

Impact of Trainings on Knowledge Level of Goat Keepers and New Entrepreneurs in Kerala

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted purposefully on the state level on-campus vocational and off-campus training programme on commercial goat farming conducted by All India Co-ordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Goat (Malabari Unit) in Kerala, during the financial year 2015-16. The data were collected from participants of randomly selected four state level and three off-campus training conducted by AICRP, which constituted a sample size of 243 respondents for the study. The impact of training was measured in terms of gain in knowledge. The 't' value of all the training were found to be highly significant which indicated that highly significant gain in knowledge was recorded in all the trainings. It was noticed that women participation was more in off-campus trainings (66.39%) when compared to state level on-campus trainings (9.68%). It was also observed that most of the respondents were fully satisfied with major instructors (74.49%), relevance to the trainee's need (71.60%), programme in general (69.96%). It was also found that some of the trainees were not at all satisfied with lodging facilities (46.91%), availability of reading materials (37.04%), physical facilities in classroom (25.93%) and programme content (20.16%). The study also revealed that 85.00 per cent of the respondents had medium to high favorable opinion regarding the training. Major suggestion given by trainees includes provision of more off-campus training preferably in their villages during summer season in the afternoon. Provision of good boarding and lodging facilities in case of on-campus trainings, provision of more reading materials and literature regarding scientific goat farming and providing more continuing learning opportunities to keep them updated with the new-technologies and changes happening in the field.

Key words: Malabari; Training; Off-campus; Women; Knowledge; Opinion; Goat;

Goat rearing plays a vital role in food and economic security of rural people, especially landless, marginal and small farmers (Chander and Rathod, 2015). Goats act as a ready to use economic asset at time of crisis among rural farmers (Lebbie, 2004). Goat systems are some of the oldest and least intensified systems of livestock production (Peacock and Sherman, 2010). Poor productivity and lack of scientific knowledge about goat farming proves to be the lacunae behind goat production in rural India (Mohan et al., 2009). The study on knowledge level of women goat farmers of Wayanad District of Kerala by George, et.al. (2010) revealed that very few women had correct

knowledge about important aspects of breeding, housing and deworming of goats. However, majority of the goat farmers are interested in learning more if classes are arranged (Raghavan and Raja, 2012).

Keeping these things in mind, present study was undertaken with the objectives of identifying the impact of training on knowledge level of goat keepers and new entrepreneurs in Kerala.

The study also through lights on training programmes in goat farming, influence on knowledge level on scientific goat farming among farmers and also find out the suggestions, opinion and constraints of farmers regarding training.

METHODOLOGY

During the financial year 2015-2016, All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Goat Improvement (Malabari Unit) organized nine State level training programmes for two days on commercial goat farming for goat keepers and budding entrepreneurs especially, After completion of this programme trainees improve their goat rearing practices and take initiatives to start goat farming at commercial level. Of the nine State level training programmes on commercial goat farming organized during 2015-16, four of them were selected to assess the impact. However, of the six off-campus training programme organized in the AICRP clusters, three trainings were randomly selected for the study.

To analyze overall knowledge gain of the trainees of State level and off-campus training programme, scores obtained from each area of goat rearing were summed up to the total knowledge score of the participants. All the data were analyzed using total scoring, mean and 't' test. The statistical variables such as frequency, percentage and equal interval method were used for interpretation of data.

The opinion scale consisted of ten statements of which statements from first to eighth be positive statements whereas, last two (9th and 10th) statements were negative. The scale were plotted in a four point continuum with a score of four for 'strongly agree', three for 'Agree', two for 'Disagree' and one for 'Strongly disagree' respectively for positive statements and viz. versa with negative statements. The overall total score for individual trainees were also calculated and based on equal interval method, these opinion of trainees were classified into three categories namely, highly favourable, favourable and not favourable opinion categories respectively.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Four state level hand-on training conducted during the month of April, June, August and October 2015 were selected for the study. Altogether 124 goat farmers which include 10 female participants across the state attended the two days training programme. The major focus of the training programme was to cover all the important aspects of goat production at commercial level including economics and marketing. Three off-campus training programme of one day duration for AICRP beneficiary farmers in the selected clusters of the project were selected for the study. Altogether 119 beneficiaries

participated in training programmes conducted in the cluster area during the first three months of 2016, since these are the period in the area which is of pleasant climate in the area. Three training programmes were organized at Talipparamba, Tanur and Perambra cluster field units at Kannur, Malappuram and Kozhikode district respectively.

