

A Study on Farmwomen Training Preference on Farm Implements

Shobhana Gupta¹ and Shilpi Verma²

ABSTRACT

The study was aimed at determining women farmers' perception about importance, adequacy and need of training in farm implements. A sample size of 240 women farmers was taken for the study and analyzed. Simple random sampling technique was used for the sample selection and structured questionnaire was used to elicit information from the respondents. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used for data analysis. The result showed highest information about the repair of pump sets, oil engine; electric motor *etc.* was most important and most needed. Exposure to the use of farm implements was perceived as most adequate. It can be inferred that the rural women are in need of training in majority of the areas in farm implements. Hence, there is a wide scope for the extension workers to organize and impart training to farm women in order to enhance their potential in adoption of improved technologies. Therefore, providing appropriate training in the area of farm implements to rural women will enable them in the updating their knowledge and enhancing in the skills.

Keywords: Training; farm women; farm implements; farming practices

INTRODUCTION

Rural women play a pivotal role in agricultural productivity and other related activities besides their normal domestic works. Women's contribution to rural development through their roles in agriculture and animal husbandry activities is crucial (Mustafa *et. al.* 2005). Empowerment of women is an essential pre-requisite for economic development of the rural India. Reddy and Rashid, (2006) have also emphasized on important dual role played by rural women in the society. Though their work is often 'physically visible' but conceptually 'invisible' and remained marginalized. Kaur and Khurana, (2006) suggested that in order to make training programmes more effective and purposeful, it should be based on felt needs, which vary from region to region.

METHODOLOGY

KVK, Chomu and KVK, Ajmer were selected for the present study. Two Panchayat Samitis from the working area of each KVK, two gram Panchayats from each Samiti

and two villages from each gram Panchayat were selected randomly. This contributes to eight villages from one KVK. Thus in total, 16 villages from both KVKs were selected. Out of the total contact farm women in the selected villages, 15 farm women from each village were selected randomly. Hence, 120 farm women from each KVK and total, 240 farm women formed the sample for the study.

For determining the importance, adequacy and need of the training the scale developed and tested by Khan (1994) was used. The data so collected were processed, tabulated, classified and given statistical treatments. The appropriate tables were prepared and the data were interpreted in light of the objectives of the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Importance of Training

Eight training practices in farm implements were taken for evaluating their extent of importance for farm women (Table 1).

¹ Deputy Director Extension, ² Student, RVSKVV, Gwalior (M.P.)

Table 1: Relative importance of different subject matter items of training as perceived by farm women in farm implements.

| Items of training | Percentage of farm women | | | Means Score | Rank |
|--|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|------|
| | MI | I | LI | | |
| Use of farm implements | 39.71 | 49.73 | 10.56 | 2.28 | 5 |
| Repair of farm implements | 77.33 | 16.18 | 6.49 | 2.72 | 2 |
| Installation and use of cow dung gas plant | 25.57 | 32.41 | 41.84 | 1.84 | 6 |
| Sprinkler irrigation engineering | 64.67 | 27.71 | 7.62 | 2.57 | 4 |
| Trouble shooting of farm implements | 22.05 | 26.58 | 51.37 | 1.71 | 7 |
| Repair of pump sets, oil engines, electric motors etc. | 88.52 | 6.30 | 5.18 | 2.83 | 1 |
| Maintenance of tractor | 67.63 | 25.56 | 4.81 | 2.65 | 3 |
| Overall | 55.38 | 26.35 | 18.27 | 2.37 | |

Table 1 indicated the 'relative importance of different subject matter items of training as perceived by farm women in farm implement's. Seven items of training under the area of 'farm implements' were selected for evaluating their relative importance as most important, important and least important. By calculating mean score values, the items of training were assigned ranks as per the importance of the respondents.

It is apparent from the table that 55.38 per cent farm women felt training for all the seven items as most important while 26.35 per cent farm women reported training as important and it was 18.27 per cent farm women desired training as least important. It is indicated from the above table that item of training and 'Repair of Pump sets, Oil Engines, Electric Motors were noticed most important by the maximum number of the farm women (88.53 %). The item 'trouble shooting of farm implements' was reported as most important training item by lowest number of farm women (22.05 %). 'Use of Farm Implements' the items of training was preferred important by maximum number of farm women *i.e.* 49.73 per cent while it was 'Repair of Pump Sets, Oil Engine, Electric Motor *etc.*' the item of training reported important by lowest number of farm women *i.e.* 6.30 per cent. Highest number of farm women 51.37 per cent observed 'Trouble Shooting of Farm Implements' as least important and it was 'Maintenance of Tractor' the item of training reported least important by lowest number of farm women *i.e.* 4.81 per cent. In the critical analysis of the table, the training item 'repair of pump sets, oil engines, electric motors *etc.*' was ranked first and the 'Trouble Shooting of Farm Implements' was ranked last *i.e.* seventh amongst all subject matter items in 'Farm Implements'.

