

A Study on Training Needs of Animal Husbandry Practices in Banda District of U.P.

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted purposively in Banda district of Uttar Pradesh as these districts have a sizeable proportion of livestock farmers. Sixteen villages namely Padmai, Nauhai, Tindwara, Marka, Turra, Sikahula, Barcha, Padmai, Musivan, Jamun, Oran, Palhari, Karhuli, Mahokar, Para and Chhappar were selected randomly from district for the present study. From each village ten interested framers were selected randomly. Total 160 interested livestock owners were selected on the basis of Random Proportionate Sampling (RPS) method. The results were calculated as weighted score for each of the thrust area identified (feeding, management, breeding and health care practices) for the training. The findings of the study revealed that 'management practices' was the most important area and ranked first by the respondents for the purpose of training (mean weighted score 2.138) followed by the area of 'health care (2.103), breeding practices (2.095), and 'feeding practices' (mean weighted score 2.066), respectively. Therefore realistic planning for education and training need to be done to enhance the knowledge level of livestock farmers. Simultaneously, it can also be suggested that the livestock owners should be acquainted with improved A.H. practices in general with respect to management and health care practices in particular through appropriate extension programmes (training, awareness campaign, exhibitions, demonstration etc) to obtain more output from their livestock.

Keywords: Training, Need assessment, Livestock farmers, Animal husbandry practices and weighted score

INTRODUCTION

Training plays an important role in the advancement of human performance in a given situation. Training provides a systematic improvement of knowledge and skills which in turn helps the trainees to function effectively and efficiently in their given task on completion of the training. Livestock farmers of Banda district are following Anna Pratha in animal husbandry practices. So, effective training requires a clear picture of how the trainees will use information and technology after training in place of such local practices which they have adopted before in their situation. Lynton and Pareek (1990) stated that training consists largely of well organized opportunities for participants to acquire necessary understanding and skill.

Training of livestock farmers had assumed further importance and urgency in the perspective of animal husbandry practices. Training consists largely of well organized opportunities for participants to acquire

necessary understanding and skills. Livestock farmers' competencies could be enhanced through proper training programmes. Sajeev and Singha (2010) opined that farmers' training is directed towards improving their job efficiency in farming and will improve their productivity which literally enhancing their socio-economic livelihood. Against this back drop this study analyzed the training needs of livestock farmers in Banda district of Uttar Pradesh.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted purposively in Banda district of Uttar Pradesh as this district have a sizeable proportion of livestock farmers. Sixteen villages namely Padmai, Nauhai, Tindwara, Marka, Turra, Sikahula, Barcha, Padmai, Musivan, Jamun, Oran, Palhari, Karhuli, Mahokar, Para and Chhappar were selected randomly from district for the present study. From each village ten interested framers were selected randomly.

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Initially, an exhaustive list of livestock owners was prepared from the selected villages. Then, from each village a total sample of 160 interested livestock owners were selected on the basis of Random Proportionate Sampling (RPS) method. Thus, the final sample was comprised of 16 villages and 160 interested livestock owners as respondents (n=160).

The training needs of livestock owners were assessed by means of a three-point continuum namely 'most needed' (MN), 'somewhat needed' (SN) and 'least needed' (LN) which have been assigned scores of 3, 2 and 1, respectively. The results were calculated as weighted score for each of the thrust area identified (feeding, management, breeding and health care practices) for the training (Table 4).

$$\text{Weighted Score (WS)} = \frac{(\text{No. of MN} \times 3) + (\text{No. of SN} \times 2) + (\text{No. of LN} \times 1)}{\text{Total No. of MN} + \text{SN} + \text{LN}}$$

If all the selected farmers in a particular district marks that thrust area X is most needed then the WS will be 3. If all the selected farmers in a particular district marks that thrust area X is somewhat needed, then the WS will be 2. If all the selected farmers in a particular district marks that thrust area X is not least needed, then the WS will be 1.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this study training needs were operationalised as the expressed level of training needed by the livestock owners in each of the areas pertaining to animal husbandry practices viz; breeding, feeding, health care and management. It was assessed by personal interview method using structured interview schedule. The results were calculated as weighted score and accordingly rank was given for each of the thrust area of animal husbandry practices identified for the training.

Training Needs in Breeding Practices

The data presented in Table 1 reveals that according to need hierarchy in breeding practices, the livestock owners assigned first rank to 'Selection of animal' (weighted score 2.23) followed by 'Knowledge of pregnancy' (weighted score 2.19), 'identification of breeding problem' (weighted score 2.15), knowledge of different breed' (weighted score 2.10), 'knowledge of keeping records' (weighted score 2.09), accurate time of insemination' (weighted score 2.05), identification of sign of heat' (weighted score 1.98) and knowledge of AI (weighted score 1.97) respectively. These findings are in consonance with the findings of Sah *et al.*, 2002.

Table 1: Training needs assessment in breeding practices

Practices	Most needed	Some what needed	Least needed	Weighted score	Rank
Breeding					
Selection of animal	72	53	35	2.23	1
Knowledge of different breed	55	67	38	2.10	4
Sign of heat	53	51	56	1.98	7
Knowledge of AI	47	62	51	1.97	8
Accurate time of AI	45	78	37	2.05	6
Knowledge of pregnancy	54	83	23	2.19	2
Identification of breeding problem	66	52	42	2.15	3
Knowledge of keeping record	58	59	43	2.09	5

Training Needs in Feeding Practices

A perusal of Table 2 reveals that the livestock owners perceived the most important area for training in feeding practices of livestock was 'preparation of balanced ration using locally available feed items' (weighted score 2.15) followed by 'feeding of lactating animal and newly born calf (weighted score 2.14 each)' while feeding of concentrate mixture and feeding of ill animals (weighted score 2.09) both got the third rank on training need. Further data analysis show that clean water for drinking' (weighted score 2.04) occupied fourth rank followed by feeding of pregnant animals and use of kitchen and farm waste in feed' (weighted score 1.94 each) respectively. The similar results were also reported by Gangil *et. al.* (2005) and Patil *et. al.* (2009).

