Study on Extent of Knowledge of Dairy Farmers Regarding Improved Animal Husbandry Practices under VRCs Programme

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ABSTRACT

MOU was made between ISRO-AAU-KNNA (Kutch Nav Nirman Abhiyan-SEWA- Self Employment for Women Association for the purposes to set up a number of VRCs in association with ISRO which are envisaged as the single window delivery mechanism for a variety of space based services such as: Tele-education, Tele-medicine, interactive advisories on agriculture, livestock management, fisheries and water management in different parts of Gujarat for farmers, farm women and rural youth. Sardar Smruti Kendra, AAU, Anand, Gujarat is working as an expert node, whereas VRCs acts as student nodes. In order to know the extent of knowledge of Dairy farmers regarding improved Animal Husbandry practices under VRCs Programme, present study was carried out during the year 2010-2011, the 72 farmers who availed training at various VRCs center through video-conference programmes were randomly selected as respondents. Majority of the dairy farmers possessed knowledge regarding average period of gestations in buffalo/cow and Artificial Insemination, importance to clean the udder before milking and symptoms of a buffalo/cow being in heat/estrus.

Key words: *VRCs -Village resource centres, KNNA- Kutch Nav Nirman Abhiyan; SEWA -Self Employment for Women Association*

The dairy farming plays a pivotal role in the economy of our country. The major advantage of dairy farming is its minimum land dependency and resource flexibility. It is a major source of income to major segment to rural betterment in small and marginal farmers, at the same time it is also characterized with risk and uncertainty. The availability of latest scientific knowledge of dairy farming which is based on the four pillars namely innovative breeding, balanced feeding, excellent management and well supervised health control of cattle and buffaloes. These are the major elements to create ideal and expected conditions in animal husbandry. Various mass media is certainly most compliant means to convey information to the broad means of people *Bhatt (2006).*

Sardar Smruti Kendra, Anand Agricultural University ,Anand ,Gujarat state is conducting the short duration (one to four days) training programmes for the farming community of Anand, Kheda, Vadodara, Dahod, Ahmedabad and Godhra districts. The training programmes are tailored according to the needs of the farmers, farmwomen and farm youth with a view to increasing their agricultural production. ISRO-AAU-

KNNA- SEWA for the purposes to set up a number of VRCs in association with ISRO which are envisaged as the single window delivery mechanism for a variety of space based services such as: Tele-education, Tele-medicine, interactive advisories on agriculture, livestock management, fisheries and water management in different parts of Gujarat for farmers, farm women and rural youth. MOU was made between ISRO-AAU-KNNA to impart training to the farmers. Thus, present study was carried out to know the Extent of Knowledge of Dairy farmers Regarding Improved Animal Husbandry Practices under VRCs Programme, with the objectives to study the extent of knowledge of dairy farmers regarding improved animal husbandry practices.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Gujarat. Eight participants from each VRCs Centers, who have participated in training programmes at VRCs Centers (Amdavad, Bodeli, Chikhodara, Pij, Kharaghoda, Dhokawada, Adesar, Bhuj, and Khavda), were selected randomly for the study. Thus, total 72 respondents constituted the sample size. The questionnaires were

sent to the respective VRCS centers. The responses were collected from the participants who has availed the training at different VRCs Centers during 2010-2011. For measuring the knowledge of dairy farmer, the teacher made test for the purpose was used. The test consisted items concerning improved practices of animal husbandry. The respondents were asked about correct or incorrect, yes or no or to answer some direct question specifically.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It can be observed from Table-1 that cent percent of the dairy farmers possessed knowledge about average period of gestations in buffalo/cow and Artificial Insemination ,followed by more than (90 percent)of the dairy farmers had knowledge regarding importance to clean the udder before milking and symptoms of a buffalo/cow being in heat/estrus, while slightly more than forty percent of the dairy farmers had knowledge about infection in human of TB/Anthrax/ Brucellosis/JD from

animals and need of concentrate to a advanced pregnant animal (after 7 month pregnancy)This might be due to unawareness and ignorance of the complicated technique. It was found that among nutrition management aspect, almost three fifth of the respondents were aware pertaining to everyday need of green and dry fodder, and method of giving dry fodder to milch animal. But on other nutritional components like need of concentrate food to milch animal as per production of milk per day as well for advance pregnant animal, the trainees had no good awareness (less than fifty per cent). This might be due to less interaction with extension personal and low involvement in social organization. It was found with regard to milk management aspect, in all of the components that, the dairy farmers had very good (more than seventy per cent) knowledge. *Bhatt (2006)* concluded that slightly more than four fifth (83.00 per cent) of the milk producers had medium level of knowledge regarding improved animal husbandry practices.

Table 1. Knowledge of the dairy farmers about improved animal husbandry practices (N= 72)

S.N.	Practices	No.	Percent
1	Animal breeds	64	88
2	Milk requirement of calf	43	60
3	When to cut naval cord after the birth of calf	49	68
4	Treatment to be given after cutting the naval cord	39	54
5	Time of colostrums to be given to a calf after birth	62	86
6	Reasons of giving colostrums	50	69
7	Age of calf for consuming fodder	45	62
8	Everyday need of green fodder for a milch animal	44	61
9	Need of dry fodder to a milch animal during a day	51	71
10	Method of giving dry fodder	58	80
11	Need of concentrate food to milch animal as per production of milk/day	41	57
12	Need of concentrate to a advanced pregnant animal (after 7 month pregnancy)	31	43
13	Need of mineral mixture to milking animal everyday	34	47
14	Need of water to be given to a milch animal everyday	51	71
15	Importance to clean the udder before milking	67	93
16	Contagious diseases of animals	25	35
17	Vaccination schedule in buffalo/cow	28	38
18	Age of calf to give foot and mouth vaccine	24	33
19	Name of month of the vaccine for foot and mouth disease	26	36
20	Month of the vaccine for HS disease	33	46
21	Symptoms of a buffalo/cow being in heat/estrus	68	94
22	Time for conceiving of buffalo/cow after heat	57	79
23	When should the buffalo/cow be served after calving?	47	65
24	Artificial Insemination	72	100
25	Advantages of AI	59	82
26	No. of days buffalo/cow normally repeats heat cycle	63	88
27	Average period of gestations in buffalo/cow	72	100
28	When to examine for pregnancy diagnosis after service	59	82
29	Best method of milking	61	85
30	Infection in human of TB/Anthrax/Brucellosis/JD from animals	30	42

CONCLUSION

Thus, it can be concluded that cent percent of the dairy farmers possessed about average period of gestations in buffalo/cow and Artificial Insemination ,followed by more than (90 percent)of the dairy farmers had knowledge regarding importance to clean the udder before milking and symptoms of a buffalo/cow being in heat/estrus, Hence, to get significant impact of training to gain in knowledge through VRCs, more numbers of training with more weightage should be given especially for breeding, animal health care practices as well as on feeding-nutrition practices for getting higher milk production.

REFERENCE

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