F. Patel²

INTRODUCTION

Women play a significant role in agricultural life in India as they contribute one third of labour force required for farming operations and allied enterprises. Their involvement in agricultural operations is besides their usual obligation of discharging domestic work. Their role in the social and economic development of the nation is now being recognised gradually. Intensive farming practices have put them to more hardwork and totally pre-occupied without much leisure. However, women in rural areas are generally less responsive to the improved technologies, Since they are not exposed to these technologies, Therefore, it is a need of time to train the women talk in different areas of agriculture and animal husbandry to keep them abreast of the latest innovations available. So as to pinpoint the areas requiring training to the rural women engaged in different farming practices, the present study was conducted with the objective, viz, to assess the training needs of rural women with regards to agriculture and animal husbandry enterprises.

METHODOLOGY

Kheda district of Gujarat state was selected purposively, Stratified random sampling technique was employed to select the sample. Out of ten talukas of the district, four talukas were selected randomly. The list

of villages each selected taluka were obtained from the district gazatte. Further, from this list, four villages from each taluka were selected using simple random sampling technique. From each selected village, list of rural women were obtained. This listed rural women were then classified into three categories viz, small, medium and large based on their land holding. Finally, from the selected villages four rural women each from three categories were selected at random. Thus, the total sample for the study was confined to 192 rural women. Out of this 180 rural women were available at the time of interview. Therefore, the sample size was restricted to 180 respondents.

Assessment of training needs :

To measure the intensity of training needs, twelve areas in agriculture and nine in Animal Husbandry in which rural women needed training were identified for the study in consultation with extension specialists and Agricultural scientists. A three point rating scale (Needed, less needed, not needed) was employed to measure the training needs of rural women in selected areas. Respondents were interviewed personally. They were asked to indicate any one of alternative responses against each selected items depending upon their training requirement. The data were analysed by using frequency distribution and percentages.

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1. Training Orgaizer, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mundra-(Gujarat)
 2. Dy. Director of Extension Education (Zone), GAU, Anand.

Table 1 : Training Needs of Rural Women

Sr. No.	Areas of Traing Needs (Agriculture)	Small N=64			Medium N=-60			Large N=56		
		Needed	Less Needed	Not Needed	Needed	Less Needed	Not Needed	Needed	Less Needed	Not Needed
1.	Selection of Seed	21 (32.82)	28 (43.75)	15 (23.43)	16 (26.67)	24 (40.00)	20 (33.33)	18 (32.14)	21 (37.50)	17 (30.36)
2.	Treatment of Seed	26 (40.62)	21 (32.82)	17 (26.56)	21 (35.00)	18 (30.00)	21 (35.00)	26 (46.43)	24 (42.85)	06 (10.72)
3.	Method of Sowing	23 (35.94)	28 (43.75)	13 (20.31)	31 (51.67)	15 (25.00)	14 (23.33)	34 (60.71)	10 (77.86)	12 (21.43)
4.	Raising Nursery	19 (29.69)	23 (35.94)	22 (34.37)	17 (28.33)	20 (33.33)	23 (38.33)	19 (33.93)	18 (32.14)	19 (33.93)
5.	Preparation of FYM	39 (60.94)	10 (15.62)	15 (23.44)	34 (54.67)	16 (26.67)	10 (16.64)	31 (55.36)	13 (23.21)	12 (21.43)
6.	Time and method of fertilizer application	29 (45.31)	21 (32.82)	14 (21.87)	23 (38.33)	17 (28.33)	20 (33.33)	18 (31.14)	27 (48.22)	11 (19.64)
7.	Identification of common pest and diseases	26 (40.62)	23 (35.94)	15 (23.44)	19 (31.67)	24 (40.00)	17 (28.33)	21 (37.50)	18 (32.14)	17 (30.36)
8.	Storage of food grains	47 (73.44)	13 (20.31)	04 (6.25)	42 (70.00)	08 (13.38)	10 (16.67)	37 (66.07)	11 (19.64)	08 (14.29)
9.	Use of Biogas technology	04 (06.25)	08 (12.50)	52 (81.25)	12 (20.00)	15 (25.00)	33 (55.00)	27 (48.21)	12 (21.43)	17 (30.36)
10.	Kitchen gardening	- (-)	09 (14.06)	55 (85.94)	14 (23.33)	16 (26.67)	30 (50.00)	13 (23.21)	12 (21.43)	31 (55.36)
11.	Economic planning and budgeting	07 (10.94)	05 (7.81)	52 (81.25)	13 (21.67)	19 (31.67)	28 (46.66)	12 (21.43)	19 (33.93)	25 (44.64)
12.	Maintenance of farm record	06 (09.38)	08 (12.50)	50 (78.12)	14 (23.33)	14 (23.33)	32 (53.34)	16 (28.57)	13 (23.22)	27 (48.21)

Figures in paranthesis indicate percentage.

