Training Needs Assessment of Livestock Farmers of Bihar

SAROJ K RAJAK[1], PANKAJ KUMAR[1]*, PUSPENDRA K SINGH[1], RAKHI BHARTI[2]

ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in four selected districts of Bihar namely Muzaffarpur, Purnea, Bhagalpur and Nalanda. A total of 100 farmers from each district were selected to access the training needs in different animal husbandry areas. The total sample size was 400 farmers. The data were collected by the researcher itself with help of semi-structured interview schedule. The analysis of collected data revealed that in the area of animal breeding majority of respondents (42.75%) opined it as moderately needed topic, in the area of animal feeding majority of respondents (44.75%) opined the topic as moderately needed where as in the area of animal management, majority (47.25%) of respondents opined as highly needed topic. The findings of the study were conclusive of conducting more trainings in the area of Animal husbandry management.

Keywords: Agricultural Technology Management Agency, Training need, Animal Breeding, Animal Feeding, Livestock farmer

INTRODUCTION

Training is one of the potent tools for bringing transformation in the working pattern of animal husbandry farmers. Based on the principal of "learning by doing", training provides capacity building in all aspects including animal husbandry. Training enhances the accuracy in working along with developing confidence in the people. Billions of rupees are expended on training to farmers every year worldwide (Lynton and Pareek, 2015). In order to utilize the money invested in training of famers it is essential that trainings must be successful and profitable for farmers.   Training of animal husbandry farmers is required for maintaining standards of scientific livestock farming and package of recommended practices. Vocational training for the farmers proved to be significant input in increasing farm production, information regarding various inputs like breeding, feeding, management, etc.

Farmer's training must be designed around sound principles of adult learning. Adults learn new skills best through practice and experience. They get more involved if problems are drawn from their day-to-day experiences. They easily learn new things that they can relate to past experience. Thus, it is essential to conduct trainings based on the training needs of the farmers. Researches conducted by Dhaka *et al.* (2017), Roy (2015), Gour *et al.* (2015), Sajeev *et al.* (2012), Rajput *et al.* (2012), Singh (2011) and Pharate *et al.* (2010) revealed various areas of animal husbandry in which farmers perceived training need of high level. The present study was conducted with the objective to know the training need of the animal husbandry farmers in the Bihar state.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in the state of Bihar. The Bihar state has been divided in to four different Agro-climatic zones (ACZ's), namely Zone-I consisting of North Alluvial Plain,

Zone -II consisting of North East Alluvial Plain, Zone-IIIA consisting of South East Alluvial Plain and Zone -III B consisting of South West Alluvial Plain. Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) is working in all the 38 districts of Bihar. For the study purpose one district from each Agro-climatic zone was selected randomly. In this way Muzaffarpur, Purnea, Bhagalpur and Nalanda district were selected and from each district 100 livestock farmers were selected who were undergone training in animal husbandry organized by ATMA. This constituted a sample size of 400 respondents. The data was collected by direct interview method by the researcher itself with the help of semi-structured interview schedule. The collected data was analyzed using suitable statistical tools. After calculation of Training Need Score, Training Need Index was calculated with the help of formula developed by Sharma *et al.* (2014). Training need index is equal to total training need score for the item divided by maximum possible score for the item and multiplied by 100.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Assessment of training need of the respondents were observed for breeding, feeding and management aspect of animal husbandry. Training need perceived among the respondents on the animal breeding aspect of animal husbandry is presented below:

Training need assessment in the area of animal breeding

It is evident from the Table 1 and Fig. 1, that in Muzaffarpur district majority (44%) of the respondents opined animal breeding as highly needed topic for training followed by moderately needed (42%) and only 14 percent of the respondent opined it as less needed topic. Similar pattern was observed in Purnea district where majority (48%) of the respondents opined it as highly needed topic followed by moderately needed (31%) and 21 percent of the respondents

[1] Assistant Professor, Bihar Veterinary College, Patna, Bihar, India
[2] Ph.D. research scholar, Bihar Veterinary College, Patna, Bihar, India
*Corresponding Author E-mail: drpankajvet69@gmail.com

Table 1: Training need of the farmers of selected districts in the area of animal breeding