Table 2: Training needs assessment in feeding practices

Practices	Most needed	Some what needed	Least needed	Weighted score	Rank
Feeding					
Preparation of balance diet with local available green feed	61	62	3	2.15	1
Feeding of new born calf	55	72	33	2.14	2
Need of concentrate mixture	51	73	36	2.09	3
Feeding of pregnant animal	38	74	48	1.94	5
Feeding of lactating animal	57	68	35	2.14	2
Clean water	49	68	43	2.04	4
Feeding of ill animal	57	61	42	2.09	3
Importance of kitchen and farm waste in animal feed	46	58	56	1.94	5

Training Needs in Health Care Practices

The data presented in Table 3 indicated that among the various sub-areas of animal health care practices, the respondents were perceived the 'knowledge about common diseases as the most important area of training with a weighted score of 2.23 followed by primary treatment of common diseases (weighted score 2.16), care of ill animals' (weighted score 2.14). Whereas contagious diseases and its symptoms' and 'knowledge of zoonotic diseases got the fourth rank with weighted score 2.13 each. Besides this further data analysis show that vaccination' (weighted score 2.12), care from external

parasite (weighted score 1.97) and 'deworming' (weighted score 1.95) got the fifth, sixth and seventh rank respectively. These findings are in consonance with the findings of Gangil *et al.* (2005) and Patil *et al.* (2009).

Table 3: Training needs assessment in health care practices

Practices	Most needed	Somewhat needed	Least needed	Weighted score	Rank
Health care					
Knowledge of general disease	71	56	33	2.23	1
Deworming	45	62	53	1.95	7
Care of ill animal	59	64	37	2.14	3
Contagious disease and there sign	54	73	33	2.13	4
Care from external parasite	37	81	42	1.97	6
Primary treatment	59	68	33	2.16	2
Vaccination	54	71	35	2.12	5
Knowledge of zoonotic disease	62	57	41	2.13	4

Training Needs in Management Practices

The data presented in Table 4 showed that among the various sub- areas of management practices, 'care of animal at the time of parturition' was the most important area ranked first by the livestock owners with a weighted score 2.26. The second rank was given to the sub area of 'care of new born calves' (weighted score 2.19), followed by 'proper disposal of animal carcass and waste' (weighted score 2.18), 'methods of milking' (weighted score 2.15), 'drying off lactating animal' (weighted score 2.14), 'castration' (weighted score 2.12) and animal hygiene and milking hygiene' (weighted score 1.93) respectively. These findings are in consonance with the findings of Gangil *et al.* (2005), Patil *et al.* (2009) and Patel *et al.* (2012).

Table 4: Training needs assessment in management practices

Practices	Most needed	Somewhat needed	Least needed	Weighted score	Rank
Management					
Care of animal at the time of parturition	74	54	32	2.26	1
Drying off milking animal	58	66	36	2.14	5
Care of new born calf	54	82	24	2.19	2
Proper disposal of carcass and other residual material	74	58	28	2.18	3
Method of milking	40	89	31	2.15	4
Castration	56	67	37	2.12	6
Hygienic care of animal at the time of milking	43	63	54	1.93	7

Overall Training Needs in Animal Husbandry Practices

Animal husbandry is an important source of livelihood for livestock owners and thus they should be given training on various areas of livestock rearing. The data presented in Table 5 revealed that among the four areas of animal husbandry practices, 'management

practices' was the most important area and ranked first by the respondents for the purpose of training (mean weighted score 2.138). The second rank was assigned to the area of 'health care practices' with a mean weighted score of 2.103 followed by 'breeding practices' (mean weighted score 2.095) and 'feeding practices' (mean weighted score 2.066), respectively. The similar results were also reported by Jiji and Rajkumar (2008) and Subhadra and Durga Rani (2009). Therefore, there is a need for conducting more number of need based knowledge and skill oriented trainings among livestock owners to improve the existing status of animal husbandry practices.

Table 5: Overall training needs assessment in animal husbandry practices

Overall training needs in animal husbandry practices		
Areas	Overall weighted mean score	Rank
Management	2.138	1
Feeding	2.066	4
Healthcare	2.103	2
Breeding	2.095	3

CONCLUSION

The aim of the study is to impart new knowledge, teach better skills to bring about more efficient performance in the production of livestock. Farmers have indicated areas of training need in their activities. Adequate training in areas of management is a necessary factor to sustainable rural livelihood and consequently rural development.

There is a need for conducting more number of need based and well tailored training programmes suited to livestock farmers which would in turn help them to have more extension agency contacts. Farm operations related to housing, disposal of animal carcass and waste, knowledge about different breeds, preparation of balanced ration using locally available feed items and contagious diseases and its symptoms should be given top priority in the curriculum of training programmes.

While concerned with the four broader areas of training in animal husbandry practices, the respondents expressed their willingness/ interest to have training in the descending order as management, feeding, health care and breeding practices. Thus, the livestock owners should be acquainted with improved management and feeding practices through appropriate extension programmes (training, awareness campaign, exhibitions, demonstration *etc.*) to obtain more output from their livestock.

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