Training needs assessment of farm women in dairying practices

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Dairying plays a vital role in the National economy and also in the socio-economic development of the country. It has a prominent role in supplementing family income by providing gainful employment in the rural areas particularly among the landless, small, marginal farmers and farm women. The importance of milk and milk products for maintenance of good health of human being is universally recognized.

In India, rural women have a major role in agrarian scenario. Majority of rural farm women are actively involved in the various operations relevant to mixed farming system existing in India. Women and men participate for agricultural and dairy farming practices as family units on the farms. However, the major share of agriculture related work is performed by farm man whereas farm women have major share on the dairy husbandry activities, which is a long standing tradition in India. Ghuman et al. (2006), has also reported that there is a distinct sphere of participation between farm men and farm women in farm and dairy sectors, the men planned and women implemented the activities. However, the extent of their participation varies depending on the socio-economic and agro-climatic condition of the area. Although, major work related to dairy farming activities is carried out by farm women. In order to make the Dairy Enterprises more profitable, it is necessary for dairy farmers to possess adequate knowledge to adopt improved dairy farming practise (Kumar et al. 2011, Sabapara et al. 2014, Gunaseelan et al. 2018). Majority of dairy farm women need support for building up their capacity through extension education particularly in form of training programme in order to upgrade their knowledge and create confidence in their effort in the existing farming system (Singh et al. 2013). Training helps farm women to adopt improved technology after considering their resources and creates sustainable, economically viable enterprises.

Therefore, it becomes imperative to identify the training needs of the farm women in order to make any training meaningful and effective. So, the study was undertaken by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Nalanda with an objective to understand the training needs of farm women engaged in dairy farming, so that appropriate training model can be developed/designed and given to farm women in right form, at right time to accelerate the productivity and profitability of dairying business.

The study was conducted by KVK, Nalanda in five adopted villages. The adopted village were selected randomly and from each village 10 farmers were selected randomly who were actively engaged in dairying. Therefore, 50 respondents formed the sample for studying. Data were collected by personal interview using pre-designed interview schedule.

Training needs pertaining to the major farm operation in dairy farming for knowledge and skill are mentioned in Table 1. It is evident from Table 1 that healthcare and disease control are the foremost preferred major farm operation for both knowledge and skill based training in dairy farming for the farm women of Nalanda. The majority of the dairy farmers expressed their training need about healthcare and disease control, which might be due to lack of technical knowledge on this aspect. Huge economic losses occur due to diseases and unavailability of timely veterinary services in rural areas. Our finding is in accordance with the finding of Singh et al. (2013).

Further, feeding and management training was next preferred major farm operation of dairy farming for dairy farm women of Nalanda. This might be due to their

Table 1. Training needs pertaining to various major farm activities in dairy farm for knowledge and skill

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major farm operation</th>
<th>Knowledge</th>
<th>Skill</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TNI Rank</td>
<td>TNI Rank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing of animals</td>
<td>69.0</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breeding management of animals</td>
<td>65.0</td>
<td>4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeding and management of animals</td>
<td>74.0</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care and disease control</td>
<td>75.0</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing and Finance</td>
<td>61.0</td>
<td>5th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
willingness to acquaint with the methods and skills to enhance milk yield through proper feeding at reasonable rates. These findings were also recorded by Pharate et al. (2010) and Singh et al. (2013). Furthermore, housing of dairying animals was also preferred as important training area of dairying for dairy farm women of Nalanda. This is in close agreement with the finding of Durgga and Subhadra (2009). However, marketing and finance is the least preferred area of training on dairying for dairy farmers of Nalanda.

The knowledge and skill oriented training needs of dairy farm women in minor farm operations is depicted in Table 2. It is clear that under housing of dairy animals, majority of dairy farmers of Nalanda needed training on proper design of cattle shed for knowledge and formation of low cost scientific cattle shed for skill. With respect to the training need under breeding of dairy animals, selection of breeds ranks first for both knowledge and skill oriented training needs as depicted in Table 2. The dairy farmers might have perceived, selecting a best breed for area as one of the primary factors in order to achieve productivity in dairy animals. Similar finding were recorded by Patel et al. (2016) who reported that selection of breed was a most needed area of training.

With regards to the feeding and management aspect of dairying farming, it was observed that maximum training is required for both knowledge and skill was for compounding balance feed with locally available ingredients in villages. The high cost of concentrates in the market might have emphasised the dairy farmers to acquaint and learn the method of mixing locally available ingredients which eventually would reduce the feed price. Our findings are in close similarities with that of Durgga and Subhadra (2009), Patel et al. (2016), who studied the training needs of farm women in dairy farming. Our result is in conformity with observation by Pharate et al. (2010) and Singh et al. (2013).

However, it was observed that minimum training is needed for knowledge on care and management of different of different age groups as most of farmers were acquaint with the care and management of cows under different age groups. Our findings are in close conformity with the Durgga and Subhadra (2009). Further, farmers were well versed with fodder cultivation; therefore, minimum skill training was demanded.