It can be concluded from the above interpretation that the farm families were conscious about 'Repairing of Pump Sets, Oil Engine, Electric Motor *etc.*' is because most of the farm families irrigate their field by pump sets, oil engines and electric motors and these equipments frequently required repairing which is very costly for them so they reported this as most important item of training.

Adequacy of training

Eight training practices in farm implements were taken for evaluating their extent of adequacy for farm women (Table 2).

Table 2: Relative adequacy of different subject matter items of training as perceived by farm women in farm implements.

| Item of training | Percentage of Farm women | | | Means Score | Rank |
|---|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|------|
| | MI | I | LI | | |
| Use of farm implement | 33.33 | 55.56 | 11.11 | 2.22 | 1 |
| Repair of farm implements | 5.56 | 50.00 | 44.44 | 1.61 | 3 |
| Installation and use of cow dung gas plant | 10.12 | 21.02 | 68.86 | 1.41 | 6 |
| Sprinkler irrigation Engineering | 5.93 | 25.18 | 68.89 | 1.37 | 7 |
| Trouble shooting of farm implements | 22.36 | 27.52 | 50.12 | 1.72 | 2 |
| Repair of pump sets, oil engines, electric motors <i>etc.</i> | 5.56 | 33.33 | 61.11 | 1.44 | 5 |
| Maintenance of tractor | 6.30 | 32.96 | 60.74 | 1.46 | 4 |
| Overall | 12.74 | 35.08 | 52.18 | 1.60 | |

LI-MA-most adequate A-adequate LA - Least

Table 2 gives about 'Relative adequacy of different subject matter items of training as perceived by farm women in Farm Implements.' Seven items of training for 'Farm Implements' were selected and their relative adequacy was seen. Mean score was noted and all the items of training were given ranks.

It is apparent from the table 2 that 12.74 per cent farm women felt training for all the seven items most adequate while 35.08 per cent farm women understood training adequate and it was 52.18 per cent farm women desired training least adequate.

It is indicated from the above table that 'Use of Farm Implements' item of training was noticed most adequate by the maximum number of the farm women *i.e.* 33.33 per cent. It was 'Sprinkler Irrigation Engineering', 'Repair of Pump sets, Oil Engines, Electric Motors *etc.*' and 'Repair of Farm Implements' the items of training informed most

adequate by lowest number of farm women *i.e.* 5.93, 5.56 and 5.56 per cent respectively. 'Use of Farm Implements' the item of training was preferred adequate by maximum number of farm women *i.e.* 55.56 per cent while it was 'Installation and use of Cow Dung Gas Plant' the item of training seen adequate by lowest number of farm women *i.e.* 21.02 per cent. Highest number of farm women 68.89 and 68.86 per cent observed 'Sprinkler Irrigation Engineering' and 'Installation and Use of Cow Dung Gas Plant' as least adequate and it was 'Use of Farm Implements' the item of training grasped least adequate by lowest number of farm women *i.e.* 11.11 per cent. In the critical analysis of the table, 'Use of Farm Implements' the item of training was ranked first. The 'Trouble shooting of Farm Implements' the item of training was provided with the second rank and 'Repair of Farm Implements' the item of training was given the third rank by the farm women. 'Sprinkler Irrigation Engineering' the item of training was ranked last *i.e.* seventh amongst all subject matter items in Farm Implements. It may be concluded from the above interpretation that the first rank was given to the 'Use of Farm Implements'. The researcher felt that the above is important because most of the farm women use farm implements and had developed skill for their use while 'Sprinkler Irrigation Engineering' the item of training was ranked the last by the farm women because it is a new technology and not so much popular due to its high cost. Also its installation and maintenance required a great skill on the part of farm women so they perceived it as least adequate.

Need of training

Eight training practices in farm implements were taken for evaluating their extent of need for farm women (Table 3).

Table 3: Relative needs for training as perceived by farm women in different subject matter items of farm implements:

| Item of training | Percentage of Farm women | | | Mean Score | Rank |
|--|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|------|
| | MN | N | LN | | |
| Use of farm implement | 18.72 | 22.41 | 58.87 | 1.60 | 7 |
| Repair of farm implements | 72.22 | 16.67 | 11.11 | 2.61 | 2 |
| Installation and use of cow dung gas plant | 11.11 | 72.22 | 16.67 | 1.94 | 5 |
| Sprinkler irrigation engineering | 55.56 | 11.11 | 33.33 | 2.22 | 4 |
| Trouble shooting of farm implements. | 21.43 | 27.25 | 51.32 | 1.70 | 6 |
| Repair of pump sets, oil engines, electric motors etc. | 73.05 | 21.39 | 5.56 | 2.67 | 1 |
| Maintenance of Tractor | 53.33 | 42.96 | 3.71 | 2.50 | 3 |
| Overall | 43.52 | 30.69 | 25.79 | 2.18 | |

The table 3 indicated the 'Relative need for different subject matter items of training as perceived by farm women in Farm Implements.' Seven items of training for 'Farm Implements' were given priority to see their relative need. Mean score was noted to give ranks to all the items of training.

