

Training needs and source consultancy pattern of commercial chawki rearing centre owners in Kolar district

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ABSTRACT

A study was undertaken to assess the training needs of CRC owners, to relate their characteristics with training needs and to know their source consultancy pattern. The list of commercial CRC's in Kolar district was prepared in consultation with Department of Sericulture, Kolar. The structured questionnaire was referred to 74 respondents out of which only 62 have responded. The commercial CRC owners expressed that the training needs were on disinfections and hygiene maintenance (71.66%), chawki rearing appliances (61.29%), pruning chawki garden (53.23%) and chawki rearing house including environment management (48.38%). Out of 12 characteristics studied, only four characteristics namely, education, occupation, area under mulberry and economic motivation had positive and significant relationship with training needs of commercial CRC owners. Majority (61.25%) of the respondents expressed that they were consulting Sericulture Extension Officers as source of information. Hence, Organizing trainings, based on their needs, considering the significantly related characteristics and further strengthening the most consulted information source be brought about awareness for increased quality cocoon production

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INTRODUCTION

Sericulture as an agro-based enterprise is highly suited to small and marginal farm holdings with less capital investment. Mulberry being a long standing crop with less gestation period, the returns are quick, frequent and better when compared to many cash crops. It is this enterprise, which provides better employment opportunities in different sectors viz., nursery raising, seed production, chawki rearing, silkworm rearing, silk reeling, silk twisting, printing and dyeing, fashion designing etc. The success of silkworm rearing largely depends on the quality of young age silkworms or chawki which not only ensures higher productivity of cocoons but also the quality. The concept of chawki rearing (upto second moult) is not new. In Japan, China and Korea about 95 per cent of farmers receive chawki reared larva whereas in India it is only 10-15 per cent. For meeting the growing demand for chawki worms, the government promoted the establishment of Chawki Rearing Centres (CRC's) in private sector under various schemes. Under Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) financial assistance was provided for constructing CRC buildings and procurement of equipments. Training was also provided to commercial CRC owners.

The training enhances the knowledge and skills and thereby helps in producing quality silk.

The identification of training needs is to be carried out on regular basis because of changing nature of technologies. Further, it is often said that knowledge gap and training needs go hand in hand. This hypothesis needs to be tested in real field situation to take advantage of the relationship in designing training strategies. Keeping this in view, this study was envisaged to assess the training needs of commercial Chawki Rearing Centre owners, to know the relationship between the characteristics of commercial Chawki Rearing Centre owners with their training needs and to know the source consultancy pattern used by the commercial Chawki Rearing Centre Owners.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in purposively selected Kolar district. The list of commercial Chawki Rearing Centres was prepared in consultation with the Office of the Deputy Director of Sericulture, Department of Sericulture, (GOK) Kolar. All the commercial CRC owners were considered as respondents for the purpose of the study. In order to ascertain the training needs of owners of CRC's, 22 areas of chawki rearing (cultivation technology for chawki mulberry garden and chawki rearing technology) was prepared in consultation with sericulture experts, extension

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personnel and leading CRC owners. The structured questionnaire was referred to 74 respondents and received response from 62 respondents. The responses were obtained on three point continuum namely, 'most needed', 'needed' and 'not needed', the scores assigned was 3,2, and 1, respectively. The statistical tools like correlation co-efficient, mean, frequency and percentages were utilized to analyze the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings obtained from the present study are presented below:

Training needs of commercial Chawki Rearing Centre owners in chawki rearing technologies:

The training needs of commercial Chawki Rearing Centre owners on various chawki rearing technologies were categorized (Table 1). It was observed from the data that out of 22 areas where the commercial Chawki Rearing Centre owners expressed training needs were disinfection and hygiene maintenance (71.66%), chawki

rearing appliances (61.29%), pruning of chawki garden (53.23%) and chawki rearing house including environment management (48.38%) and manures and fertilizers schedule to chawki garden (32.25%). These practices were considered as highly technical, scientific and complex in nature, which require latest knowledge and skills. The findings are in line with the observations of Nikam and Rajmane (1995) and Nikhade and Patki (2005).

The results of correlation analysis (Table 2) revealed that education, occupation, area under mulberry and economic motivation of the respondents were found positive and had significant relationship with training needs. The possible reason could be that majority of the Chawki Rearing Centre owners had College level education, occupation was sericulture, had more area under mulberry hence, they were looking towards earning more profits. They realized the importance of CRC's as profitable enterprise. The findings are partially in line with findings of Sharma and Riyazuddin (1995).

