

## Training needs and participation of farmers in dairy management

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### ABSTRACT

The present research work was carried out for identification of the training needs of the dairy farmers. In the study, data of dairy farmers were collected from Ahmednagar and Pune districts of western Maharashtra. The results of study revealed that nearly two-third of the dairy farmers (64.17 per cent) felt need of training in preparation milk product while 57.92 per cent of the dairy farmers mostly needed training on rearing of calf. A majority of the dairy farmers (55.00 per cent) mostly required training on health management while 47.08 per cent of the cow owners mostly required training on feeding of animal. About 42.00 per cent of the dairy farmers mostly needed training on care of the cow at the time of calving and after calving, whereas 37.08 per cent, 36.25 per cent and 30.42 per cent of the dairy farmers mostly needed training on animal breeding, milking of cow and marketing of milk, respectively.

### INTRODUCTION

Training is necessary to provide a constant support of recent technological knowledge to farmers and training is one of the best methods to do so as it provides an opportunity to necessary skill along with gain in theoretical knowledge.

Importance of training needs to the dairy farmers is progressively realized all over the world. It is observed that dairy farmers play a significant role not only in agriculture but also in the efficient use of animal husbandry practices. They also contribute significantly in taking important decisions such as acquired and pre-disposing of agricultural assets, borrowing money to meet the farm and home obligations, besides taking care of animal shades, milk production dairying, poultry keeping, care of milch animals, care of new born calf, care of buffaloes and sheep etc. Thus dairy farmers play very important role not only in maintaining their cattle but also managing their farms, depending upon the situational personal and socio-economic characteristics of the family to which they belong. Performance of these diversified task more efficiently and effectively call for specializes knowledge and skills, occupied with favourable attitude of dairy farmers towards the performance of these tasks. Therefore, it is essential to equip the dairy farmers with the needed knowledge and skills. Training is one of the commonly used devices that impacts knowledge and skills of the trainees.

Training is viewed as an investment of human recourses. This investment has potentialities on transforming the group of dairy farmers who by accidentally come together to accomplish common goals. It can be successfully bring about certain changes in the outlook and attitude of the dairy farmers and thereby making them capable of rendering this task more effectively and efficiently. The present research was undertaken with the objective to study the training needs of the dairy farmers.

### METHODOLOGY

The study was undertaken in Ahmednagar and Pune districts of Western Maharashtra. Sangamner and Shrigonda Tahsils were selected from Ahmednagar district and Baramati and Indapur Tahsils were selected from Pune district on the basis of more cattle population. From each of the selected Tahsils, five villages were selected on purposive basis considering the criterion of having largest population of cattle. From the selected 20 villages, list of dairy farmers was prepared with the help of Livestock Development Officer and village level functionaries viz., Talati, Gramsevak on population of crossbreed cows they possessed. 60 respondents from each Tahsil were selected randomly. Hence, in all four Tahsils, twenty villages and 240 crossbred cow owners were covered under the study.

### Key words :

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