

TRAINING NEEDS OF FARM WOMEN IN KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA**J.S. Rajput¹, S.K. Latoria², Prabhakar Sharma³ & M.S. Kakran⁴****ABSTRACT**

Women are responsible for most of the inside and outside activities. They play a very important role in agriculture. They contribute nearly 50 per cent of the agricultural operations. Considering Women's involvements in wide range of agricultural activities, it is evident that production potential can be realized if women get the necessary training(s). The present study was conducted in Krishi Vigyan Kendra of Aron block, district Guna (M.P.) for wheat crop. The study concludes that the practices like, storage of wheat grain, harvesting, sowing method, seed treatment and sowing time in which farm women received training from K.V.K. contributed major role in reducing overall knowledge gap. It was assessed during the study that the main area in which the farm women needed training 'most essential' was knowledge of improved varieties. Spacing, plant protection measures, weed control, rotation and intercropping, marketing, intercultural operation, primary tillage operation, manures and fertilizers, sowing time, threshing and winnowing, sowing method and seed treatment, irrigation and drainage and harvesting were the main areas of wheat cultivation in which training was perceived as 'essential' by the farm women.

Key words : Farm women, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Knowledge gap, Training needs, Skill-oriented

INTRODUCTION :

Training is the critical input for human resource development. It plays an important role in initiating and accelerating human behaviour. Training being a tool for making interventions at the level of human resource is increasingly becoming crucial for development in almost all fields with a growing satisfaction in technology. It forms the basic tool today for increasing the effective efficiency and became a powerful instrument for developing human resource and in reducing obsolescence among people and organizations in the age of relentless technological innovations.

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra is designed to input need based and skill-oriented training to the practicing farmers/ farmwomen, rural youth, in-service field level extension workers and to those who wish to go for self employment. Farm women play an important role in farm enterprise since time immemorial and support the family by earning through various types of work, such as sowing, weeding, fertilizer application, spraying, harvesting etc. Though KVKs have been effective in case of transfer of technology to farmers, they have not been very successful in case of farm women. The training play a vital role to update the knowledge of a person. Therefore, the present study was conducted with the objectives : (i) To know the contribution of training (s) received by farm women and (ii) To assess the training needs of farm women in the area of KVK.

METHODOLOGY :

The present study was carried out in the operational area of KVK Aron, district Guna of Madhya Pradesh. Aron block comprises 164 villages. Out of these, 10 villages where Krishi Vigyan Kendra has imparted training to the farmwomen were selected purposively. A list of farm women received training (s) was prepared for each selected village. From each list

12 farm women were selected with the help of simple random sampling method. Thus, 120 farmwomen were selected for the investigation.

In order to determine the main areas of training(s) in relation to wheat cultivation, pertinent information was collected from primary and secondary sources. On the basis of information collected from primary and secondary sources, 15 main areas of training(s) in relation to wheat cultivation were selected for the present study. The main areas were listed as improved varieties of wheat, primary tillage operations, crop rotation and mixed crops, seed treatments and sowing method, time of sowing, spacing, manures and fertilizers, irrigation and drainage, weeding and hoeing, weed control, plant protection measures, harvesting, threshing and winnowing, storage and marketing.

A three point rating scale containing 'most essential', 'essential' and 'not essential' with score of 3, 2 and 1 respectively was employed to assess the training needs of farm women in the main areas of wheat cultivation. The respondents (farm women) were asked to indicate any one of the three alternative responses against each selected item, depending upon their level of training needs.

On the basis of the mean score, the rank order of preference for training in a particular area was found out as illustrated below :

Most essential : Greater than 2.401 ($> \text{mean} + \text{S.D.}$)
 Essential : 1.775 - 2.401 ($\text{mean} \pm \text{S.D.}$)
 Not essential : Less than 1.775 ($< \text{mean} - \text{S.D.}$)
 Mean = 2.088 ; S.D. = 0.313

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION :

(i) **Contribution of training received by farm women**—To know the contribution of training received by farm women, main area wise total knowledge score and knowledge gap were worked out and presented in Table 1.

