

TRAINING NEEDS OF RURAL WOMEN ON IMPROVED DAIRY FARMING PRACTICES

¹N.V. Kavithaa and ²N. Vimal Rajkumar

¹Assistant Professor, Veterinary University Training and Research Centre, Erode – 638004

²Assistant Professor, Department of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Extension, Madras
Veterinary College, Veppery, Chennai, Tamilnadu – 6000075

Abstract: The study was carried out to find out the training needs of rural women on improved dairy farming practices in Erode District of Tamilnadu. Sixty rural women actively involved in dairy farming practices were randomly selected for the study and data were collected through personal interview method. The study revealed that with respect to major domain viz., breeding, feeding, health care, management and clean milk production practices, majority of the respondents perceived repeat breeding management, preparation of balanced ration for their animals at the cheaper rate, vaccination and hygienic method of clean milk production as the most important training need areas. The study implies that respondents were interested to receive training on improved dairy farming practices for their betterment and society as well. The results of the study will help the extension agencies to develop suitable training modules for the dairy farmers in improved dairy farming practices to improve their milk production and make the dairying a successful enterprise.

Keywords: Breeding, feeding, health care and management and clean milk production practices.

INTRODUCTION

Women's contribution to rural development through their roles in agriculture and animal husbandry activities is crucial (Shabeena Mustafa *et al* 2005). Empowerment of women is an essential pre – requisite for economic development of the rural India. Animal husbandry and dairying plays an important role in improving the economy by supplementing the family income and generating gainful employment to the weaker section of society, particularly to small, marginal farmers and landless agricultural labours. The rapid growth of milk production in India has been mainly because of the increase in the number of animals rather than that of improved productivity (Patil et al., 2009). The yielding capacity of animals is very poor due to poor breeding, feeding and management. Hence, training in scientific dairy farming practices is considered as an important input in increasing the knowledge level of rural women and make the dairying a self-sufficient and viable enterprise. The present

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study was undertaken to study the training needs of rural women on improved dairy farming practices.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was undertaken to find out the training needs of rural women on improved dairy farming practices in Erode District of Tamilnadu. Sixty rural women actively involved in dairy farming practices were randomly selected for the study and the data were collected through personal interview and group discussion method.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1. Training needs of rural women on Breeding Management

S.No	Subject matter area	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)	Rank
1.	Detection of heat symptoms	10	16.66	IV
2.	Time of artificial insemination	12	20.00	III
3.	Knowledge of high yielding breed	8	13.33	V
4.	Repeat breeding management	14	23.33	I
5.	Infertility problems and Reproductive disorder	13	21.66	II
6.	Pregnancy diagnosis	3	5.00	VI

Table 1 revealed that 23.33 per cent of the rural women perceived repeat breeding management as the most important training need followed by infertility problems and reproductive disorder (21.66%), time of artificial insemination (20.00%), detection of heat symptoms (16.66%), knowledge of high yielding breed (13.33%) and pregnancy diagnosis (5.00%). The findings of the study imply that majority of the farm women lack technical knowledge in management of repeat breeding, infertility and reproductive disorder in dairy cattle. Which inturns results in heavy economic losses to the farming community. These points out the need of organizing training to the rural farm women in repeat breeding management, easy way to find out the reason for infertility problems in dairy animals and how to get rid out of it, exact time of inseminating their animals and proper detection of estrus symptoms.

