

## **TRAINING NEED OF HORSE OWNERS IN BANASKANTHA DISTRICT OF GUJARAT STATE**

**V. B. Pandor<sup>1</sup> and S. S. Shekhawat<sup>2</sup>**

1 PG Student, Department of Extension Education, C. P. College of Agriculture, SDAU, Sardarkrushinagar-385506

2 Associate Professor, Department of Extension Education, C. P. College of Agriculture, SDAU, Sardarkrushinagar-385506

Email : sekhawatsupern@hotmail.com

### **ABSTRACT**

*The present investigation was conducted in Banaskantha district of Gujarat State. Banaskantha district is having highest population of horse. The study was conducted by collecting data from 120 horse owners through interview schedule and analysed with the help of statistical tools. The training need of horse owners consists of five main areas and these main areas further divided into 23 sub areas for the purpose of the study. Majority of horse owners needs training regarding timely pregnancy diagnosis, feeding of pregnant mare, selection of varieties of fodder crops, ticks management and prevention of infertility.*

**Keywords :** *training need, mare, ticks management and prevention of infertility*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The domestication of the horse was the important development in the history of human civilization. The term "horse power" is a reminder of horse's ability to perform hard work, day after day in myriad of situations. Every great civilisation, ancient or modern was founded from back of a horse. In ancient time horses were crucial during warfare and it was the fastest and most reliable mode of land transport. The equines have been important in ensuring the livelihood of under privileged people even in the era of mechanisation.

The Indian horse breeds had biggest setback during the British rule in India when they brought the English thoroughbred and the Australian horses in India. The indigenous Marwari horse suffered and India failed in preserving the pure germ plasm up to a desirable level. (<http://marwarihorsesociety.com/history/>)

The indigenous breeds of horses/ponies included Marwari, Kathiawari, Manipuri, Spiti, Bhutia and Zanskari. Among these Marwari and Kathiawari are considered as two distinct breeds or types although they have several characteristics in common. (Source: Annual Report of National Research Centre for Equine at Hisar (Hariyana), page-21. (2012-13).

It is believed that all the indigenous breeds of the horses are rapidly deteriorating in quality as a result of lack of organised systematic breeding and availability of good specimen animals. Unless huge financial commitment is made, there is a possibility of the breeds losing their identity

even in their home tract.

In India population of equine was 0.75 million in 2003, 0.61 million in 2007 and 0.62 million in 2012. In Gujarat population of equine was 18 thousand in 2003, 14 thousand in 2007 and 18264 in 2012. It was decreased 25.91 per cent over 2003 census. (Source: 29<sup>th</sup> Survey Report on Estimates of major Livestock Products for the year 2011-2012 of Gujarat state).

Gradually good stock disappeared. The native breed Marwari has its home in the area called Malani. Which is part of Barmer district of Marwar, Sanchores tehsil of Jalore District and some area of Tharad and Deesa taluka of North Gujarat. These areas are said to be the nucleus of the Marwari horse. It was the personal interest of some breeders and farmers maintained the true line of good stocks without taking any help from government organisations.

No systematic efforts had been made to study the Training need of horse owners Therefore, the present study had been planned to know the Training need of horse owners of Banaskantha district of Gujarat State.

### **OBJECTIVE**

To know the training needs of horse owners

### **METHODOLOGY**

The present investigation was conducted in Tharad and Deesa taluka of Banaskantha district because these talukas are having highest population of horse compared to other talukas of the district. Thus, these two talukas selected

purposively. Six villages having highest population were selected purposively from each taluka. Thus, twelve villages were selected for the purpose of study. A list of horse owners were prepared from selected village of each taluka randomly. Thereafter, 10 horse owners from each village were selected by simple random sampling method in this way, the sample constituted 120 respondents. The data collected through interview schedule and analysed with the help of statistical tools.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Training need of horse owners**

Training need of horse owners consisting of

five main areas and 23 sub areas were prepared for the purpose of the study. The sub-areas of the main areas were arranged against a three point scale. The respondents were asked to place each sub-area in any one of the response categories “most needed”, “somewhat needed” and “not needed”. The ratings given to the sub-areas was quantified by assigning the score 3, 2, and 1 for “most needed”, “somewhat needed” and “not needed,” respectively. The results are presented in in the following sequence.

