

Training Needs of Poultry Farmers in Hilly Areas

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ABSTRACT

Temperature of brooder, time of removal of chick guard, type of brooding system, method of providing feed to the brooding chicks, duration of heating brooder, house before chicks to brood, number of brooding days and purpose of chick guard, were perceived by the poultry farmers as more important training needs in brooding practices. While the aspects like percentage of moisture to be maintained in litter, period of regular and slight hoeing of litter in a viable shed, thickness of litter material to be added every month, replacement of litter from a viable poultry unit and basic qualities of the litter material were considered as more important training needs under litter management practices. The poultry farmers perceived that dose of fowl pox vaccine, age at which vaccination against fowl pox is done, dose of mareek's disease vaccine, age at which vaccination against mareek's disease is done, medicine used to kill internal parasites and rate of coccidistat for mixing with feed were the more important training needs in vaccination practices. Whereas, under feeding practices, source of vitamin in feed, source of protein in feed, source of minerals in feed and source of carbohydrates in feed were considered as more important training needs. Training assumes a special recognition in view of growing sophistication in poultry farming and allied technology. In order to make a training more meaningful and effective, the training needs of the poultry farmers have to be identified before implementing any training programme. The present study was undertaken with the objective to assess the training needs of poultry farmers in Bageshwar district of Uttarakhand.

Key words: Training needs; litter management practices; vaccination practices;

INTRODUCTION

Poultry is one of the fastest growing segments of the agriculture sector in India with an average growth rate of 6 per cent in egg production and 12 per cent per annum for broiler production. As a result, India is now the world's largest producer after China and USA. Regarding broiler production, India stands 5th with 2.25 million tons of broiler meat production contributing ₹ 9000 crores to the national economy. Consistent with increase in production and productivity, per capita availability has increased to 44 eggs and 1.76 kg poultry meat per annum but, it is still below the NIN recommendation of 180 eggs and 11 kg of poultry meat (Yadav and Kumar, 2008).

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Bageshwar district of Uttarakhand. Out of three blocks (Bageshwar, Kapkot and Garur) only two blocks namely Bageshwar and Garur were purposively selected. Twenty poultry farmers from each block were selected randomly. A total of 40 poultry farmers constituted the sample for the study purpose. The data were collected through a well-structured pre-tested interview schedule. Training needs

of each specific area were assessed using a three point rating scale *i.e.* most needed, somewhat needed and least needed and were quantified by assigning the scores as 3, 2 and 1 respectively. Mean scores were used to rate specific areas. Percentage analysis was carried out for simple comparison.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data incorporated in Table 1 indicate the mean training need scores and the extent of importance of training need against each component of poultry farming. The results explicate that the respondents perceived most important training need in the area of temperature of brooder with mean score (2.32) followed by time of removal of chick guards, type of brooding system, methods of providing feed to the brooding chicks, duration of heating brooder house before chicks to brood, number of brooding days and purpose of chick guard with the mean score 2.25, 2.12, 2.05, 1.97, 1.90 and 1.87 respectively. The least important training needs in poultry farming practices were ratio of dextrose and water to be offered to the brooding chicks (1.50), thickness of bedding material on which chicks are kept to brood (1.55), and offering plenty of water to chicks before offering feed

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(1.60). These findings were supported by the reports of Paul and Sharma (2005).

Table 1: Training need in brooding practices

Brooding practices	Degree of training needs			Total obtained score	Mean score	Rank
	Most needed	Somewhat needed	Least needed			
Duration of heating brooder house before chicks to brood	16	07	17	79	1.97	V
Type of brooding system	18	09	13	85	2.12	III
Temperature of brooder	21	11	08	93	2.32	I
Number of brooding days	14	08	18	76	1.90	VI
Thickness of bedding material on which chicks are kept to brood	05	12	23	62	1.55	IX
Ratio of dextrose and water to be offered to the brooding chicks	04	12	24	60	1.50	X
Method of providing feed to the brooding chicks	17	08	15	82	2.05	IV
Offering plenty of water to chicks before offering feed	06	12	22	64	1.60	VIII
Purpose of chick guard	13	09	18	75	1.87	VII
Time of removal of chick guards	20	10	10	90	2.25	II

Training needs of litter management practices

It is evident from Table 2 that on the basis of mean score, the litter management practices such as percentage of moisture to be maintained in litter (2.27), period of regular and slight hoeing of litter in a viable shed (2.22), thickness of litter material to be added every month (2.15), replacement of litter from a viable poultry unit (2.07) and basic qualities of the litter material (1.95) were rated as more required training areas. Whereas, effect of dry litter on birds (1.65), treatment of wet litter and hard crust formed there on (1.70) and thickness of litter material spread at the time of a starting a lot (1.82) were perceived as less important training needs. These findings were found to be partially supported by the reports of Tekale *et al.* (2009) and Bhagat and Nain (2005).

Training needs of vaccination

A perusal of data presented in Table 3 reveals that on the basis of mean score, the vaccination such as dose of fowl pox vaccine (2.35), age at which vaccination against fowl pox is done (2.32), dose of mareek's disease vaccine (2.27), age at which vaccination against mareek's disease is done (2.20), medicine used to kill internal parasites (2.15) and rate of coccidiostat for mixing with feed (2.10) were rated as more required training needs. Whereas, age at which broilers are vaccinated against Ranikhet (1.85), dose of Ranikhet vaccine (1.90), age at which broilers are vaccinated (IB) (1.92) and dose of infectious bronchitis (2.07) perceived as less important training needs. These

findings were supported by the reports of Paul and Sharma (2005).