The impact of the Knowledge level of the participants in state level training on April, 2015 is provided in Table 1. The average knowledge scores increased from 7.13 to 15.88 indicating high knowledge gain. The 't' value 19.309 revealed that the gain in knowledge was highly significant. Regarding the state level training on June, 2015, the pre and post knowledge scores improved from 15.74 to 21.37 indicated that there was significant gain in knowledge of participants on scientific goat farming.

In the third training studied entitled 'State level training on commercial goat farming- August 2015'. The knowledge score before training was 16.33 and it was 22.25 after training score showing a very high gain in knowledge. Further, the 't' value of 3.290 indicates a highly significant gain in knowledge of the trainees in the goat rearing aspects.

The training on October 2015 was attended by 37 farmers which includes six women participants. The average knowledge scores increased from 16.33 to 17.06 indicating high knowledge gain. The 't' of 21.997 revealed that the gain in knowledge was highly significant. It can be also noted that the women participation were less with state level training programmes. Regarding the off-campus training entitled 'commercial goat farming' conducted on January 2016, at Talipparamba cluster field unit in Kannur district. The training was attended by 45 farmers with 64.44 per cent being female participants. The pre and post knowledge scores improved from 8.96 to 18.08 indicated that there was significant gain in knowledge of participants on scientific goat farming. Second off-campus training was conducted at Perambra cluster village in Kozhikode district on February, 2016. A total of 41 participants attended the training. The knowledge score before training was 11.08 and it was 19.92 after training, score showing a very high gain in knowledge. Further, the 't' value of 27.900 indicates a high significant gain in knowledge of the trainees in the goat rearing aspect.

Next off-campus training was conducted at Tanur cluster field unit in Malappuram district in which 33 goat

Table 1. Pair ‘t’ test analysis of training programmes

Name of the training	No. of trainees		Average knowledge score		‘t’ test
	Male	Female	Before training	After training	
State level training on commercial goat farming- April 2015	27	2	7.13±1.493 SD= 4.224	15.88±1.302 SD= 3.682	19.309**
State level training on commercial goat farming- June 2015	30	1	15.74±.587 SD= 2.557	21.37±.603 SD= 2.399	9.050**
State level training on commercial goat farming- August 2015	26	1	16.33±1.819 SD= 6.301	22.25±.305 SD= 1.055	3.290**
State level training on commercial goat farming- October 2015	31	6	8.12±1.147 SD= 4.729	17.06±.833 SD= 3.436	21.997**
Commercial goat farming -Off campus –January 2016	16	29	8.96±.705 SD= 3.594	18.08±.582 SD= 2.965	18.002**
Commercial goat farming-Off campus -February 2016	14	27	11.08±.785 SD= 3.844	19.92±.564 SD= 2.765	27.900**
Commercial goat farming-Off campus -March 2016	10	23	11.13±.496 SD= 2.380	21.65±.330 SD= 1.584	27.744**

farmers participated in the one day training programme. The average knowledge scores increased from 11.13 to 21.65 indicating high knowledge gain. The ‘t’ value 27.744 revealed that the gain in knowledge was highly significant. It was also noted that women participation was more in off-campus training than the state level hands on training. It was also noted that women participation was 66.39 per cent in off-campus training programme whereas, it was only 9.68 per cent in case of state level training programme conducted at the base station.