It is apparent from the table that 43.52 per cent farm women felt training for all the seven items most needed while 30.69 per cent farm women reported training needed and it was 25.79 per cent farm women desired training least needed. It is indicated from the above table that 'Repair of Pump sets, Oil Engines, Electric Motors etc.' and 'Repair of Farm Implements' the items of training were noticed most needed by the maximum number of the farm women *i.e.* 73.05 and 72.22 per cent respectively. It was 'Installation and use of Cow Dung Gas Plant' the item of training reported most needed by lowest number of farm women *i.e.* 11.11 per cent. 'Installation and use of Cow Dung Gas Plant' the item of training was preferred needed by maximum number of farm women *i.e.* 72.22 per cent while it was 'Sprinkler Irrigation Engineering' the item of training grasp needed by lowest number of farm women *i.e.* 11.11 per cent. Highest number of farm women 58.87 and 51.32 per cent observed 'Use of Farm Implements' and 'Trouble Shooting of Farm Implements' respectively as least needed and it was 'Repair of Pump sets, Oil Engines, Electric Motors etc.' and 'Maintenance of Tractor' the items of training seen least needed by lowest number of farm women *i.e.* 5.56 and 3.71 per cent respectively.

In the critical analysis of the table, 'Repair of Pump sets, Oil Engines, Electric Motors etc.' the item of training was ranked first and the 'Use of Farm Implements' the item of training was ranked last *i.e.* seventh amongst all items of subject matter in Farm Implements.

Thus, it is concluded from the above interpretation that the first rank was given to the 'Repair of Pump sets, Oil Engines, Electric Motors etc.' The researcher felt that the above is due to the fact that most of the farm families use pump sets, oil engines, electric motor *etc.* for irrigating their fields and these equipments frequently required repairs which was very costly, so for saving expenses they need training in this field. while 'Use of Farm Implements' the item of training was ranked the last by the farm women because most of the farm families are very poor and not able to purchase a new farm implement which is very costly.

Similar study conducted by Punitha *et al*, 2012 reported that the need of various tillage implements which

decrease drudgery in various farm operations might have induced the women respondents to prefer training on use of various tillage implements. Training need in labour saving equipments ranked first, which may be attributed to the fact that all such equipments were predominantly used by farmers, while farm women have to perform these activities manually which are labour intensive and monotonous (Hallim and Ali 2005).

Results from the study conducted by Singh, (2008) revealed that farm women perceived high level of training needs in the handling of labour saving improved weeding tools.

CONCLUSION

The study shows that the repair of pump sets, oil engine, electric motor *etc.* was the most important while training item repair of farm implements, maintenance of tractor, sprinkler irrigation engineering, use of farm implements, installation and use of cow dung gas plant were found important and the trouble shooting of farm implements was found least important item of farm women training in decreasing order of their importance. Exposure to the use of farm implements was perceived as most adequate followed by trouble shooting of farm implements, repair of farm implements, maintenance of tractor, repair of pump sets, oil engine, electric motor *etc.* and installation and use of cow dung gas plant were perceived as adequate while the exposure to sprinkler irrigation engineering was found to be least adequate in decreasing order of their adequacy. Training in repair of pump sets, oil engine, electric motor *etc.* was most needed followed by repair of farm implements, maintenance of tractor, sprinkler irrigation engineering, installation and use of cow dung gas plant and trouble shooting of farm implements, which were regarded as important while use of farm implements was least needed item of training as perceived by farm women.

Paper received on : April 24, 2016

Accepted on : May 10, 2016

REFERENCES

Hallim, and Ali Md. Mozaher. 2005. Training need and professional development improving agricultural extension – a reference manual. FAO, Rome.

Kaur S and Khurana GS. 2006. Training needs of vegetable growers in Ludhiana district of *Punjab*

Agricultural Extension Review 8(3): 19-22.

Punitha. P, Singh, S.B. and Seetharaman, R. Netaji (2012), Gender Differences on Training Needs Among Farmers' Discussion Groups *Indian Research Journal of Extension Education* 12 (1);

Reddy G P and Rashid MA. 2006. Areas and decision making pattern of farm women in Rice Based farming system. *Journal of Research*, ANGRAU 25(4): 48-52.

Mustafa, S. Dabas, Y.P.S, Kumar A. and Bardhan D.(2005) A study of training needs of rural women towards improved dairy farming practices. *J. Dairying, Foods & H.S.*, 24(2):101-104.

Singh, P.K. 2008. Training needs of rural women involved in weed management and related activities, *Indian Journal of Weed Science* 40 (1&2): 108.