Table 2: Training need in litter management practices
n=40

Litter management practices	Level of training needs			Total obtained score	Mean score	Rank
	Most needed	Somewhat needed	Least needed			
Thickness of litter material spread at the time of starting a lot	12	09	19	73	1.82	VI
Basic qualities of the litter material	14	10	16	78	1.95	V
Thickness of litter material to be added every month	17	12	11	86	2.15	III
Percentage of moisture to be maintained in litter	20	11	09	91	2.27	I
Period of regular and slight and hoeing of litter in a viable shed	18	13	09	89	2.22	II
Effect of dry litter on birds	08	10	22	66	1.65	VIII
Treatment of wet litter & hard crust formed thereon	10	08	22	68	1.7	VII
Replacement of litter from a viable poultry unit	16	11	13	83	2.07	IV

Table 3: Training need in vaccination

Vaccination	Level of training needs			Total obtained score	Mean score	Rank
	Most needed	Somewhat needed	Least needed			
Dose of Ranikhet vaccine	11	14	15	76	1.90	IX
Age at which broilers are vaccinated against Ranikhet	10	14	16	74	1.85	X
Dose of infectious bronchitis (IB)	14	15	11	83	2.07	VII
Age at which broilers are vaccinated (IB)	12	13	15	77	1.92	VIII
Age at which vaccination against fowl pox is done	21	11	8	93	2.32	II
Dose of fowl pox vaccine	22	10	8	94	2.35	I
Age at which vaccination against mareek's disease is done	18	12	10	88	2.20	IV
Dose of mareek's disease vaccine	20	11	9	91	2.27	III
Rate of coccidiostat for mixing with feed	15	14	11	84	2.10	VI
Medicine used to kill internal parasites	16	14	10	86	2.15	V

Training needs of feeding practices

It is evident from Table 4 that on the basis of mean score the feeding practices such as source of vitamin in feed (2.42), source of protein in feed (2.35), source of mineral in feed (2.27), source of carbohydrates in feed (2.22), quantity of feed per chick given to 29-35 days old chick (2.15), quantity of feed per chick given to during 36-42 days and onwards (2.07), quantity of feed per chick given to 22-28 days old chick (2.05), quantity of feed per

chick given to 16-21 days old chick (2.00) and quantity of feed per chick given to 4-7 days (1.92) were rated as more required training needs. Whereas, quantity of feed on an average a chick consumes during its life (1.50), ratio of poultry concentrate and grinded maize (1.55), percentage of total expenditure incurred on the cost of feeds (1.62), quantity of feed per chick given to 1-3 days old chick (1.77) and quantity of feed per chick given to 8-15 days old chick (1.80) were perceived as less important training needs. These findings were found to be partially supported by the report of Tekale *et. al.*, (2009) and Paul & Sharma (2005).

Table 4: Training need in feeding practices

Feeding practices	Level of training needs			Total obtained score	Mean score	Rank
	Most needed	Somewhat needed	Least needed			
	Percentage of total expenditure incurred on cost of feeds	5	15			
Source of protein in feed	21	12	7	94	2.35	II
Source of carbohydrates in feed	18	13	9	89	2.22	IV
Source of vitamin in feed	23	11	6	97	2.42	I
Source of minerals in feed	20	11	9	91	2.27	III
Ratio of poultry concentrate and grinded maize	4	14	22	62	1.55	XIII
Quantity of feed per chick given to 1-3 days old chick	7	17	16	71	1.77	XI
Quantity of feed per chick given at the age of 4-7 days	10	17	13	77	1.92	IX
Quantity of feed per chick given to 8 -15 day s old days chick	9	14	17	72	1.80	X
Quantity of feed per chick given to 16-21 days old chick	12	16	12	80	2.00	VIII
Quantity of feed per chick given to 22-28 days old chick	13	16	11	82	2.05	VII
Quantity of feed per chick given to 29-35 days old chick	16	14	10	86	2.15	V
Quantity of feed given during 36-42 days and onwards	14	15	11	83	2.07	VI
Quantity of feed on an average a chick consumes during its life	3	14	23	60	1.50	XIV

Duration and place of training as desired by poultry farmers

It is seen from Table 5, that 52.5 per cent of the poultry farmers wanted training for a period of the three days, whereas, 22.5 per cent expressed the training for a period of one day. Similarly, 17.5 per cent of the poultry farmers were interested in training for a period of one week and very few *i.e.* 7.5 per cent expressed the desire for training for a period of two weeks. It is also evident from Table 5 that the majority (40.0 %) of the poultry farmers preferred their native village for training. The KVKs were given preference by 32.5 per cent of poultry farmers, whereas

17.5 per cent preferred key village centre, 7.5 per cent preferred tehsil and 2.5 per cent of poultry farmers preferred block.

Table 5: Distribution of poultry farmers on the basis of duration and place of training for training programme as desired n=40

Training duration		
Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
One day	9	22.5
Three day	21	52.5
One week	7	17.5
Two week	3	7.5
Training place		
A native village	16	40.0
Key village centre	7	17.5
At tehsil	3	7.5
At block	1	2.5
At KVK	13	32.5

CONCLUSION

The training programmes for poultry farmers should be organised keeping in view of the identified area of training need with selectively higher mean score values in order of importance. This can go a long way in improving the skills and competencies of the poultry farmers in adopting the modern poultry farming technology, thereby raising the level of poultry farm production. Also, in order to make the training more effective the programmes need to be conducted well in advance (before the commencement of the particular activity).

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