The perusal of the data presented in the Table 1 revealed that the over all knowledge gap of farm women in relation to wheat production technology was found 35.69 per cent and it was ranged from 21.67 per cent (storage of wheat grain) to 46.67 per cent (improved variety of wheat). For this gap improved variety, spacing, weed control, plant protection measures, rotation & intercropping and inter-cultured operations were the major practices. The data, further indicated that the practices namely storage of wheat grain, harvesting, sowing method & seed treatment and sowing time of wheat in which training was received by farm women from KVK Aron were found important practices. The overall knowledge level of farm women was raised up to 64.31 percent for these practices. Thus, it can be stated that the practices in which women received training were contributed major role in reducing overall knowledge gap or in increasing overall knowledge of wheat production technology. More *et al.* (2000) and Singh & Gill (1982) reported the resulted on the same line.

Table 1. Main area wise knowledge gap among farm women

S. No.	Main Area	Maximum Obtained knowledge score	Total obtained knowledge score	Knowledge gap (%)	Rank
1.	Improved variety	1800	960	46.67	I
2.	Primary tillage operation	1440	922	35.97	VII
3.	Rotation and intercropping	1080	621	36.94	V
4.	Sowing method and seed treatment	1080	729	32.50	XIII
5.	Sowing time	1080	723	33.06	XII
6.	Spacing	1080	622	42.41	II
7.	Manures and fertilizers	2160	1415	34.49	IX
8.	Irrigation and drainage	1800	1204	33.11	XI
9.	Inter-cultural operation	1080	682	36.85	VI
10.	Weed control	1440	847	41.18	III
11.	Plant Protection measures	2160	1273	41.06	IV
12.	Harvesting	1440	997	30.76	XIV
13.	Threshing and winnowing	1800	1194	33.67	X
14.	Storage of wheat-gram	1080	845	21.67	XV
15.	Marketing	1440	937	34.93	VIII
Overall knowledge gap				35.69	

(ii) **Training needs in main area**—The data to assess the training needs of farm women is presented in Table 2. The data in Table 2 state that the area of improved variety was ‘most essential’ and ranked first. Other areas of wheat production technology in which training was perceived as ‘essential’ by the farm women were spacing, plant protection measures, weed control,

rotation and intercropping, marketing, hoeing intercultural operation for weeding, primary tillage operation, manures and fertilizers, sowing time, threshing and winnowing, sowing method and seed treatment, irrigation & drainage and harvesting.

The area ‘storage’ was categorized as ‘not essential’. Hence it can be said that the farm women do not feel essential training related to wheat grain storage. The findings of Sharma *et al.* (1998) and Panicker & Chaudhari (2000) confirm the results.

Table 2. Training needs of farm women in main areas of wheat

S. No.	Main Area	Level of training needs			Total Score	Mean Score	Rank
		Most Essential	Essential	Not Essential			
1.	Improved variety	75	25	20	295	2.46	I
2.	Primary tillage operation	49	33	38	251	2.09	VII
3.	Rotation and intercropping	45	46	29	256	2.13	V
4.	Sowing method and seed treatment	29	58	33	236	1.97	XI
5.	Sowing time	37	48	35	242	2.02	IX
6.	Spacing	60	35	25	275	2.29	II
7.	Manures and fertilizers	48	34	37	249	2.08	VIII
8.	Irrigation and drainage	36	47	37	239	1.99	X
9.	Inter-cultural operation	47	40	33	254	2.12	VI
10.	Weed control	60	30	30	270	2.25	IV
11.	Plant Protection measures	57	38	25	272	2.27	III
12.	Harvesting	32	46	42	230	1.92	XII
13.	Threshing and winnowing	42	38	40	242	2.02	IX
14.	Storage of wheat-gram	18	34	68	190	1.58	XIII
15.	Marketing	50	34	36	254	2.12	VI

CONCLUSION :

The study conclude that the practices like, storage of wheat grain, harvesting, sowing method & seed treatment and sowing time increased the overall knowledge of farm women regarding wheat production technology. The main area in which the farm women needed ‘most essential’ was improved variety. The practices viz., spacing, plant protection measures, weed control, rotation and intercropping, marketing, intercultural operation, primary tillage operation, manure and fertilizers, sowing time, threshing and winnowing, sowing method and seed treatment, irrigation, drainage and harvesting were the main areas of wheat cultivation in which training was perceived as ‘essential’ by farm women.

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