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A study on training need assessment among farmers in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract

Need assessment is the process of evaluating the organization, individual employees and employees task to determine what kind of training, if any, are necessary. The present study was conducted during the year 2017-18 with objective of assessing training needs among the farmers of Kurnool district. Study revealed that majority of the farmers (82.00%) needs training on crop production aspects on groundnut, onion and tomato, vegetable cultivation in shade net and poly houses. In crop protection aspect majority need training on virus management in chilli. In Horticulture majority of farmers opined that they need information on Pest and Disease resistant high yielding varieties in Tomato, Chilli and Onion. In home science majority need information on Value addition in minor millets. In Veterinary Aspects majority of farmers need information on scientific management of cattle and Hydroponic grass fodder production.

Keywords: training need, krishi vigyan kendra, crop production

Introduction

Training is an indispensable instrument for HRD at any level and cannot be ignored. First and foremost activity for planning a good training programme is to assess the training needs. Need assessment helps to identify the present problems and future challenges to meet through training and development (Archana, 2013) [1]. In order to make any training meaningful and effective, it is imperative on the part of the training organizers to identify the training need of the farmers based on which a suitable training module can be developed so that the appropriate training is given to the right people, in the right form, at the right time so that the degree of productivity and profitability can be achieved. Mitchell (1993) described need analysis as an examination of the existing need for training within an organization. It identifies areas or programmes within an organization where training should be applied. In India for agrarain community Krishi Vigyan Kendra's (KVKs), Extension Education Institutes (EElS) and farmers Training centre's impart need based, skill oriented vocational training programme's to the them. These institutions should take into consideration of the training needs of the farmers, farm women and rural youth so that they may acquire the relevant Knowledge and skill in the new techniques and the same may be imparted to the farmers and they can also upgrade the existing knowledge in better manner. Present study focused on assessing training needs of farmers in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.

Materials and Methods

The present study was conducted during the year 2017-18 by the following Ex-Post-Facto research design with objective of studying the training need assessment among the farmers of Kurnool district. The investigation was carried out in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh was purposively selected as it has highest net sown area under food crops among all the districts in Andhra Pradesh and the Researcher's familiarity with the local dialect and culture of the people. Kurnool district consists of 54 Mandals / Blocks. Among the 54 Blocks, Gonedandla and Yemmiganur Blocks were selected for the study. In the next stage of the sampling process villages selection was made. Among the 20 villages of Gonedandla Block, 3 villages were selected for the study, and 39 villages of Yemmiganur Block, 3 villages were selected for the study; as a representative sample based on simple random sampling.

Results and Discussion

From Table 1 it can be inferred that majority (82.00%) of the farmers were in need of training on Crop production indicated as rank 1, Plant protection as rank II, horticulture as rank III,

Table 1: Training needs of farmers for various enterprises (n – 120)

S. No	Name of enterprises	Training need mean score	Rank
1	Crop production	82	I
2	Plant protection	80	II
3	Horticulture	75	III
4	Home science	72	IV
5	Livestock Production	65	V
6	Flower cultivation	61	VI
7	Poultry management	55	VII
8	Sericulture	54	VIII
9	Mushroom cultivation	50	IX
10	Apiculture	42	X

home science as rank IV, Livestock production as rank V, Floriculture rank VI, Poultry management as rank VII, sericulture as rank VIII, Mushroom cultivation as rank IX and apiculture as rank X.

The plausible reasons for the above trend might be due to the fact that the majority of the farmers were in need of Knowledge and source of improved and High yielding varieties of Cotton, paddy, Onion, Tomato, Chili followed by management of problematic soils, Integrated farming system, Soil- Water samples collection, and organic farming aspects.

Table 2: Training needs of farmers about different crop management practices

S. No.	Crop Production	Training need mean score	Rank
1	Knowledge and source of improved and High yielding varieties of Cotton, paddy, Onion, Tomato, Chilli	84	I
2	Management of problematic soils	79	II
3	Integrated farming system	75	III
4	Soil – Water samples collection	74	IV
5	Organic farming aspects	72	V
6	Crop diversification	70	VI
7	Soil test based fertilizer application	68	VII
8	Nutrient deficiency - management	67	VIII
9	Reclamation of problematic soils	66	IX
10	Integrated fertilizer management	64	X
11	Resource conservation technologies	63	XI

From Table 2 it can be inferred that among crop production aspects majority of the farmers (84.00%), were in need of training on Knowledge and source of improved and High yielding varieties of Cotton, paddy, Onion, Tomato, Chilli ranked 1, followed by Management of problematic soils(79.00%), Integrated farming system (75.00%), Soil –

Water samples collection (74.00%), Organic farming aspects (72.00%), Crop diversification (70.00%), Soil test based fertilizer application (68.00%), Nutrient deficiency – management (67.00%), Reclamation of problematic soils (66.00%), Integrated fertilizer management (64.00%) and Resource conservation technologies (63.00%).

Table 3: Training needs of farmers about in plant protection

S. No.	Plant Protection	Training need mean score	Rank
1	Boll worm management in cotton	89	I
2	Virus management in Chilli	80	II
3	Seed treatment	69	III
4	Integrated pest and disease management	67	IV
5	Bio control agents	66	V
6	Integrated cop management	56	VI
7	Sucking pest complex management	50	VII

From Table 3 it can be inferred that among crop protection aspects majority of the farmers were in need of training on Boll worm management in cotton (89.00%) as ranked 1, followed by Virus management in Chilli (80.00%), Seed treatment (69.00%), integrated pest and disease management (67.00%), Bio control agents (66.00%), Integrated cop management (56.00%) and Sucking pest complex management. (50.00%).