As depicted in Table 3, it is evident that majority of the commercial CRC owners (61.29%) expressed that

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their training needs (n=62)

Sr. No.	Area of training need	Training needs						Mean
		Most needed		Needed		Not needed		
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Cultivation technology for chawki mulberry garden								
1.	Soil type	-	-	-	-	62	100.00	1.00
2.	Varieties	-	-	-	-	62	100.00	1.00
3.	Spacing	-	-	-	-	62	100.00	1.00
4.	Training schedule	4	6.45	9	14.52	49	79.03	1.27
5.	Manures and fertilizer schedule	20	32.25	18	29.03	24	38.71	1.94
6.	Irrigation	-	-	3	4.184	59	95.16	1.05
7.	Leaf harvest	9	14.52	23	36.10	30	48.39	1.66
8.	Pruning	33	53.23	22	35.48	7	11.29	2.42
Chawki rearing technology								
1.	Disinfection and hygiene maintenance	43	71.66	17	27.42	2	3.23	2.66
2.	Chawki rearing appliances	38	61.29	20	32.26	4	6.45	2.55
3.	Handing of silkworm eggs	-	-	13	20.97	49	79.03	1.21
4.	Surface sterilization of silk worm	-	-	8	12.90	54	87.10	1.13
5.	Incubation of silkworm eggs	6	9.68	11	17.74	45	72.58	1.37
6.	Black boxing	-	-	9	14.52	53	85.48	1.15
7.	Brushing	3	4.84	8	12.90	51	82.26	1.23
8.	Box type of chawki rearing	-	-	4	6.45	58	93.55	1.06
9.	Chawki rearing house including environment management	30	48.38	24	38.70	8	12.90	2.35
10.	Leaf quality and feeding	13	20.97	20	32.26	29	46.77	1.74
11.	Spacing	-	-	7	11.29	55	88.71	1.11
12.	Bed cleaning	2	3.23	6	9.68	54	87.10	1.16
13.	Moulting care	-	-	6	9.68	56	90.32	1.10
14.	Chawki transportation	3	4.84	7	11.29	52	83.87	1.21

Table 2: Relationship between characteristics of respondents with their training needs

Sr. No.	Characteristics	Correlation co-efficient ('r' values)
1.	Age	-0.089
2.	Education	0.311**
3.	Occupation	0.279**
4.	Land holding	0.081
5.	Family size	0.095
6.	Annual income	0.073
7.	Area under mulberry	0.316**
8.	Experience in chawki rearing enterprise	-0.051
9.	Extension contact	0.163
10.	Extension participation	0.170
11.	Risk orientation	0.034
12.	Economic motivation	0.495**

many were using the services of Sericulture Extension Officers for knowing the technology of CRC, followed by Assistant Director of Sericulture (9.68%) Sericulture Inspector (8.06%), Sericulture Demonstrator (6.45%) other CRC's (4.83%), Sericulture input dealers (3.23), Sericulture Scientists (3.23) and Sericulture magazines (3.23). The Sericulture Extension Officer is a grass root

Table 3: Distribution of respondents according to their source consultancy pattern (N=62)

Sr. No.	Sources of information	Respondents	
		Number	Per cent
1.	Other chawki rearing centres	3	4.83
2.	Sericulture input dealers	2	3.23
3.	Sericulture magazines	2	3.23
4.	Sericulture scientists	2	3.23
5.	Assistant directors of sericulture	6	9.68
6.	Sericulture extension officers	38	61.29
7.	Sericulture inspectors	5	8.06
8.	Sericulture demonstrators	4	6.45

level extension functionary in the State Department of Sericulture who visits regularly, which could be the main reason. Further, they are technically competent, so commercial CRC owners trust them in decision making. These finding are in line with the findings of Pradhan *et al.* (1998).

Conclusion:

The finding of the present study revealed that majority of the commercial CRC owners felt that they needed training in disinfection and hygienic maintenance on chawki rearing appliances, pruning in chawki garden including environment management and manures and fertilizers schedule in chawki garden for increasing their knowledge and skills. Out of 12 characteristics education, occupation, area under mulberry and economic motivation had positive and significant relationship with training needs. It was also found that Sericulture Extension Officers were the most consulted source of information. Hence, the policy makers and extension personnel should plan and organize the training programmes based on their needs, by considering significantly related characteristics with training needs and further, strengthening the most consulted source of information which will help in higher quality cocoon production.

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