

TRAINING NEEDS OF FARMERS IN BUFFALO HUSBANDRY PRACTICES

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Abstract: The present study has been made to study the training needs of the farmers related to buffalo husbandry practices in Coimbatore District of Tamil Nadu. Purposive sampling technique was used for selecting Karamadi and Anamalai block of Coimbatore District on the basis of considerable number of farmers who are in the banks of these two blocks are having buffalo farming as a livestock along with agriculture. From the selected blocks, Periya Thottipalayam, China Thottipalayam, Therampalayam and Bellathi villages from Karamadai taluk, Somandurai Chitoor, Thensangam palayam, Anamalai and Kottur villages from Anamalai taluk were randomly selected for the study. From each village, twenty five farmers were selected randomly for the study to arrive a total sample size of 200. From each village, twenty five farmers were selected randomly for the study to arrive a total sample size of 200. A semi - structured interview schedule was used to collect the data. In order to assess the training needs, respondents were asked to rate the training need items under four major domains viz., breeding (9 items), feed and fodder practices (10 items), management practices (7 items) and health care (6 items) on three point continuum viz., mostly needed, somewhat needed and least needed by assigning a score of 3, 2 and 1 respectively and the Training Need Index (TNI) for each item was computed. The findings of the study revealed that majority of the respondents (81.50 per cent) preferred off campus / peripatetic / on field training programmes followed by On campus (15.50 per cent) and distance mode (3.00 per cent). Regarding their choice of method of training, field trip was the most preferred mode of training by 39.00 per cent of the respondents followed by demonstrations (21.00 per cent) and ICT – informative videos and short films (17.50 per cent). With regard to trainers, majority of the respondents (73.50 per cent) preferred experts from TANUVAS as trainers followed by experts from state animal husbandry department (24.00 per cent). Nearly two third of the respondents (72.50 per cent) preferred to undergo a training programme of 1-3 days duration and 17.50 per cent of the respondents preferred 4 -7 days as their choice of training duration.

Keywords: Training need, buffalo farming and animal husbandry practices.

INTRODUCTION

The management skills of the farmers and their knowledge about the modern buffalo husbandry practices are the major determinants of future buffalo production in our country. Training is a process of acquisition of new skills, attitude and knowledge in the

context of preparing for entry into a vocation or improving ones productivity in an organization or enterprise. 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. The kind of education we call as training is not for knowing more but behaving differently. 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. Training is a process of acquisition of new skills, attitude and knowledge in the context of preparing for entry into a vocation or improving ones productivity in an organization or enterprise. Effective training requires a clear picture of how the trainees will need to use information after training in place of local practices what they have adopted before in their situation (Sajeev, M.V and Singha. A.K, 2010). Lynton and Pareek (1990) stated that training consists largely of well organized opportunities for participants to acquire necessary understanding and skill. Farmer training is directed towards improving their job efficiency in farming. The kind of education we call as training is not for knowing more but behaving differently. A training need assessment is the process of identifying performance requirements and the “gap” between what level of performance is required and what present level of performance is. If there is a variance between the desired and actual levels, a needs assessment explores the causes responsible for the gap and methods for closing the gap. To make training more effective the training needs have to be established prior to commencement of training programmes so that the subject matter of the training could be determined on the basis of the needs of the trainees. Assessment of individual training needs was also important as trainees come from different backgrounds, varies in their strengths and weaknesses, encourages trainees to become aware of their own limits or knowledge – a sound base for future learning and informs for future training strategy. Thus, an effort has been made to study the training needs of the farmers related to buffalo husbandry practices.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Purposive sampling technique was used for selecting Karamadi and Anamalai block of Coimbatore District on the basis of considerable number of farmers who are in the banks of these two blocks are having buffalo farming as a livestock along with agriculture. From the selected blocks, Periya Thottipalayam, China Thottipalayam, Therampalayam and Bellathi villages from Karamadai taluk, Somandurai Chitoor, Thensangam palayam, Anamalai and Kottur villages from Anamalai taluk were randomly selected for the study.