In context of the healthcare, among the other factors, vaccination was noticed as ranked first for knowledge need and symptoms of common diseases with regards to skill need. It may be find out from the study that farmers have taken keen interest to know about the control and identification of prominent diseases. The results are in uniformity with the findings of Durgga and Subhadra (2009), Patel et al. (2016), who have studied training needs for farm women.

In reference to training needs on marketing and finance, it is evident (Table 2) that the farmers needed highest training in banking and insurance for both knowledge and skill. This might be due to farmers limited information on different sources in order to obtain financial assistance and also about the insurance policies. Our finding is in consonance with the finding of Durgga and Subhadra (2009).

Preference of dairy farmers about season, month, place, duration and interval of training: Season of training: In context to the season of training, most of the farmers (68%) expressed their desire to have their training in summer months, followed by (21%) winter months whereas 11% of farmers expressed their willingness to have their training in monsoon season. Our finding is in accordance with the results of Singh et al. (2013).

Month of training: As farmers were enquired on preferred month for training, Most of the farmers (35%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minor farm operation</th>
<th>Knowledge Demand</th>
<th>Skill Demand</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing of Dairy Animals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formation of low cost scientific cattle farm</td>
<td>71.0 2nd</td>
<td>67.0 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proper design of cattle shed</td>
<td>76.0 1st</td>
<td>64.0 2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breeding of Dairying Animals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selection of breed</td>
<td>68.0 1st</td>
<td>58.0 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heat detection</td>
<td>51.0 5th</td>
<td>39.0 3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time of insemination</td>
<td>57.0 4th</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance of breeding records</td>
<td>66.0 2nd</td>
<td>52.0 2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time of Post-Partum insemination</td>
<td>61.0 3rd</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeding and Management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balanced feeding</td>
<td>78.0 2nd</td>
<td>64.0 2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care and management of different age groups</td>
<td>62.0 5th</td>
<td>57.0 3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compounding balanced feed preferably using locally available ingredients</td>
<td>84.0 1st</td>
<td>68.0 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fodder cultivation</td>
<td>71.0 3rd</td>
<td>54.0 4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean milk production</td>
<td>68.0 4th</td>
<td>56.0 4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deworming</td>
<td>68.0 2nd</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccination</td>
<td>77.0 1st</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control of ectoparasites</td>
<td>52.0 5th</td>
<td>41 3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identification and isolation of sick animals</td>
<td>58.0 4th</td>
<td>47 2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptoms of common diseases</td>
<td>62.0 3rd</td>
<td>49 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing and finance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banking and insurance</td>
<td>70.0 1st</td>
<td>58.0 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing of livestock and livestock products</td>
<td>62.0 2nd</td>
<td>51.0 2nd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
expressed their willingness to have their training in the
month of March. However, about 21% farmers preferred
in the month of May, 15% farmer referred to have their
training in the month of April and November, while less
than 12% showed their willingness for other months for
the training. Our finding is in with close conformity with
the result of Singh et al. (2013).

Place of training: With regard to place of training, more
than 76% dairy farm women expressed their willingness
that concerned authority have to arrange training in their
resident village, followed by 12% farmers showed their
interest to attend training at Veterinary College or Dairy
Science College, whereas 8% of farmer were interested to
attend the training in KVK or other related training institute.
Our finding is in accordance with the findings of Singh et
al. (2013) as they also observed that maximum per cent of
farmer expressed their desire to attend training in their
resident village.

Duration of training: As far as period of training is
concern, majority of dairy farm women (67%) were
expecting the period of training as one week, while 25%
farmer expressed their willingness for two week training.
Only 8% farmer expressed their desire for three weeks
duration of training. Our finding differs slightly with the
study of Singh et al. (2013).

Interval of training: Majority of the dairy farm women
(65%) expressed their willingness to attend training with
an interval of one year followed by 25% respondent who
opined to have training with six months interval, while 10%
dairy farm women expressed their desire to attend training
with two years of interval. Similarly, Singh et al. (2013)
also reported that 62% farm women expressed their
willingness to attend training with one year interval.

It can be concluded from the study that the dairy farmers
of the study area need training in all major aspects of
dairying practices. Further, for formulation of training
program in dairying, dairy farmers preferences about
various aspects like season, month, place, duration of
interval of training should be taken into account for effective
training and better adoption of scientific dairy practices.

SUMMARY
A study was conducted in Nalanda district of Bihar, to
assess the training needs of farm women engaged in
dairying. It was observed that out of the five major dairy
farm operation studied, the dairy farm women needed
foremost training in health care and disease control. Under
the minor operations most preferred knowledge needed
were proper design of cattle shed, selection of breeds,
compounding balanced feed preferably using locally
available ingredients, vaccination, and banking and
insurance. The dairy farm women expressed their
willingness to have their training in the summer season,
preferably in the month of March at their resident village.
Majority of respondent (67%) were expecting the duration
of training as one week and 65% farm women opined to
have training with an interval of one year.

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