Table 2 : Training Needs of Rural Women

Sr. No.	Areas of Traing Needs Animal Husbandry	Small N=64			Medium N=-60			Large N=56		
		Needed	Less Needed	Not Needed	Needed	Less Needed	Not Needed	Needed	Less Needed	Not Needed
1.	Management of Milch animals	30 (46.87)	19 (26.69)	15 (23.44)	26 (43.33)	15 (25.00)	19 (31.47)	29 (51.79)	11 (19.64)	16 (28.57)
2.	Milking of animals	23 (35.94)	21 (32.82)	20 (31.24)	16 (26.67)	14 (23.33)	30 (50.00)	10 (17.86)	12 (21.43)	34 (60.71)
3.	Feeding of animals	36 (56.25)	22 (34.37)	06 (09.38)	32 (53.33)	17 (28.33)	11 (18.33)	24 (42.86)	14 (25.00)	18 (32.14)
4.	Treatment of Common diseases	34 (53.13)	20 (31.24)	10 (15.62)	30 (50.00)	23 (38.33)	07 (11.67)	30 (53.57)	15 (26.79)	11 (19.64)
5.	Artificial insemination	23 (35.94)	21 (32.82)	20 (31.24)	28 (46.67)	20 (33.33)	12 (20.00)	21 (37.50)	19 (33.93)	16 (28.57)
6.	Raising fodder	19 (29.69)	11 (17.18)	34 (53.13)	25 (41.67)	10 (16.67)	25 (41.67)	08 (14.28)	20 (35.72)	28 (50.00)
7.	Making silos	16 (25.00)	24 (37.50)	24 (37.50)	16 (26.67)	11 (18.33)	33 (55.00)	24 (42.86)	22 (39.28)	10 (17.86)
8.	Care of hybrid cows	25 (39.06)	16 (25.00)	23 (35.94)	28 (46.66)	13 (21.67)	19 (31.68)	37 (66.07)	06 (10.72)	13 (23.21)
9.	Preparation of milk products	41 (64.06)	15 (23.44)	08 (12.50)	28 (46.66)	16 (26.67)	16 (26.67)	23 (41.07)	29 (51.79)	04 (7.14)

Figures in paranthesis indicate percentage.

Training Needs...

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Rural women with small holdings :

An examination of the data presented in Table 1 indicated that more than 50 per cent of the respondents expressed to undergo training in the areas such as time and method of fertilizer application and storage of a foodgrains. A large majority of them (Above 75 percent) reported that they not needed training in the areas such as use of biogas technology, kitchen gardening, economic planning and budgeting and maintenance of farm records. Most of the rural women belonged to this category were found illiterate and economically poor as compared to medium and large category rural women. Majority of them were found engaged in carrying out various agricultural operation in their field. Therefore, they could not realise the significance of maintenance of farm records, economic planning and budgeting, kitchen gardening, and use of biogas technology. This could be the possible reason why they have refused to join the training on these aspects.

With regards to animal husbandry enterprise, more than 50 per cent of the respondents expressed that they needed training in the areas such feeding of animals, treatment of common diseases and preparation of milk products.

Rural women with medium holdings :

More than 50 cent of the respondents of this category desires to have training in the areas like method of sowing, preparation of FYM, and storage of foodgrains. With regards to animal husbandry enterprise, about 50 per cent and more respondents have preferred to join the training on the aspects

such as feeding of animals and treatment of common diseases of animals. About one half of the respondents have expressed that they do not needed training on making silos and milking of animals.

Rural women with large holdings :

More than 50 per cent of the respondents belonged to this category expressed that they are interested to attend the training in the areas of method of sowing, preparation of FYM, and storage of foodgrains. So far as a concerned with animal husbandry enterprise, more than half of the respondents reported that they needed training in the areas such as management of milch animals, treatment of common diseases and care of hybrid cows. Involvement of large farm women in animal husbandry practices were found more as compared to small and medium categories of farm women, Most of them were carrying out all the activities related to management of milch animals. Majority of them were possessed one or two hybrid cows. This could be the possible reason why they preferred to undergo training on the aspects such mngement of milch animals, treatment of common diseases and care of hybrid cows. Above finding are in support of the findings reported by Devi (1987) and Patel et. al. (1992).

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded from the above findings that irrespective of the categories of farm women, a large majority of them were expressed to undergo training in the areas of preparation of FYM, storage of Food grains, time and method of fertilizers, applications and raising nursery, preparation of milk products care of hybrid cows and treatment of common disease.