Results showed that full satisfaction was observed among 74.49 per cent for major instructors, 71.60 per cent for physical facilities in class room, 69.96 per cent for programme in general, 66.67 per cent for exposure visit, 54.32 per cent for study materials / handouts given during training session, 48.56 per cent of respondents for programme content respectively. It was also found that satisfaction to some extent was observed for study materials /handouts given during training session (41.98%), physical facilities in classroom (37.04%), lodging (38.68%) and boarding (33.74%) respectively. Similar findings were also observed by Meena and Singh (2015) It was also found that 46.91 per cent of respondents were not satisfied for lodging facilities followed by boarding facilities (41.56%), availability of reading materials (37.04%), physical facilities in classroom (25.93%) and programme content (20.16%).

The perusal of table revealed that the respondents studied strongly agreed to most of the statements asked for obtaining the opinion of training programme. It was also found that more than half (50.62%) of the

Table 2. Distribution of participant respondents according to their extent of satisfaction with the facilities provided during the training programme (N=243)

Constraints faced	Full extent		To some extent		Not at all	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Programme content	118	48.56	76	31.28	49	20.16
Major Instructors	181	74.49	42	17.28	20	8.23
Programme in general	170	69.96	50	20.58	23	9.47
Relevance to your need	174	71.60	55	22.63	14	5.76
Boarding	60	24.69	82	33.74	101	41.56
Lodging	35	14.40	94	38.68	114	46.91
Physical facilities in class room	90	37.04	90	37.04	63	25.93
Exposure visit	162	66.67	61	25.10	20	8.23
Study materials given during training	132	54.32	102	41.98	9	3.70
Availability of reading materials	71	29.22	82	33.74	90	37.04

respondents had medium favourable opinion about the training programme followed by highly favourable opinion (34.16%) and less favourable opinion (15.23%) respectively. In order to improve the effectiveness of the vocational training programme, trainees suggestion were taken into account. It was found that 88.07 per cent of the respondents preferred training programme to be organized in their own village followed by organizing training programme in summer season mostly after noon (83.13%), improved lodging and boarding facilities (76.95%), providing more reading materials, CD’s, leaflets etc. (74.07%), providing more exposure visits as well as contact address of progressive farmers

Table 3. Participants' opinion regarding training programme (N=243)

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
It was a very good educational experience.	156(64.20)	45(18.52)	32(13.17)	10(4.12)
I would like to take another programme presented this way	119(48.97)	81(33.33)	32(13.17)	11(4.53)
It was easy to remain attentive.	165(67.90)	53(21.81)	16(6.58)	9(3.70)
The material covered was worthwhile.	157(64.61)	50(20.58)	21(8.64)	15(6.17)
The subject was quite interesting.	165(67.90)	55(22.63)	13(5.35)	10(4.12)
The faculty demonstrated a thorough knowledge of the subject matter.	155(63.79)	60(24.69)	13(5.35)	15(6.17)
Training material supplied was quite interesting and useful.	159(65.43)	54(22.22)	18(7.41)	12(4.94)
The exercise sessions were organized very well.	140(57.61)	76(31.28)	17(7.00)	10(4.12)
Not much was gained by participation in this programme.	15(6.17)	21(8.64)	42(17.28)	165(67.90)
I would have preferred another method of teaching the programme.	20(8.23)	26(10.70)	37(15.23)	160(65.84)

Table 4. Suggestion given by participants regarding training programme (N= 243)

Suggestions	No.	%
Prefer training programme in our own village	214	88.07
Prefer training during summer season mostly after noon	202	83.13
Must improve the lodging and boarding facilities	187	76.95
Provide more reading materials, CD's, leaflets etc.	180	74.07
Provide more exposure visits as well as contact address of progressive farmers	165	67.90
Provide more effective after training for continuing learning	157	64.61

(67.90%) and providing more effective after training for continuing learning (64.61%). Similar findings were

also observed by Singh *et.al.*, (2015).

CONCLUSION

The study revealed that conductance of state level on-campus training and off-campus training had a positive impact on the knowledge gained by the participants. Moreover, on-campus training had higher impact that off-campus training. Women participation was more in case of off-campus training compared to on-campus training. Moreover, the respondents had medium to high favourable opinion about the training programmes. Major suggestions given by the participants included, more off-campus training to be conducted in their villages during summer season mostly in the afternoon. They also suggested in providing good boarding and lodging facilities and provision of reading materials etc.

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