



SHORT COMMUNICATION

Profile of SHG – Women Trainees in Dairy Farming in Theni District of Tamilnadu

A Senthil Kumar

Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Farmers Training Centre, Theni- 625531

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ABSTRACT

In Theni District, most of the works related to dairy animal management are looked after by rural women but their knowledge in dairy animal management is very poor. The main objective of this training programme was to motivate rural women to learn about knowledge of dairy farming so as to engage themselves in their free time to earn certain amount of income for their family. In the present study three days training programme were conducted for rural SHG Women on dairy farming and value added milk products at Farmers Training Center Theni, sponsored by NABARD, Chennai. Accordingly the transfer of technology work was carried out for 8 batches and total 495 participants were selected. On completion of the training programme feedback analysis was obtained from each batch and data was tabulated and interpreted. Among 495 trainees 156 trainees (31.51%) were 20-30 years of age, 169 trainees (34.14%) of 30-40 years of age, 134 trainees (27.07%) of 40-50 years of age and 36 trainees (7.27%) of above 50 years of age groups respectively. In these rural women trainees 246 trainees (49.70%) had up to primary school level education and 168 trainees (33.94%), 43 trainees (8.69%), 30 trainees (6.06%) and 8 trainees (1.62%) were belonged to middle school, SSLC, HSC and degree levels of education. Out of the 495 trainees in 8 batches 446 trainees (90.10%) were married and 32 unmarried women (6.46%) and 17 were widows (3.43%). Out of 495 trainees, 422 (82.25%) trainees reared (or) owned dairy animals and 73 trainees (14.75%) had no dairy animals in their houses. Among 495 trainees 398 trainees (80.40%) had agriculture and other allied activities as their main occupation with dairy animals as their subsidiary occupation whereas 97 trainees (19.60%) had non agricultural occupation. Majority of the trainees i.e. 351 women were (71%) interested to start 1-3 dairy animal unit, 134 (27%) gave preference to heifer unit and 10 (2%) gave preference to mini dairy unit (maximum 10 dairy animals unit). Trainings conducted frequently should increase the level of knowledge, which reflects in to better dairy animal management and ultimately increases the dairy animal population and milk production in Theni district.

*Corresponding Author

A. Senthil Kumar

senthilkumarwls@gmail.com

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INTRODUCTION

In Theni District next to agriculture dairy farming is an important source of income for many rural house hold. Most of the works related to dairy animal management are looked after by rural women but their knowledge in dairy animal management is very poor. So special effort requires on training of women beneficiates (Parthasarathy *et al.*, 2006 and Sarala Gopalan, 1992). The main objective of this training programme was to motivate rural women to learn about knowledge of dairy farming so as to

engage themselves in their free time to earn certain amount of income for their family.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In the present study the training programme were conducted for rural SHG Women on dairy farming and value added milk products at Farmers Training Center Theni, sponsored by NABARD, Chennai. Accordingly the transfer of technology work was carried out for 8 batches and total 495 participants were selected.

Table 1: Data characteristics of rural SHG women trainees

Sr. No	Characteristics	Classification	Trainees	
			No	%
1	Age	20-30 Years	156	31.51
		30-40 Years	169	34.14
		40-50 Years	134	27.07
		Above 50 Years	36	7.27
2	Education	Upto primary school	246	49.70
		Upto middle school	168	33.94
		SSLC	43	8.69
		HSC	30	6.06
		Degree	8	1.62
3	Marital status	Married	446	90.10
		Unmarried	32	6.46
		Widows	17	3.43
4	Dairy farms	Trainees with dairy animals	422	85.25
		Trainees without dairy animals	73	14.75
5	Occupation	Agriculture with dairy	398	80.40
		Agriculture without dairy	97	19.60
6	Preference towards dairy unit	1-3 Animals unit	351	71
		Heifer unit	134	27
		Mini dairy unit	10	2

The duration of training programme was 3 days the syllabus includes dairy animal selection, housing, preparation of compound feed, feeding, fodder cultivation, diseases, breeding, calf to pregnant heifer management, vaccination, insurance and preparation of value added milk products. The training included classroom teaching with audiovisual aids, video lessons, method demonstration and hands on training (field visits).

