

Training Needs of Rural Farm Women

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Introduction

Rural farm women play an important role in farm activities. In addition they help in decision making with regard to farm operations. Therefore, it is necessary that they should have some knowledge of agricultural practices. Knowledge can be expressed as a totality of understood information possessed by a person. Hence it is essential to organize training program with view to develop understanding of the participants and increase their level of knowledge regarding agricultural operations.

Introduction

Before going to train rural farm women, it is essential to find out the training needs of farm women and the training should be based on these needs. Therefore a study was undertaken with an objective of assessing the training needs of rural farm women in Gir Forest area of Junagadh district of Gujarat.

Methodology

In association with Forest Department, four training courses organized in the year of 2001-2002 at Sardar Smruti Kendra. In all, one hundred seventy four farm women who were engaged in Eco Development Project participated in these training programmes. All participants who belonged to Una, Talala, Visavadar, Maliya Hatina and Mendarda taluka of Junagadh district and Dhari taluka of Amreli district

were interviewed with the help of structured interview schedule. The collected information were tabulated and analyzed.

Results and Discussions

An enquiry was made with the farm women regarding their training needs in agricultural and related occupation. It was found that only 8.34 per cent respondents had received training in agriculture. From the respondent farm women, 97.12 percent expressed their desire for training. The preferences of respondents for training are depicted in Table-1.

There were 97.12 per cent respondents who expressed their interest in training in plant protection techniques followed by preparation and preservation of fruit and vegetables (94.83). More than 90 per cent farm women expressed their desire to get training in seed selection and improved agricultural practices and preparation of bakery items. Contrarily, only 41.38 per cent farm women were interested to be trained for vegetable cultivation.

Conclusion

The findings of the study revealed that majority of the rural farm women felt the need for training in different areas. The training centre should plan to organize training programs in selected areas of agriculture and allied subjects based on the training needs of the farm women.

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Table 1: Subject in which training was desired by the rural farm women

(n=174)

No.	Subject / Topic	Number	Per cent	Rank
A. Agriculture				
1.	Seed selection & improved agricultural practices	161	92.53	3
2.	Manure and fertilizer application	113	64.94	10
3.	Weed management	110	63.22	12
4.	Harvesting & Storage	99	56.90	15
5.	Plant protection techniques	169	97.12	1
B. Horticulture				
1.	Budding, grafting and propagation method	145	83.33	5
2.	Preservation technique of fruit & vegetables	88	50.57	16
3.	Vegetable cultivation	72	41.38	19
C. Agricultural engineering				
1.	Improved farm implements	112	64.36	11
2.	Water harvesting	88	50.57	16
3.	Energy saving	73	41.95	18
D. Animal science				
1.	Animal cleanliness and treatment	144	82.76	6
2.	Key to increase milk production	135	77.58	7
3.	Animal nutrition	108	62.06	13
4.	Fodder crop	125	71.84	9
E. Home Science				
1.	Nutritional food	105	60.34	14
2.	Preparation of bakery items	160	91.95	4
3.	Preparation & Preservation of fruits & vegetables	165	94.83	2
4.	Child development immunization and weaning food for the baby	126	72.41	8