**Training needs for breeding practices**

Data collected from the horse owners regarding their training needs in breeding presented in Table 1.

**Table 1: Training needs of horse owners for breeding practices**

**n=120**

Sr. No	Sub areas of training	Most needed	Somewhat needed	Not needed	Mean	Rank
1	Selection of stallion	83 (69.17)	23 (19.16)	14 (11.67)	2.07	IV
2	Breeding practices	33 (27.50)	79 (65.83)	08 (6.67)	2.20	II
3	Reproductive efficiency of horse	29 (24.17)	82 (68.33)	09 (7.50)	2.16	III
4	Heat detection	6 (5.00)	21 (17.50)	93 (77.50)	1.28	V
5	Pregnancy diagnosis	81 (67.5)	33 (27.50)	06 (5.00)	2.62	I

The data presented in Table 1 shows that the training needs in timely pregnancy diagnosis, breeding practices, reproductive efficiency of horse, selection of stallion, and heat detection placed first, second, third, forth, and fifth rank in order of importance by the horse owners. It might be due to the fact that the horse owners were having low knowledge in these subjects as reflected by their high mean score. Hence,

they might have preferred more training in these areas.

**Training needs for feeding practices**

Proper feeding of horse is very important. In order to assess training needs on feeding practices. The response collected from the horse owners regarding their training needs in following subject of feeding practices are presented in Table 2.

**Table 2: Training needs for feeding practices**

**n=120**

Sr. No.	Sub areas	Most needed	Somewhat needed	Not needed	Mean	Rank
1	Selection of concentrate	49 (40.83)	58 (48.34)	13 (10.83)	2.30	II
2	Feeding of filly	33 (27.50)	49 (40.83)	38 (31.67)	1.95	IV
3	Feeding of colt	6 (05.00)	51 (42.50)	63 (52.5)	1.52	V
4	Feeding of pregnant mare	74 (61.67)	41 (34.17)	5 (04.16)	2.57	I
5	Feeding of dry mare (Repeat breeders)	25 (20.83)	94 (78.34)	1 (00.83)	1.22	VI
6	Time and frequency of feeding	46 (38.33)	62 (51.67)	12 (10.00)	2.28	III

*Extension Strategies for Doubling the Farmers' Income for Livelyhood Security*

A perusal of the rank in Table 2 shows that the training needs in feeding of pregnant mare, selection of concentrate, time and frequency of feeding, feeding of filly, feeding of colt, feeding of dry mare (repeat breeders), were placed in first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth in order of importance by the horse owners.

**3. Training needs for fodder production.**

Fodder crops are one of the most important sources of animals food supply. This fodder production has been viewed with regard to its four sub areas which are enlisted in Table 4.15. So far as the training needs on these aspects are concerned, the data collected from the respondents are presented in Table3.

**Table 3: Training needs for fodder production**

**n=120**

Sr. No.	Sub areas of training	Most needed	Somewhat needed	Not needed	Mean	Rank
1	Selection of fodder crops	39 (32.50)	45 (37.50)	36 (30.00)	2.10	II
2	Selection of varieties of fodder crops	54 (45.00)	38 (31.67)	28 (23.33)	2.21	I
3	Cultivation of fodder crops	16 (13.33)	51 (42.50)	53 (44.17)	1.69	V
4	Preservation of fodder	27 (22.5)	62 (51.67)	31 (25.83)	1.96	III

A perusal of ranks given in the table 3 indicates that the training needs in selection of varieties of fodder crops (45.00 %), selection of fodder crops (32.50 %), preservation of fodder crops (22.50 %) and cultivation of fodder crops were ranked first, second, third, and fourth in order of importance respectively by the horse owners.

fodder production.

