

Training Needs of Tribal Farmwomen in Relation to Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Activities

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ABSTRACT

Agricultural production plays a significant role in the Indian economy. In India, women and agriculture seem synonymous terms. One can not think of agriculture without women. There is hardly any activity in agriculture except ploughing, where women are not involved. The tribal farmwoman shares with her husband the arduous burden of farm work in addition to her major responsibility as home maker, by helping in all other agricultural operations. Keeping this fact in mind, the present study was carried out to find out the areas of training needs of tribal farmwomen in relation to agriculture and animal husbandry activities. The result of the study revealed that areas of training needs expressed by the tribal respondents in the field of agriculture were identification of common pest and diseases and its control, method and time of fertilizer application, treatment of seeds, method of treatment, storage of food grains, preparation of farmyard manure, selection of seed, uprooting of the seedlings and distance of sowing in sequential order. It is also observed that areas of training needs expressed by respondents in the field of animal husbandry were awareness about primary treatment of common diseases, management of milch animals, planning of animal feed, storage and cultivation of fodder crops, importance of water for animals, preparation of good curd and ghee, symptoms of animals during heat, information about artificial insemination, care of cross bred cows, methods of milking in sequential order.

Keywords: Training needs, Tribal farmwomen

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the largest industry in India contributing to the source of livelihood for over 70 per cent of population. Agricultural production plays a significant role in the Indian economy. In India, women and agriculture seem synonymous terms. One can not think of agriculture without women. There is hardly any activity in agriculture except ploughing, where women are not involved. In some of the activities, she is relatively more efficient than man. Dahod is one of the ITDP areas of Gujarat State, where various administrative measures have been adopted through large number of tribal development and welfare programmes under Tribal Area Sub Plan (TASP). Since, independence huge fund have been diverted by the Central and State Government through different agencies with a view to uplift their living standard and bringing them into the main stream of nation. Even after lapses of more than 50 years of independence the progress of tribal farmwoman is not yet upto the level of expectation in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry as she is continued to be in a state of neglect. Being illiterate

and ignorant, she is over exploited. A victim of man made system, she is hardly considered equal to man in wage and social status. Keeping in view the above said facts and information about the tribal farmwoman's situation and her multiple roles in agriculture and animal husbandry a study on "Training needs of tribal farmwomen in relation to agriculture and animal husbandry activities" was undertaken.

OBJECTIVE

To know the training needs of tribal farmwomen in relation to agriculture and animal husbandry activities

METHODOLOGY

The present study was undertaken in Integrated Tribal Development Project areas of Dahod district of Gujarat in 2006. Out of seven talukas of the district, five talukas namely (1) Dahod (2) Zalod (3) Limkheda (4) Garbada and (5) Dhanpur were selected purposively for this study. Out of total villages of each selected taluka, two villages were randomly selected comprising total ten villages from five

selected talukas of ITDP Dahod. From each village, 20 respondents were selected randomly, thus, total sample of 200 respondents were selected for the present study.

The interview schedule was prepared keeping in view the objectives of the study. The interview schedule was translated in to Gujarati language and pre-tested in the field on a separate 20 non-sampled respondents. On the basis of pre-testing, necessary modifications were made in the final draft and used as the instrument for data collection.

The areas of training needs in the present study, refers to the various areas of agriculture and animal husbandry in which the tribal farmwomen find themselves deficient in knowledge and would like to be trained in for enhancing their competence while agricultural and animal husbandry activities. With a view to identify the areas of training needs, a list of 19 specific items of training needs was prepared initially based on literature available and from discussion with extension experts. Before finalizing the items of training needs for inclusion in final schedule an informal interview with a group of about 20 tribal farmwomen other than the respondents of the study had been arranged. The scores were assigned to the training needs expressed by the respondents. They were requested to rate each of them either of three response categories viz., most needed, needed and not needed having weightage of 2, 1 and 0, respectively. The scores, thus obtained for each areas of training need were summed up, the total scores under any suggestions were divided by the total number of respondents to calculate the mean score. Ranking of training need was done on the basis of this mean score.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

For the improvement of existing level of contribution of tribal farmwomen in agricultural operations and animal husbandry activities, it was felt necessary to know their expectations regarding some of the areas in which they were interested for training. The information was collected and presented in Table 1. Training need was calculated on the basis of mean score and rank.

