

Research Article

Training needs of the farm women in storage of food grains and their constraints

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SUMMARY : In order to study the training needs of the farm women and their constraints, 120 farm women were selected randomly from Raigad district of Konkan region. The special designed schedule was used for collection of data. The data were collected for the year 2009. The qualitative data were quantified using suitable statistical tools. 55.00 per cent of the farm women were of opinion that training was needed more in respect of use of fumigants at stored place' followed by 'use of preventive measures at stored place (46.67 %), identification of stored grain pest, its nature of damage and control measures (40.00 %). Major constraints faced by the respondents in food grain storage practices were, high cost of improved storage structure (85.00 %), lack of knowledge on identification of stored grain pest (69.16%), unavailability of different storage structures (56.66 %).

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KEY WORDS :

Food grains, Storage, Farm women, Constraints, Training needs

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

It is rightly said that grain saved is grain produced. There is problem of feeding ever increasing human population cannot be solved by only increasing food production, but the first logical step to solve it, would be to prevent storage losses and build up reserves scientifically. The annual food production has increased since 1951-1952 crossing the mark of 200 million tonnes in 1989-1999. The storage losses have been estimated to the extent of 6.58 per cent. Largely from rodents (2.50%), birds (0.58%), insects (2.55%), moisture (0.68%), (Manual on grain storage at farm level). In India, women play a crucial role in grain storage. Nearly 70 per cent of grains are stored in rural household, where the losses due to spoilage are high. Adequate method of grain storage are known but they are not taken in practice. Most rural women are unaware of these practices. This study was planned with following specific objectives :

- Training needs of the farm women regarding storage of food grain.
- Constraints faced by the farm women in storage of food grain.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Raigad district of the Konkan region. Roha and Karjat tahsils were randomly selected. From the selected tahsil, five villages, where rice is grown in *Kharif* and *Rabi* seasons were selected. Thus, a total of ten villages were selected. Then, from each selected village, 12 farm women were selected randomly, thus, making a sample of 120 farm women respondents. Data were collected by personal interview method with the pretested schedule designed for the purpose.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The experimental findings obtained from the present study have been discussed in following heads:

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Training needs of the farm women regarding storage of food grain :

The findings in respect of the training needs of the farm women regarding storage of food grain are presented in Table 1.

Table 1 : Distribution of the respondents according to their training needs (n=120)

Sr. No.	Training needs (Score)	Respondents	
		Number	Percentage
1.	Low (up to 5)	28	23.33
2.	Medium (6 to 11)	80	66.67
3.	High (12 and above)	12	10.00
	Total	120	100.00

The data from Table 1 revealed that two third (66.67 %) of the farm women felt that training was needed medium extent to them while 10.00 per cent of them felt training was highly needed and 23.33 per cent felt low intensity of training

need. The different training areas are depicted in Table 2.

Table 2 indicated that 55.00 per cent of the farm women were of opinion that training was needed more in respect of use of fumigants at stored place followed by use of preventive measures at stored place (46.67%), identification of stored grain pest, its nature of damage and control measures (40.00 %), protection of food grain from rodents (39.17%) and use of chemicals (39.17%).

While 40.00 per cent of the farm women moderately needed the training use of improved storage structure followed by use of chemicals (38.33%), use of preventive measures (34.17%) and precautions in using chemicals (29.16%).

The 41.67 per cent of the farm women felt less training need in respect of 'storage methods' followed by precautions in using chemicals (39.17%), identification of stored grain pest and its nature of damage and control measures (35.00%), improved storage structure (33.33%) and protection of food grain from rodents (32.50%). Similar findings were reported

Table 2: Training needs of the farm women regarding storage of food grain (n=120)

Sr. No.	Training need	Respondents		
		less Needed	Moderate needed	More needed
1.	Methods to be used for storage	50 (41.67)	30 (25.00)	40 (33.33)
2.	Improved storage structure	40 (33.33)	48 (40.00)	32 (26.67)
3.	Use of chemicals	27 (22.50)	46 (38.33)	47 (39.17)
4.	Precautions in using chemicals	47 (39.17)	35 (29.16)	38 (31.67)
5.	Protection of food grain from rodents	39 (32.50)	34 (28.33)	47 (39.17)
6.	Use of preventive measures at stored place	23(19.16)	41(34.17)	56(46.67)
7.	Use of fumigants at stored place	32 (26.67)	22 (18.33)	66 (55.00)
8.	Identification of stored grain pest, its nature of damage and their control measures	42 (35.00)	30 (25.00)	48 (40.00)

Table 3 : Constraints faced by the farm women in storage of food grain (n=120)

Sr. No.	Particular about constraint	Respondents	
		Number	Percentage
A	Lack of knowledge about		
1.	Identification of stored grain pest	83	69.16
2.	Nature of damage of stored grain pest	40	33.33
3.	Chemicals and their proportion in use	50	41.66
4.	Nature of damage due to disease	22	18.33
B	Unavailability of		
1.	Different storage structure	68	56.66
2.	Chemicals for storage	67	55.83
3.	Spray pump/ duster	16	13.33
C	Economical		
1.	High cost of improved storage structure	102	85.00
2.	High cost of chemicals	37	30.83
D	Place		
1.	Inadequate place for storage	41	34.16

by Ghuman *et al.* (1999) and Uplap (2003) .

The concerned training agencies may take suitable training programmes to fulfill training needs of the farm women.

Constraints faced by the farm women in storage of food grain :

The data regarding various constraint faced by the farm women in storage of food grains were collected and are given in Table 3.

The information in Table 3 reveals that the majority (85.00%) of the farm women faced constraint in respect of high cost of improved storage structure followed by lack of knowledge regarding identification of stored grain pest (69.16%), unavailability of different storage structure for storage (56.66%), unavailability of chemicals for storage (55.83%) and insecticides and their proportion in use (41.66%). The study has brought out some important constraints in storage of food grains. These findings are similar to the studies conducted by Darbha *et al.* (1999), Parvathy *et al.* (1999) and Uplap (2003). The concerned agencies should take suitable steps for reduce the intensity of these constraints in the region.

Conclusion :

This investigation has thrown light on the important training needs of the farm women. Different extension agencies especially Zila Parishads, Panchayat samities and Food Corporation of India may undertake trainings on storage of food grains specially for farm women at village level regularly.

Lack of knowledge about identification of stored grain pest was the major knowledge constraint faced by the farm women. It is therefore, suggested that the extension agencies may take suitable measures to provide the technical know-how of this practice to the farm women. Unavailability of improved storage structures and high cost of storage structures, were the other major constraints faced by the farm women in storage of food grain. It is, therefore, suggested that the concerned agencies may help the farm families by supplying the improved storage structures at subsidized rates.

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