The plausible reason might be that cotton is the predominant crop in Kurnool district with more than 1.46 lakh ha (Source: Season and Crop Coverage Report, 2017) [4]. For the past 2 years cotton is severely infested with pink boll worm resulting in drastic reduction of yields from 16 quintals per ha to 6 quintals per ha (Source: Times of India, Feb, 2018). Chilli is one of the major crop in the Kurnool district as crop is infested with Gemini virus for the past few years so, majority of the farmers needed training on viral management in chilli.

Table 4: Training needs of farmers in horticulture

S. No	Horticulture	Training need mean score	Rank
Vegetable Crops			
1	Improved & HYVs in major vegetable crops (Tomato, Bhendi, Brinjal, Chilli, Melons etc)	76	I
2	Pest and disease management	72	II
3	Nursery raising	70	III
4	Protective cultivation (green houses, shade net, poly houses)	67	IV
5	Production of low volume and high value crops	55	V
6	Grading and standardization	55	V
7	Value addition and Export potential vegetables	52	VI
Fruits and Medicinal crops			

1	Medicinal plants cultivation in dry land areas	82	I
2	Micro irrigation systems of orchards	76	II
3	Market Information	72	III
4	Training and pruning	71	IV
5	Pest and disease management	69	V
6	Management of young plants/orchards	68	VI
7	Plant Propagation techniques	66	VII
8	Layout & management of orchards	54	VIII
9	Old orchard maintenance	53	IX

From Table 4 it can be inferred that among horticulture aspects majority of the farmers were in need of training on Vegetable crops and Fruits and Medicinal crops. Among Vegetable crops they were in need of Improved & HYVs in major vegetable crops (Tomato, Bendi, Brinjal, Chilli,

Melons etc) followed by, pest and disease management in vegetable crops. Among Fruits and medicinal crops majority of the farmers (82.00%) were in need of training on Medicinal plants cultivation in dry land areas as the western part of the study area is suitable for Aswagandha and Ajwain cultivation.

Table 5: Training needs of farmers in Home science

S. No.	Home Science/Women Empowerment	Training need mean score	Rank
1	Value addition to millets and fruits	87	I
2	Household food security by Kitchen gardening and nutrition gardening	86	II
3	Income generation through vocational training	83	III
4	Location specific Drudgery reduction equipments	80	IV
5	Designing/ development for high nutrient efficiency diet	77	V
7	Paper bags making	71	V
8	Women and child care	65	VI
9	Minimization of nutrients loss in processing	60	VII

From Table 5 it can be inferred that among Home Science/Women Empowerment aspects majority of the farmers were in need of training on Value addition to millets and fruits (87.00%) followed by Household food security by Kitchen gardening and nutrition gardening (86.00%), Income generation through vocational training (83.00%) Location specific Drudgery reduction equipments (80.00%), Designing/ development for high nutrient efficiency diet (77.00%), Paper

bags making (71.00%), Women and child care (65.00%), Minimization of nutrients loss in processing (60.00%).

The Plausible reason might be that value addition to millets and fruits might fetch additional income through higher price for their commodity, increasing demand from consumers as value added can improve the health status and socioeconomic status of the consumers.

Table 6: Training needs of farmers about different Livestock production practices

S. No.	Dairy management practices	Training need mean score	Rank
1	Sheep and goat rearing and management	82	II
2	Hydroponic grass fodder production	79	III
3	Backyard poultry Management	74	IV
4	Silage and Hey preparation	72	V
5	Dairy and veterinary cooperative societies	69	VI
6	Integrated Farming system - importance	63	VI
7	Various Government schemes in Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DAHDF)	62	VII
8	Low cost conventional feed preparation methods	61	VIII
9	Conversion of agricultural wastes into feed	50	IX
10	Information Communication Technology (ICT) usages in dairy	41	X

From Table 6 it can be inferred that among livestock production aspects majority of the farmers (82.00%) were in need of training on sheep and goat rearing management followed by, hydroponic grass fodder production (79.00%), Backyard poultry Management (65.00%), Silage and Hey preparation (72.00%), Dairy and veterinary cooperative societies (69.00%), Integrated Farming system - importance (63.00%), Various Government schemes in DAHDF (62.00%), Low cost conventional feed preparation methods (61.00%), Conversion of agricultural wastes into feed (50.00%) and ICT usages in dairy (41.00%).

The Plausible reason might be that western part of the Kurnool district i.e. study area is predominant with livestock population especially goat and sheep. Increasing cost and depleting natural sources and limited irrigation facility may

have driven dairy farmers to be acquainted with hydroponic technology.

Conclusion

Based on findings training programmes have to be planned well by the training institutes like Krishi Vigyan Kendra's (KVKs) and Extension Education Institutes (EIs) which impart need based, skill oriented, location specific, target and result oriented training programmes to the farmers. These institutions should take into consideration of the training needs of the farmers, farm women and rural youth so that they may acquire the relevant Knowledge and skill in the new techniques and the same may be imparted to the farmers and they can also upgrade the existing knowledge in better manner. Moreover farmers are not fully aware of appropriate farming techniques, management skills, and relevant

programmes available by government services. So training needs plays a very important role in transforming the lives of farming community.

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