The data presented in Table 1 revealed that areas of training needs expressed by the tribal farmwomen in the field of agriculture were identification of common pest and diseases and its control (rank I), method and time of fertilizer application (rank II), treatment of seeds (rank III), method of treatment (rank IV), storage of food grains (rank V), preparation of farmyard manure (rank VI), selection of seed (rank VII), uprooting of the seedlings (rank VIII) and distance of sowing (rank IX). With a view to bring improvement in animal husbandry, tribal farmwomen were requested to give their views regarding important areas of training needs in animal husbandry. Such information had been presented in Table 1.

Table 1 : Areas of training needs of respondents in relation to agriculture and animal husbandry activities

n = 200

Sr. No.	Area/subject/field	Mean score	Rank
(A) Agriculture			
1	Selection of seed	1.45	VII
2	Treatment of seed	1.68	III
3	Method of treatment	1.66	IV
4	Distance of sowing	0.95	IX
5	Uprooting of seedlings	1.29	VIII
6	Preparation of farm yard manure	1.57	VI
7	Method and time of fertilizer application	1.75	II
8	Identification of common pests and disease and its control	1.90	I
9	Storage of food grains	1.62	V
(B) Animal husbandry			
1	Management of milch animals	1.69	II
2	Methods of milking	0.85	X
3	Planning of animal feed	1.59	III
4	Awareness about primary treatment of common diseases	1.87	I
5	Symptoms of animals during heat	1.30	VII
6	Information about artificial insemination	0.99	VIII
7	Storage and cultivation of fodder crops	1.54	IV
8	Importance of water for animals	1.53	V
9	Preparation of good curd and ghee	1.44	VI
10	Care of cross bred cows	0.96	IX

The data presented in Table 1 revealed that areas of training needs expressed by respondents in the field of animal husbandry were awareness about primary treatment of common diseases (rank I), management of milch animals (rank II), planning of animal feed (rank III), storage and

cultivation of fodder crops (rank IV), importance of water for animals (rank V), preparation of good curd and ghee (rank VI), symptoms of animals during heat (rank VII), information about artificial insemination (rank VIII), care of cross bred cows (rank IX), methods of milking (rank X).

From the foregoing discussion, it can be concluded that, areas of training needs expressed by tribal farmwomen in the field of agriculture were identification of common pest and diseases and its control, method and time of fertilizer application, treatment of seeds, method of treatment, storage of food grains, preparation of farmyard manure, selection of seed, uprooting of the seedlings and distance of sowing, whereas in the field of animal husbandry, expected areas of training needs were awareness about primary treatment of common diseases, management of milch animals, planning of animal feed, storage and cultivation of fodder crops, importance of water for animals, preparation of good curd and ghee, symptoms of animals during heat, information about artificial insemination, care of cross bred cows, methods of milking.

This finding was in concurrence with Shah (1997) and Patel (1998).

CONCLUSION

It is concluded from the study that Areas of training needs expressed by the tribal farmwomen in

the field of agriculture were identification of common pest and diseases and its control (rank I), method and time of fertilizer application (rank II), treatment of seeds (rank III), method of treatment (rank IV), storage of food grains (rank V), preparation of farmyard manure (rank VI), selection of seed (rank VII), uprooting of the seedlings (rank VIII) and distance of sowing (rank IX).

Areas of training needs expressed by respondents in the field of animal husbandry were awareness about primary treatment of common diseases (rank I), management of milch animals (rank II), planning of animal feed (rank III), storage and cultivation of fodder crops (rank IV), importance of water for animals (rank V), preparation of good curd and ghee (rank VI), symptoms of animals during heat (rank VII), information about artificial insemination (rank VIII), care of cross bred cows (rank IX), methods of milking (rank X).

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