

IMPACT OF DAATT CENTRE TRAININGS ON KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE OF SHEPHERDS ON SCIENTIFIC SHEEP REARING

Ch. HARIKRISHNA¹, A. SARAT CHANDRA² AND M. MAHENDER³

Livestock Experimental Station, Livestock Research Institute,
Department of Livestock Production and Management, College of Veterinary Science,
Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030

Received : 18.02.2012 and Accepted : 04.03.2013

ABSTRACT

A diagnostic study was conducted in Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh with a sample size of 270 sheep farmers. The results indicated that there was a 73.46 per cent increase in overall knowledge of the shepherds after exposure to training programmes. There was a 29.78 per cent change in the attitude of shepherds who underwent training on scientific sheep rearing practices. Combination of different teaching methods (TV + Charts and Posters + Lecture method + Exposure visit) was effective in imparting the knowledge to the shepherds. The trainings formulated based on the needs of the shepherds revealed a positive indication of adoption of scientific sheep rearing practices.

Key words: Attitude, Knowledge, Sheep rearing, Training methods, Training Programmes

In India most of the traditional sheep rearing communities are illiterate, will be always with their sheep flocks and do not show any interest towards other activities. Providing training to them is a critical input, which not only hastens the agricultural and livestock production but also generating the employment and income. India is endowed with huge sheep population¹ of 62.5 million empowering the national economy with their contribution through meat and wool and these animals produce only 23.45×10^4 MT mutton per year, which is not corresponding with the size of population we have in our country. This is mainly due to that many of the shepherds do not adopt the scientific sheep rearing practices because of lack of knowledge and unfavorable attitude. Recently there is an awakening among the shepherd community that their ram lambs have to attain higher body weights at an early age. This can be done by conducting trainings of the sheep farmers to impart knowledge of the latest sheep rearing technologies. Training is one of the important input for overall development of life and it is usually an integral part of human resource

development, which helps in enhancing the knowledge level and changing the attitude of the trainees². It is obvious that shepherds are trying their best for increasing the meat production by using the traditional methods and their experiences. But due to lack of scientific knowledge and favourable attitude towards the recommended practices, they cannot use available resources in proper and scientific manner. Keeping these things in view, the present diagnostic investigation was undertaken to study the effect of District Agricultural Advisory and Transfer of Technology (DAATT) Centre trainings on knowledge and attitude of shepherds regarding scientific sheep rearing practices in Nalgonda district of India.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in DAATT centre of Nalgonda District under Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad. As per the DAATT centre approved technical programmes, nine training programmes in scientific sheep rearing practices were organised for shepherds belongs to various villages viz; Nidamanur, Kondrapolu, Palivela, Satyanarayanapuram, Kethepally, Kanagal, Bhongir, Deverkonda and Nakrekal. The shepherds who had participated in these nine training programmes of two days duration each were considered as respondents.

1 Assistant Professor and Corresponding author
E mail: drhkvet@gmail.com

2 Assistant Professor

3 Associate Professor and Head

Thus there were 270 respondents as a sample size for this study. The data were collected to measure the change in knowledge². The change in knowledge score worked out by administering knowledge test before and after the training programme. Attitude of the respondents towards training programme was measured with the help of modified scale developed³. Change in attitude towards training programmes provided was measured and mean difference was calculated. The collected data were tabulated and analyzed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The main objective of providing trainings was to acquaint the respondents with adequate knowledge and inculcate positive attitude towards the scientific sheep rearing and to improve the productivity of sheep. The effect of training programmes on scientific sheep rearing practices was measured for knowledge and attitude. Effect of training programmes on change in knowledge.

The analysis on extent of change in knowledge presented in Table 1 revealed that, the mean knowledge score on sheep management practices after imparting the training was 46.40 compared to the mean knowledge score 26.82 before training. The results revealed increased mean knowledge score (73.00) after the training programme. Similarly, the mean knowledge score regarding breeding and feeding practices, health care, clean meat and wool production after imparting training was relatively high. The overall gain in knowledge was 73.46 per cent, which appears to be a very good outcome of trainings. There was significant increase in knowledge after training which in turn enhance the shepherd's knowledge to act upon. The results of the present study were in agreement with the findings of few workers^{2,4}. The present study indicates that, the training programmes of DAATT centre, Nalgonda concerning scientific sheep rearing had significant effect on knowledge of trainees for adoption. Effect of trainings programmes on attitude.

