



Research Article

Technological needs of women of Tripura in dairying

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SUMMARY : The present study aimed to find out the technological needs of women of Khowai district of Tripura. For that, four randomly selected villages from four different blocks viz, Teliamura, Kalyanpur, Tulashikar and Khowai under Khowai district of Tripura was selected. From the study it was observed that the respondents were not aware of the importance proportion of components in a balanced diet. They were also not aware of the importance of cleaning milch animals and cattle sheds with disinfectants. They considered that balanced diet, health care, sanitation and right way of milking are some of the important areas of technologies they would like to learn about.

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Women farmers of Khowai district of Tripura play an important role in agriculture and animal husbandry besides household responsibilities. A nucleus of dairy unit more or less exists as a traditional component in every rural household as a source of draught power or nutritional substance for the family or as a secondary source of income. Venkatachalam(1993) and Sethi (1991) observed that almost 80-90 per cent of the total work related to cattle care is performed by women. In many places the entire management of livestock, starting from cutting, collection, carrying and chaffing of fodder for feeding; milking of animals, preparation of milk products, cleaning of cattle shed, collection of cow dung, preparation of cow dung cakes and their storage was done by women.

In addition to these activities, women play an equally important role in decision making regarding number of milch cattle to be kept, feeding of milch cattle, purchase of cattle feed, place of keeping animals in summer and winter seasons and selling and buying of cattle. A study conducted by Patil *et al.* (2008) revealed that women were involved in decision making regarding the selling of milk and milk products to a great extent. Keeping in view the significant

involvement of women in the dairy sector, a study was undertaken with the following specific objectives :

- Examining the awareness of women about the technologies related to dairying.
- Assessing technological needs of women in dairying, and
- Finding correlation between the socio-personal factors and technological needs of women in dairying.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The study was conducted in four randomly selected villages from four different blocks viz, Teliamura, Kalyanpur, Tulashikar and Khowai under Khowai district of Tripura. From each of the selected village a total of twenty five farm households having milch cattle were selected randomly. One woman member of the family was interviewed for the study thus making the total sample hundred. A well structured interview schedule was used along with focused group discussion for collecting information. To find out the awareness about technologies, the practices of the respondents were compared with the package of practices recommended for dairying.

KEY WORDS:

Dairying,
Recommended, Cattle,
Livestock, Balanced
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If the practices of the respondents was matching or at least close to the recommended practice, it was considered as 'awareness' otherwise as 'no awareness'. The data were expressed as percentages. To find out the technological needs of the respondents in dairying, rank order method was followed by working out the mean scores for each of the items under package of practices. To find out the relations between the socio-personal factors and technological needs of the respondents in dairying, simple correlation coefficient was worked out.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The socio-personal profile of respondent women is given in Table 1.

Among the respondents 67.5 per cent belonged to the age group of 30-55 years and more than 68 per cent were illiterates. With regard to family income 38 per cent were in the category of Rs. 20,000- 40,000 incomes with 28 per cent were having an income of Rs. 40,000-60,000 per annum. Majority of the respondents were in the category of small and marginal farmers. The ownership of the land fell mostly with the husband (65.8%) and only 9.2 per cent of the respondents were having the land ownership.

Reasons for involvement in dairy activities:

Nearly 82% of the women expressed that poor financial status and family compulsion were the major reasons for their involvement in dairy activities. In dry land agriculture dairying is consider an important activity to supplement the family income.

The awareness of the respondents about technologies related to dairying may be seen in Table 2.

It was observed that mostly Jersey cow and Desi breeds were reared by the respondents. Awareness about balanced diet, feed requirement of young stock, heifer and milch animals was found to be very low. Though 50.0 per cent of respondents were aware of the care of newly born calf, they had a misconception that feeding colostrums would cause indigestion to the calf. Regarding the care of pregnant animals, 85.5 per cent of the respondents were aware of the practices recommended except for diet requirements. It was learnt that the cattle sheds were cleaned with water once in three days or a week, but no disinfectant was used. Health and sanitation practices were followed by 74.2 per cent of the respondents as per the doctor's advice. Dehorning was not in practice.

Conclusion:

The study observed that the respondents were not aware of the importance proportion of components in a balanced diet. They were also not aware of the importance of cleaning milch animals and cattle sheds with disinfectants. They

Table 1 : Socio- personal profile of respondents (n=100)

Sr. No.	Aspects	Per cent
1.	Age	
	Upto 30 year	30.5
	Between 30 and 55 years	67.5
2.	Educational level	
	Illiterate	68.3
	Primary	19.2
	Middle	8.3
	High School	4.2
3.	Marital status	
	Widow	2.5
	Married	97.5
4.	Family income(in Rs per annum)	
	Less than 20000	17.5
	20000-40000	38.3
	40000-60000	28.3
	60000-80000	9.2
	80000 and above	6.7
5.	Category of respondents	
	Marginal farmers	40.0
	Small farmers	48.33
	Large farmers	11.67
6.	Ownership of land	
	Husband	65.8
	Inlaws	24.2
	Son	0.8
	Respondent	9.2
7.	Experience in dairying(in years)	
	1. 0-10	17.5
	2. 11-20	35.8
	3. 21-30	22.5
	4. 31-40	24.2
8.	Age of entry into dairy activities(in years)	
	1. 0-10	21.0
	2. 11-20	58.0
	3. 21-30	19.0
	4. 31-40	2.0

considered that balanced diet, health care, sanitation and right way of milking are some of the important areas of technologies they would like to learn about. Hence, it is suggested that short duration training programmes on dairy husbandry practices would be useful to the farm women in acquiring the technical knowledge and skill with regard to scientific dairying. In addition to training, the rural women needs to be provided with institutional services like establishment of milk cooperative, credit and marketing which will enhance their

Table 2 : Awareness about the technologies related to dairying (n= 100)

Sr. No.	Item	Recommendation	Per cent
1	Breed	Cows-Jersey; Desi	41.1
2.	Feed requirement of an adult	Concentrate mixture 2 kg, Green Fodder 20 kg and dry fodder 4-6 kg	29.3
	Feed requirement of an young stock	Concentrate mixture 1.5 kg, Green Fodder 10 kg and dry fodder 2 kg	33.4
	Feed requirement of an milch animal	Concentrate mixture 1.2 kg, Green Fodder 10 kg and dry fodder 6 kg	15.9
3.	Management		
	Caring for the pregnant animals	Keep the animal in clean surrounding, avail services of veterinary doctor. Do not make them run or flight with other animals, stop milking after the completion of 7 th month, mix 28.35 gms of bone meal and minerals in the feed	85.5
	Caring of newly born calf	Milk the cow partially to avoid milk fever after parturition.	50.0
	Dehorning	Clean it with wet cloth, Allow it to take mother's milk within 6-10 hrs after birth Preferably within 15 days	0.00
	Deworming	Deworming should be done after days of birth	16.1
	Cleanliness of cattle sheds and cattle	Cleaning every day and spraying 2% formalin as disinfectant, Udder to be cleaned with potassium permanganate solution or neem leaves boiled water	0.00
4.	Health control measure	Treatment for Haemorrhagic Septicaemia, Black quarter and Foot and mouth disease with the advice of veterinary doctor	74.2

managerial abilities in dairying. Simultaneously, the research should develop specific need based technologies, especially in those segments of dairying in which women are actively involved.

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