

Study on training needs of farm women on food grain storage practices in Pune District (Maharashtra)

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ABSTRACT

The study of training needs of farm women regarding food-grains storage practices revealed that majority 65.89 per cent of the farm women were of opinion that training is more important in respect of use of scientific storage structures. Ninety eight per cent of farm women expressed that training should be conducted at village level, while 1.77 per cent expressed that training should be organized at taluka place. Large majority *i.e.* 78.24 per cent of farm women preferred one day training whereas 21.76 per cent of them suggested that training should be organized for 2 to 3 days. Nearly 50.58 per cent of farm women suggested that training should be organized by Panchayat Samiti, 27.66 per cent suggested to be organized by Agricultural Department and 21.76 per cent were of opinion by Agricultural Universities. Experience in storage of food grains was significant at 0.05 per cent level while education, size of land, social participation, crops to be grown and knowledge of storage of food grains were significant at 0.01 per cent level whereas age, caste, family size, annual income, social ranks in family were not significant with training needs.

INTRODUCTION

It is an era of empowerment and the mainstreaming of women is agriculture. Farm women play a significant role in agriculture and thereby directly or indirectly contributing for developing Indian economy. In empowerment of women, training is an important component for upgrading the knowledge and skills. Studies proved that improper methods of food grains storage leads to great loss and which could not get the remunerative price for their produce. Hence, there is immense need to impart trainings on these aspects. With this background, the present study was conducted with the objectives to identify the areas of training, nature and period of training and also to study the relationship between the socio-economic characteristics and training needs. The areas in which the farm women expressed the need for training of food grains storage practices are of urgent training needs.

As such an in depth study of farm women, who perform the storage activity is carried out to know their training need, the place of training, duration of training and the institution for arranging training, also the relationship between socio-economic characteristics of farm women and their training needs. The study will be useful to the administrators and agriculture department to determine future policies and new strategic of food grains

practices.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried in the College of Agriculture development block Pune. Out of 112 villages, 10 villages were randomly selected for the purpose of study. A list of farm women who perform the village activities, the training needs for the same purpose were prepared. From the list of 350 farm women, 170 farm women were selected by using random sampling method.

For collection of data, an interview schedule was prepared in Marathi language in order to get accurate information. Suitable questions were included to determine the training needs of farm women. The data were collected by person interviewed during the year 2007-08. The statistical tools and test such as percentage mean, standard deviation and correlation coefficient method was used in the study for analysis of data for arriving at conclusion.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results on training needs on storage of food grains are presented in Table 1. It is revealed from the table that majority (65.89 per cent) of farm women were of the opinion that training is more necessary in respect of use of scientific storage structure followed by

Key words :

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Table 1: Training needs of farm women regarding storage of food grains (N=170)

Sr. No.	Training needs	Extent of necessity		
		More necessary	Necessary	Not necessary
1.	Method to be used	59 (34.71)	92 (54.11)	19 (11.18)
2.	Storage structure	112 (65.89)	30 (17.64)	28 (16.47)
3.	Use of chemicals	98 (57.65)	51 (30)	21 (12.35)
4.	Precaution in using chemical	107 (62.95)	35 (20.58)	28 (16.47)
5.	Protection of food grains from rodents	13 (7.64)	137 (80.59)	20 (11.76)
6.	Use of preventive measures at stored place	91 (53.52)	20 (11.76)	59 (34.72)
7.	To identify insects and pests, nature of damage and control	108 (63.53)	42 (24.71)	20 (11.76)

(Figures in parentheses indicate percentages)

63.53 per cent of farm women when needed training in identification of insect and pests. This finding is in line with Nikam *et al.* (1992). A very small proportion (7.64 per cent) of farm women expressed that training is more necessary for protection of food grains from rodents. The table also reveals that 80.59 per cent felt training is necessary in case of protection of food grains from rodents. This finding is on the line with Verma and Dahiya (1994).

The results as regards to the period and place of training Table 2 reveals that most of farm women 98.23 per cent expressed training to be conducted at village level. This finding is in line with Mankar *et al.* (1990), while only 1.77 per cent expressed that training should be organized at taluka place. Large majority (78.34 per cent) of farm women suggested that training should be of one day, while 21.76 per cent of them suggested that training should be organized for 2 to 3 days. This finding is in the line with Bhalerao and Ayaskar (1999).

Table 2: Distribution of farm women according to the place of training suggested by them (n=170)

Sr. No.	Particulars	Respondent farm women	
		No. of farm women	Per cent
Place of training			
1.	At village level	167	98.23
2.	At Taluka level (Score 7 to 11)	3	1.77
Period of training			
1.	One day	133	78.24
2.	Two to three days	37	21.76

It is revealed from Table 3 on the study on arrangement of trainings, 50.58 per cent of farm women suggested that training should be organized by Panchayat Samiti and 27.66 per cent suggested that training should be organized by Agricultural Department, while 21.76 per

Table 3: Personnel/Institution arranging the training programmes (n=170)

Sr. No.	Particulars	Respondent farm women	
		No. of farm women	Per cent
1.	Panchayat Samiti	86	50.58
2.	Agricultural Department	47	27.66
3.	Agricultural Universities	37	21.76
	Total	170	100.00

cent suggested that training should be organized by Agricultural Universities.

Relationship between socio-economic characteristics of farm women and their training needs regarding practices of food-grains storage:

It is revealed from Table 4 that personal and socio-economic characteristics of farm women *i.e.* education, size of land holding (Garaw and Kamble, 1995), social

Table 4: Socio-economic characteristics and training needs

Sr. No.	Personal and socio-economic characteristic	Co-efficient of correlation 'r' value
1.	Age	0.1332 NS
2.	Education	0.3238**
3.	Caste	-0.1395 NS
4.	Family size	0.0753 NS
5.	Size of land	0.3068**
6.	Annual income	0.1415 NS
7.	Social rank in the family	0.0814 NS
8.	Social participation	0.4040**
9.	Crops grown by family	0.2119*
10.	Experience in storage of food-grains	0.1642*
11.	Knowledge of storage of food-grains	0.3501**

* and ** indicate significance of values at P=0.01 and P=0.05, respectively

NS - non significant

D.F. = 168

participation, number of crops grown, experience and knowledge of storage of food grains showed positive and significant relationship with the extent of training needs towards storage of food grains (Chaudhari *et al.*, 1999 and Mande, 1999).

The age (Mande, 1999), caste, family size (Sinha *et al.*, 2002), annual income, social rank in family showed non-significant relationship with training needs.

Conclusion:

Majority of the farm women (65.89 per cent) were of opinion that the training is necessary in scientific storage structure for storage of food grains.

Ninety eight per cent farm women expressed that the training should be conducted at village level.

As far as the conduct of training is concerned, about half (50.58 per cent) expressed that it will be convenient if the training is conducted by Panchayat Samiti.

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