**Training needs for management practices**

Careful planning and management are pre-requisites in horse rearing practices. In this study, four areas of horse management were studied, which were housing management, hoof care management, ticks management and stable management. The data collected from the respondents in this regard are presented in Table 4.

From the training need hierarchy, it is apparent that the horse owners need more training in selection of varieties of fodder crops and selection of fodder crops to improve

**Table 4: Training needs for management practices**

**n=120**

Sr. No	Sub areas of training	Most needed	Somewhat needed	Not needed	Mean	Rank
1	Housing management	7 (5.83)	74 (61.67)	39 (32.5)	1.73	IV
2	Hoof management	17 (14.17)	61 (50.83)	42 (35.00)	1.79	III
3	Ticks management	19 (15.83)	53 (44.17)	48 (40.00)	2.24	I
4	Stable management	37 (30.83)	62 (51.67)	21 (17.5)	2.13	II

The data presented in Table 4 indicate that according to need hierarchy, the training needs in ticks management, stable management, hoof management and housing management were ranked as first, second, third and fourth respectively by the horse owners.

is an important subject in horse rearing, Adopting proper health care practices are can reduced rearing cost significantly. Therefore, it is most important that the horse owners should follow proper health care practices in prevention and controlling parasites and diseases.

From the training needs hierarchy, it is revealed that horse owners need more training in stable management, ticks management and hoof management.

For ascertaining training needs on this aspect some of the items were selected. These item and data collected from the respondents are presented in Table 5.

**Training needs for horse health care practices**

Prevention and control of parasites and diseases

Table 5: Training needs in horse health care practices

n=120

Sr. No.	Sub areas of training	Most needed	Somewhat needed	Not needed	Mean	Rank
1	Treatment against common diseases	41 (34.07)	55 (45.83)	24 (20.00)	2.14	IV
2	Prevention of infertility	86 (71.67)	32 (26.67)	2 (1.66)	2.70	I
3	Vaccination schedule	46 (38.33)	53 (44.17)	21 (17.50)	2.20	III
4	Precaution against parasitic disease	78 (65.00)	37 (30.83)	5 (4.17)	2.60	II

Data presented in Table 4.17 indicate that the training needs in prevention of infertility (71.67 %), precaution against parasitic disease (65.00 %), vaccination schedule (38.33 %) and treatment against common diseases (34.07 %) were ranked first, second, third and fourth in order of importance, respectively by the horse owners.

From the training need hierarchy, it is apparent that the horse owners felt more training needs in all sub areas.

The training in such aspect helps the horse owners to stabilise the productivity of horses and reduce maintenance cost of horse rearing. Therefore, it is quite logical and understandable that horse owners might have given more weightage for training in these aspects.

## CONCLUSION

It can be concluded from above result that majority of horse owners needs training in horse breeding practices which includes timely pregnancy diagnosis, breeding practices, reproductive efficiency of horse, feeding of pregnant mare, selection of varieties of fodder crops, ticks management and prevention of infertility. They also required training in Feeding practices with includes Feeding

of pregnant mare, selection of concentrate and time and frequency of feeding. Horse owners were needed training in management practices and horse health care practices with includes ticks management, stable management, hoof management prevention of infertility and precaution against parasitic disease.

## REFERENCES

- Gill, S.S. and Singh, P. (1977). Professional knowledge of dairy farmers of Ludhiana district, *Indian Journal of Extension Education*, 13 (3&4):77-79
- Patel K.S., Pandya S.P. and Patel D.B. (2016). Training need assessment of visitor farmers of ATIC regarding groundnut production technology. *Guj. J. Ext. Edu.* 27(2): 172-174
- Shandhu, A.S. and Sharma, A. (1976). Information Needs of farm Women, *Indian Journal of Extension Education.*, 12(1&2): 53-55
- Tekale, M.; D.S. Deshmukh, Rathod P., and Sawat Manish.,(2013). Study on Training Needs of Goat Keepers in Maharashtra. M.sc Thesis, (Unpublished) in Maharashtra.