From each village, twenty five farmers were selected randomly for the study to arrive a total sample size of 200. A semi - structured interview schedule was used to collect the data.

In order to assess the training needs, respondents were asked to rate the training need items under four major domains viz., breeding (9 items), feed and fodder practices (10 items), Management practices (7 items) and health care (6 items) on three point continuum viz., mostly needed, somewhat needed and least needed by assigning a score of 3, 2 and 1 respectively. The Training Need Index (TNI) for each item was computed with the help of following formula

$$\text{TNI of an item} = \frac{\text{Sum of scores obtained for an item by all the respondents}}{\text{Maximum possible score for the item}} \times 100$$

Further, the mean TNI of each major domain was worked out using the formula,

$$\text{Mean TNI of a major domain} = \frac{\text{Sum of training need indices of all the items under the domain}}{\text{Number of items in the domain}} \times 100$$

Development of Training strategy

The training strategies such as type of training preferred, method of training preferred, trainers preferred, duration of training preferred and proportion of theory and practical sessions preferred by the respondents was found out and based on this a training programme was designed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Training needs of farmers related to buffalo husbandry practices

Table 1. Training needs of farmers related to buffalo husbandry practices

S.No.	Subject matter areas	Mean TNI	Rank
1	Breeding	88.58	I
2	Feed and fodder practices	82.99	II
3	Management practices	78.27	IV
4	Health care	80.77	III

The training needs of the respondents in various subject matter domains were studied and the domains were ranked based on their mean TNI and the results were given in Table 1. The Table 1 shows that the respondents needed more training in the major subject matter domain of Breeding as it has got a mean TNI of 88.58. This was followed by Feed and fodder

Feed and fodder	145	72.50	35	17.50	12	6.00	8	4.00
Management practices	I Rank		II Rank		III Rank		IV Rank	
Health care	I Rank		II Rank		III Rank		IV Rank	

Table 1.A.5. Preference for proportion of theory and practical for training

Subject matter areas	More of theory (> 50 per cent)		More of practical (> 50 per cent)	
	f	%	f	%
Breeding				
Feed and fodder practices	11	5.50	189	94.50
Management practices	II Rank		I Rank	
Health care	II Rank		I Rank	

It could be observed from the Table 1.A.5, that majority of the respondents (81.50 per cent) preferred a off campus / peripatetic / on field training programmes followed by on campus (15.50 per cent) and distance mode (3.00 per cent). Regarding their choice of method of training, field trip was the most preferred mode of training by 39.00 per cent of the respondents followed by demonstrations (21.00 per cent) and ICT – informative videos and short films (17.50 per cent). This might be attributed to the opportunities of the respondents to visit the farmers field and learn the new skills that would widen their practical learning experience.

With regard to trainers, majority of the respondents (73.50 per cent) preferred experts from TANUVAS as trainers followed by experts from state animal husbandry department (24.00 per cent). The findings are in agreement with that of Sakthivel (2001) and Vimal Rajkumar et al., (2013).

Nearly two third of the respondents (72.50 per cent) preferred to undergo a training programme of 1-3 days duration and 17.50 per cent of the respondents preferred 4-7 days as their choice of training duration. The findings are in agreement with that of Khan et al., (2011) and Vimal Rajkumar et al., (2013). Vimal Rajkumar et al., (2013) in their study reported that duration is an important criterion for the success of any training programme and it is essential that the duration of training is adequate to deliver the content of training. Regarding the content, almost all 94.50 per cent of the respondents opined that the training module should be more of practical oriented with few theory parts.

Conclusion

The present study concludes that buffalo farmers must be educated about animal husbandry practices and be made aware about corrective measures for tackling of these problems. The animal husbandry department should enhance their extension activities by acquainting the farmers with improved management and feeding practices of milch animals. Thus dairy farming is considered as an instrument of socio-economic change in the rural areas.

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