It is a well known fact that individual attitude has a major influence on his/her behavior in respect to a definite objective. People's attitude towards a training programme will fundamentally

determine the nature and extent of their participation, which is vital to the success. This signifies the magnitude of identifying the participant's attitude towards the training programmes. The DAATT centre organizes training programmes to the farmers who are the eventual users and adopt the recommended sheep rearing practices. Since the shepherds are expected to have a favorable attitude towards training programmes, they should provide feedback in order to make changes in the recommended practices for their betterment.

The Table 2 revealed that, the mean score of attitude of respondents towards training programmes conducted by DAATT centre after training was 35.43, while before training, it was 27.30. The difference in the means of attitude scores before and after the training programme was 8.13. The per cent change in attitude score recorded in the present study was 29.78. These results indicates that, the training programmes conducted by DAATT centre, Nalgonda on various areas of scientific sheep rearing practices were successful in changing the attitude of the respondents in an encouraging direction. The results of the present study were in agreement with the findings of few workers².

The possible reason for higher mean attitude score was that, the shepherds possessed more knowledge on scientific sheep rearing practices by trainings of DAATT centre, resulting in more positive attitude towards training programmes.

TV, Charts and Posters, Lecture method and exposure visit were used in trainings in a combination. It was evident with the Table 3, that the combination of different teaching methods (86.68%) was effective in imparting knowledge to the shepherds, as these teaching methods targeted the audio and visuals senses. The other effective teaching methods were television (76.85%), Lecture method (22.92%) and Charts and Posters (18.05%) in that order. The above results helped us to arrive at a conclusion that combination of various teaching methods makes training more effective than using single method. The results recorded in the current study were consistent with the findings reported⁵.

Impact of DAATT centre training on knowledge and attitude

Table 1. Effect of Training Programmes on Change in Knowledge of shepherds

S.No.	Topics covered in training programmes	Stage of training (Knowledge score)			Per cent change
		Before training	After training	Mean difference	
1	Management practices	26.82	46.40	19.58	73.00
2	Breeding practices	23.44	41.80	18.36	78.33
3	Feeding practices	20.11	34.31	14.20	70.61
4	Health care	16.23	28.37	12.14	74.79
5	Clean meat production technologies	21.49	37.29	15.80	73.52
6	Clean wool production technologies	20.12	34.31	14.19	70.52
	Overall score	21.36	37.08	15.71	73.46

Table 2. Effect of Training Programmes on Change in Attitude of shepherds

Change in attitude	Stage of training (Attitude score)			Per cent change
	Before training	After training	Mean difference	
	27.30	35.43	8.13	29.78

Table 3. Perception of trainees on the teaching methods (multiple responses)

S.No.	Teaching method	Good	Excellent
1	Television	18.12	76.85
2	Charts and Posters	09.10	18.05
3	Lecture method	13.93	22.92
4	Combination (TV+ Charts and Posters + Lecture+ Exposure visit)	13.32	86.68

CONCLUSION

Based on the results obtained in the present study, training programmes for shepherds on scientific sheep rearing practices can be organized to improve their knowledge and attitude levels towards scientific sheep rearing for efficiently enhancing the adoption and diffusion of sheep rearing technologies.

REFERENCES

1. FAO, 2007. FAO Bulletin of Statistics. Vol:3 No.1 (Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, Rome). Animal Science and Health., www.fao.org
2. Kumar, S., Prakash, A., Sankhala, G. and Kadian, K. S., 2008. Effect of Krishi Vigyan Kendra trainings on knowledge and attitude of farmers regarding scientific dairy farming practices. Indian Journal of Dairy Science. 61: 308-310.
3. Sankhala, G. and Chand, R., 1998. Attitude of tribal farmers towards improved dairy farming practices. Indian Journal of Animal Production and Management. 14: 77-79.
4. Sohal, T. S. and Fulzele, R. M. 1986. Training for Human Resource Development. Indian Journal of Extension Education. 32: 38-40.
5. Thammi Raju D and Deepa M 2011. Capacity building of women self help groups (WSHG) in Dairying – an analysis. Journal of Rural Development. 30 (1) : 91-100.

★ ★ ★