Data on characteristics of rural women viz. age group participation, educational status, marital status, dairy farming practicing and non practicing, preference towards large dairy, mini dairy and heifer management were collected from each trainees. On completion of the training programme feedback analysis was obtained from each batch and data was tabulated and interpreted.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The distribution of rural women trainees according to their characteristics are presented in Table 1. Among 495 trainees 156 trainees (31.51%) were 20-30 years of age 169 trainees (34.14%) of 30-40 years of age, 134 trainees (27.07%) of 40-50 years of age and 36 trainees (7.27%) of above 50 years of age groups respectively and this might be due to interest among young and middle age groups of rural women which were in consonance with reports of Ravikumar *et al.* (2006) and Yasothai *et al.* (2009).

In these rural women trainees 246 trainees (49.70%) had up to primary school level education and 168 trainees (33.94%), 43 trainees (8.69%), 30 trainees (6.06%) and 8 trainees (1.62%) were belonged to middle school, SSLC, HSC and degree levels of education. This is in accordance with report of George *et al.* (1991), Kumaravel *et al.* (2005) Ravikumar *et al.* (2006) and Yasothai *et al.* (2009). The results revealed that educational level of women trainees had positive effect on the imbibing of improved dairy farm management.

Out of the 495 trainees in 8 batches 446 trainees (90.10%) were married and 32 (6.16%) unmarried women and 17 (3.43%) were widows. Out of 495 trainees, 422 (82.25%) trainees reared (or) owned dairy animals and 73 trainees (14.75%) had no dairy animals in their houses.

Among 495 trainees 398 trainees (80.40%) had agriculture and other allied activities as their main occupation with dairy animals as their subsidiary occupation while 97 trainees (19.60%) had non agricultural occupation, there were not involved in any type of animal husbandry activity. This is in accordance with the reports of Kumaravel *et al.* (2005), Yasothai *et al.* (2009) and Taneja (1998).

Majority of the trainees i.e 351 women were (71%) interested to start 1-3 dairy animal unit, 134 (27%) gave preference to heifer unit and 10 (2.00%) gave preference to mini dairy unit (maximum to 10 dairy animals unit). All the women trainees purchased locally available feed ingredients and oil cakes and prepared feed mixture rather than purchase of readymade compound feed. Among 495 trainees 320 trainees (65%) cultivated green fodder on their land. This could be due to awareness regarding benefits of green fodder feeding to dairy animals.

All the women trainees preferred to breed their animals by artificial insemination rather than natural service and they knew that better conception rate in AI could be achieved only if proper heat detection and best time of AI was carried out. Majority of the trainees knew about the importance of deworming, mineral -vitamins supplementation and feeding of colostrums to the calves. This could be due to media as well as the intensive training programme provided by NGO's and Government institutions. Family labor and the unpaid work of women in all farm and nonfarm activities should be recognized and accounted for gross domestic product. Women agricultural workers should be encouraged to undertake collective activities in nonfarm sectors such as animal husbandry and other activities through training programme and promotional schemes.

Conclusion

From the results of present study it could be concluded that majority of the rural SHG women trainees were middle age group with primary school level of education had agriculture as their main occupation with dairy farming as their subsidiary occupation and maximum number of trainees were interested to start 1- 3

dairy animal unit. The training programme has made tremendous change and interest among the trainees to gain more knowledge probably due to usage of method demonstration, audio visual aids and field visits, they should easily understand and remember the technologies taught in the training. Further this training if conducted frequently should increase the level of knowledge, which will reflect in to better dairy animal management and ultimately increases the dairy animal population and milk production in Theni district.

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