



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

Major farm operation	Knowledge		Skill	
	TNI	Rank	TNI	Rank
Housing of animals	69.0	3 rd	62.0	3 rd
Breeding management of animals	65.0	4 th	56.0	4 th
Feeding and management of animals	74.0	2 nd	64.0	2 nd
Health care and disease control	75.0	1 st	68.0	1 st
Marketing and Finance	61.0	5 th	53.0	5 th

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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 dairy farming 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 dairy farming 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 dairy 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 2. Knowledge and skill oriented training needs of farmers in minor dairying farming operations

Minor farm operation	Knowledge		Skill	
	TNI	Rank	TNI	Rank
<i>Housing of Dairy Animals</i>				
Formation of low cost scientific cattle farm	71.0	2 nd	67.0	1 st
Proper design of cattle shed	76.0	1 st	64.0	2 nd
<i>Breeding of Dairying Animals</i>				
Selection of breed	68.0	1 st	58.0	1 st
Heat detection	51.0	5 th	39.0	3 rd
Time of insemination	57.0	4 th	-	-
Maintenance of breeding records	66.0	2 nd	52.0	2 nd
Time of Post-Partum insemination	61.0	3 rd	-	-
<i>Feeding and Management</i>				
Balanced feeding	78.0	2 nd	64.0	2 nd
Care and management of different age groups	62.0	5 th	57.0	3 rd
Compounding balanced feed preferably using locally available ingredients	84.0	1 st	68.0	1 st
Fodder cultivation	71.0	3 rd	54.0	4 th
Clean milk production	68.0	4 th	56.0	4 th
<i>Health care</i>				
Deworming	68.0	2 nd	-	-
Vaccination	77.0	1 st	-	-
Control of ectoparasites	52.0	5 th	41	3 rd
Identification and isolation of sick animals	58.0	4 th	47	2 nd
Symptoms of common diseases	62.0	3 rd	49	1 st
<i>Marketing and finance</i>				
Banking and insurance	70.0	1 st	58.0	1 st
Marketing of livestock and livestock products	62.0	2 nd	51.0	2 nd

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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