Breeding	Muzaffarpur (N=100)	Purnea (N=100)	Bhagalpur (N=100)	Nalanda (N=100)	Pooled (N=400)
Less needed (0-33)	14(14)	21(21)	11(11)	18(18)	64(16)
Moderately needed (34-66)	42(42)	31(31)	51(51)	47(47)	171(42.75)
Highly needed (67-100)	44(44)	48(48)	38(38)	35(35)	165(41.25)

* Figures in parenthesis indicates percentage

Fig. 1: Training need in the area of breeding

opined it as less needed topic. The reason behind majority of respondents favored animal breeding as most needed area in Purnea may be due to existing breeding farms and extension activities being carried out by institutions operating these farms in Purnea. In Bhagalpur district majority (51%) of respondents were with the opinion of animal breeding as a moderately needed topic followed by highly needed (38%) and less needed (11%) respectively. Similar pattern was observed in Nalanda district where majority (47%) of the respondent opined animal breeding as moderately needed topic followed by highly needed (35%) and less needed (18%) respectively. The pooled value of all the four selected districts showed that Majority (42.75%) of the respondents opined that animal breeding was moderately needed topic followed by highly needed (41.25%) and less needed (16%) respectively. Although figure point out that majority of respondents were in view of animal breeding as a moderately needed topic but only slight less population (41.25%) were opinion as highly needed topic. In the present scenario it is very difficult to find pure breed animals this had happened due to indiscriminate breeding of animals and lack of breeding records. Therefore, training institution must give adequate emphasis on animal breeding topic during farmers training programmes.

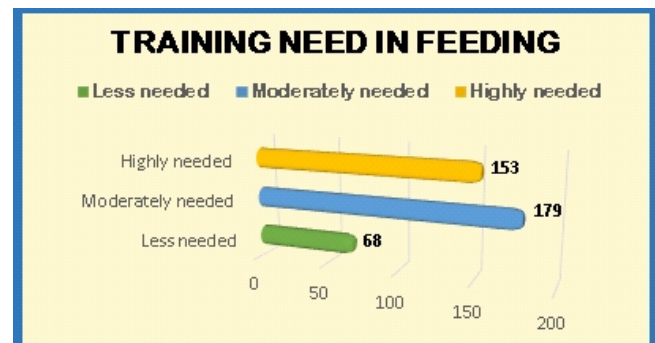**Training need assessment in the area of animal feeding**
The result regarding training need on feeding aspect is presented as below.
It is evident from Table 2 and Fig. 2, that animal feeding was considered as moderately needed topic in Muzaffarpur district followed by highly needed (33%) and less needed

(18%) respectively. In Purnea district majority (45%) of respondents were with opinion of animal feeding as highly needed topic followed by moderately needed (42%) and less needed (13%) respectively. The respondents of Bhagalpur district opined animal feeding as moderately needed topic followed by highly needed (33%) and less needed (15%) respectively. In Nalanda district majority (42%) of respondents considered animal feeding as highly needed topic followed by moderately needed (36%) and less needed (22% respectively. The pooled value of opinion of farmers from all the four selected districts depicts that majority (44.75%) of the respondents opined animal feeding as moderately needed topic followed by highly needed (38.25%) and less needed (17%) respectively. Feeding of animals' accounts about 70 percent of the total cost of animal husbandry enterprise. Feeding has greater impact on health and productivity of the animals and it is notable point that substantial number of farmers (38.25%) has opined it as most needed topic. Therefore, training institutions must give proper incorporation of animal feeding topic in their training module.

Training need assessment in the area of animal management
The result obtained in management aspect of animal husbandry is as below:

Fig. 2: Training need in the area of feeding

Training needs of the farmers of selected districts in the area of animal management has been explored in Table 3 and Fig. 3. From the table it is evident that in Muzaffarpur district majority (50%) of the respondents opined it as highly needed topic followed by moderately needed (27%) and least 23 percent of the respondents opined it as less needed topic. The

Table 2: Training need of the farmers of selected districts in the area of animal Feeding

Feeding	Muzaffarpur (N=100)	Purnea (N=100)	Bhagalpur (N=100)	Nalanda (N=100)	Pooled (N=400)
Less needed (0-33)	18(18)	13(13)	15(15)	22(22)	68(17.00)
Moderately needed (34-66)	49(49)	42(42)	52(52)	36(36)	179(44.75)
Highly needed (67-100)	33(33)	45(45)	33(33)	42(42)	153(38.25)

* Figures in parenthesis indicates percentage

Table 3: Training need of the farmers of selected districts in the area of animal management