Table 2. Training needs of rural women on feeding practices

S.No	Subject matter area	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)	Rank
1.	Feeding of milch animals	8	13.33	IV
2.	Feeding of pregnant animals	7	11.66	V
3.	Feeding of new born calves	5	8.33	VI
4.	Importance of feeding mineral mixture	10	16.66	III
5.	Preparation of balanced ration for their animals at a cheaper rate	17	28.33	I
6.	Preservation of fodder crops (Hay/Silage making)	13	21.66	II

Regarding training needs of rural women on feeding practices 28.33 per cent of the farm women perceived preparation of balanced ration for their animals at the cheaper rate as the most important training need followed by preservation of fodder crops (21.66%) and importance of feeding mineral mixture (16.66%). Whereas 13.33 per cent of the farm women expressed their willingness to have training in feeding of milch animals followed by feeding of pregnant animals (11.66%) and feeding of new born calves (8.33%). The findings of the study revealed that farm women should be imparted training in the area of preparation of balanced feed ration for animals at cheaper rate, preservation of excess fodder crops cultivated during rainy season, importance of feeding mineral mixture and feeding of pregnant, milch and new born calves. The findings go along with Patil et al., 2009. As a result of training imparted, the farm women will know how to prepare the balanced feed ration and ways to improve the milk production and make the dairying a successful enterprise.

Table 3. Training needs of rural women on Health care and managerial practices

S.No	Subject matter area	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)	Rank
1.	Care and management of sick animals	9	15.00	III
2.	Disease Prevention	12	20.00	I
3.	Deworming schedule and procedures	10	16.66	II
4.	Information on infectious diseases	8	13.33	IV
5.	First aid measures to be taken during emergency	5	8.33	VII
6.	Care and management of new born calves	3	5.00	VIII
7.	Care and management of pregnant animals at the time of parturition	6	10.00	VI
8.	Care and management of milking animals	7	11.66	V

It is evident from Table 3 that 20 per cent of the farm women perceived Disease Prevention as the most important training need with respect to healthcare and managerial practices followed by deworming schedule and procedures for the animals (16.66%), care and management of sick animals (15%), information on infectious diseases (13.33%), care and management of milking animals(11.66%), care and management of pregnant animals at the time of parturition(10%), first aid measures to be taken during emergency (8.33%) and care and management of new born calves (5%). The findings of the study implies that training should be imparted to the rural women in disease prevention, deworming and health care management because heavy economic losses to the farming community occurs during disease outbreak seasons due to their lack of knowledge about season wise outbreak of diseases and first aid measures to be taken during emergency situations. The finding goes along with Patil et al., 2009.

Table 4. Training needs of rural women on Clean milk production

S.No	Subject matter area	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)	Rank
1.	Type of milking	15	25.00	II
2.	Hygienic method of clean milk production	17	28.33	I
3.	Knowledge of zoonotic disease that spread through infected milk	12	20.00	III
4.	Storage of excess milk	9	15.00	IV
5.	Preparation of milk products	7	11.66	V

With regards to the training needs of rural women on clean milk production, 28.33 per cent the farm women perceived their training need in hygienic method of clean milk production. With respect to type of milking their animals and information on the knowledge of zoonotic diseases that spread through infected milk 25% and 20% of the farm women perceived their need for training. The study also revealed that 15% and 11.66% of the farm women perceived their training need on storage of excess milk and preparation of milk products. The finding of the study reflects the farm women low literacy level, unawareness about the sanitary measures to be taken during milking process. Rural farm women should be imparted training in the area of hygienic method of clean milk production, type of milking and zoonotic disease that spread through milk. This results in production of clean milk and improves the quality of the milk.

Table 5. Overall Training needs of rural women on improved dairy farming practices

S.No	Subject matter area	Overall preference of training need of rural women on improved dairy farming practices
1.	Breeding practices	III
2.	Feeding practices	II
3.	Health care and managemental practices	I
4.	Clean milk production	IV

With respect to overall preference of training need of rural women on improved dairy farming practices, health care and management was the most preferred training area of rural women followed by feeding, breeding and clean milk production. Similar results were reported by Rajput et al., 2012. From the study it is concluded that without the training no one can able to adopt latest technologies for dairy development, only training can help to improve the knowledge and skill of the rural women.

CONCLUSION

The results of the study will help the extension agencies to develop suitable training programmes for the dairy farmers in improved dairy farming practices to improve their milk production and make the dairying a successful enterprise.

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