Management	Muzaffarpur (N=100)	Purnea (N=100)	Bhagalpur (N=100)	Nalanda (N=100)	Pooled (N=400)
Less needed (0-33)	23(23)	14(14)	21(21)	12(12)	70(17.50)
Moderately needed (34-66)	27(27)	38(38)	43(43)	33(33)	141(35.25)
Highly needed (67-100)	50(50)	48(48)	36(36)	55(55)	189(47.25)

* Figures in parenthesis indicates percentage

figures of Purnea district depicts that majority (48%) of the respondents considered animal management as highly needed topic followed by moderately needed (38%) and less needed (14%) respectively. In Bhagalpur district majority (43%) of the respondents considered animal management as moderately needed topic followed by highly needed (36%) and least 21 percent of the respondent's opined animal management as less needed topic. In Nalanda district majority (55%) of the respondents opined animal management as highly needed topic followed by moderately needed topic by 33 percent respondents and less needed training need by 12 percent respondents. The pooled value of all the four selected districts depicts that regarding animal management majority (47.25%) of the respondents opined it as highly needed topic followed by moderately needed topic by 35.25 percent respondents and least 17.50 percent respondents opined animal management as less needed topic. The findings of the study are in line with the findings of Gour *et al*. (2015), who also found the management practices were most needed training need of livestock farmers. Therefore, it is evident that animal management was considered as highly needed training need by the respondents. Although animal breeding, animal feeding and animal management are considered as three pillars of animal husbandry. In order to get maximum output of animal husbandry a farmer has to perform well in all these three areas. A farmer may consult a veterinarian or expert for animal breeding and animal feeding practices but animal management is the area which has to be performed by farmer itself, moreover, farmers has opined animal management as most needed topic therefore training institutions needs to incorporate maximum possible number of trainings in the area of animal management.

Fig. 3: Training need in the area of management

CONCLUSION

On the basis of above facts, it may be concluded that for the animal husbandry farmers of Bihar, management of animals is most needed topic and there is high training need in this subject. However, it is worthy to mention here that only slight less population of farmers opined Breeding and Feeding as most needed training need, therefore training in these areas are also important. Management of animals is very broad topic which comprises of housing management, water management, health management etc. One of the major reasons of failure of animal husbandry is lack of management of animals, this may be reason why majority of farmers opined animal husbandry management as most needed topic. Animal Breeding and Feeding was considered as moderately needed topic. Therefore, training institutions like ATMA, KVK, SAMETI, NGO, should give more emphasis on animal management topic while preparing training module for the livestock farmers, this will be more beneficial for the farming community.

REFERENCES

Dhaka BL, Baira RK, Meena NL, Chayal K and Nagar BL. 2017. Training needs assessment of women farmers on livestock production management in Bundi District of Rajasthan. *International Journal Current microbial and applied sciences* **6**(6): 796-803.

Gour S, Mandal MK and Singh R. 2015. Training needs assessment of tribal farmers of Madhya Pradesh in Animal Husbandry practices. *Veterinary Clinical Sciences*. **3**(4):17-21.

Lynton RP and Pareek U. 2015. Training for development. 3red ed. California. SAGE Publication: Pp 27.

Pharate DN, Sindhe SB and Sonawane HP.2010. Training needs and participation of farmers in dairy management. *Agricultural update* **5**(2&4):271-273.

Rajput BPS, Sahu NC, Kant K and Kant K. 2012. Perceived training needs of dairy farmers regarding improved dairy farming practices and its relation with their socio-economic traits in Bundelkhand Region. *Indian Journal of Dairy Science* **65**(4):342-347.

Roy R. 2015. Training needs of pig farmers in Darjeeling Hills. Darjeeling Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya Kalimpong. *Indian Journal of hills farming* **28**(2):133-136.

Sajeev MV, Singha AK and Venkatasubramanian V. 2012. Training needs of farmers and rural youth. An analysis of Manipur state. *Indian Journal of Agriculture Sciences.* **3(2):** 103-112.

Sharma Manoj, Singh Gurdeep and Keshava.2014. Impact Evaluation of Training Programmes on Dairy Farming in Punjab State. *Indian Res. J. Ext. Edu.* **14 (1)**:105-108.

Singh R. 2011. Identification of training needs of dairy farmers of Patna district of Bihar. Unpublished M. V. Sc. Thesis, WBUA&FS, Kolkata (W.B.).