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Perceived Entrepreneurial Training Needs Assessment of KVK Trainees in Sivaganga District, Tamil Nadu

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Abstract

In the case of the usefulness of training programmes organized by KVK, the respondents were categorized under medium level. Integrated Farming System and Training on Vermicompost Production Technology ARYA were perceived to be very much useful by the trainees, followed by Value addition in vegetables and Nursery Technology and Goat farming & Dairy cattle's and Value addition in milk. Majority of the respondents perceived that packaging and marketing was perceived as most needed area of training in mushroom production, Training in apiculture and Apiary management during different seasons and Bee keeping aspects was found to be most needed area of training as perceived by majority of the trainees Training needs of the KVK trainees in value addition was found that the most needed training needs were Quality control and management Half of the respondents were Most needed training areas in dairy cattle management was Prevention and Control of Mastitis of dairy cattle management. The majority of the respondents are in need of training in Azolla feeding in poultry. The most needed areas of training in fisheries were Preparation/construction of pond, Integrated fish cum Pig farming and Water quality management.

Keywords: Entrepreneurial training, integrated farming system, vermicompost production

Introduction

Training consists of well-organized opportunities for the participants to acquire necessary understanding and skill. Trainings organized by KVKs are helping to ameliorate the poor socio-economic conditions of the farmers, farm women and rural youths in rural India by raising the level of farm productivity, income and employment with the application of agricultural innovation generated at the research station (Dubey *et al.* 2008) ^[1]. Normally KVKs have conducted different types of trainings. The KVK's were originally designed to provide vocational training for rural youth to prepare them for self-employment.

This study aims to set the stage for a deeper exploration into the specific entrepreneurial training needs of KVK trainees. It discusses the importance of identifying gaps between the existing skill sets and those required for entrepreneurial success. Through an understanding of these needs, KVKs can tailor their programs to equip trainees with the competencies necessary to navigate challenges and seize opportunities in the agricultural and allied sectors.

Methodology

There are 38 districts in Tamil Nadu. Each district represents one KVK. This study was conducted in Sivaganga district of Tamil Nadu, because one of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra is functioning under the Director of Extension Education, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Chennai.

Sakkottai block is a revenue block in the Sivaganga district of Tamil Nadu. It has a total of twenty-six panchayat villages. Among the twenty-six villages five villages *viz* Senjai, Palathur, Mathur, Panagudi, Surakudi were selected based on number of trainees. Thirupaththur block comprises of ninety-eight villages in Sivaganga district of Tamil Nadu. Among ninety-eight villages five villages *viz* Alangudi, Kamabur, Thekoor, Korati, and Meiyapatti were selected based on a number of trainees.

The present study was conducted in the sivaganga district of Tamil Nadu state. A sample size of 120 farmers was selected for this study. A well-structured and pre-tested questionnaire was used to elicit data from the respondents. Appropriate statistical tools were used to analyze the data.

Findings and Discussion

Skill-oriented Entrepreneurial training needs of KVK trainees

Skill-oriented entrepreneurial training for KVK trainees plays a crucial role in enhancing their ability to run successful agricultural enterprises. These training needs can be categorized into various areas depending on the skill required for specific agricultural business and value addition. In this study, an effort was made to analyze the skill-oriented entrepreneurial training needs of KVK trainees. Data were collected and discussed under the following sections.

A. Training needs in Mushroom production

- B. Training needs in Apiculture
- C. Training needs in Value addition
- D. Training needs in Dairy cattle management
- E. Training needs in Poultry
- F. Training needs in Fisheries

A. Training needs in Mushroom production

Training in mushroom production focuses on building both technical and entrepreneurial skills help trainees to establish and manage profitable mushroom cultivation ventures. Data collected on these aspects are presented in Table 1.

It could be observed from the table that packaging and marketing was perceived as most needed area of training by majority (95.00 per cent) of the trainees followed by nutritive value of mushroom (98.33 per cent), economics of mushroom & Spawn production (83.33 per cent) Substrate preparation (70.83 per cent) Post harvest handling and value addition (66.66 per cent) Pest and disease management (61.66 per cent) Management of spent compost (58.33 per cent) and Infrastructure requirement (50.00 per cent).

The average mean score was 22.08

Hence it could be concluded that, Training program in mushroom production should combine technical cultivation skills with business and marketing acumen. This ensures that trainees not only learn how to grow mushrooms but also how to turn their production into a sustainable and profitable business venture.

B. Training needs in Apiculture

Training in apiculture (Bee keeping) is essential for those who want to successfully manage bee colonies and produce honey and other bee products. The training should cover a wide range of technical managerial and marketing skills to help trainees to establish and run profitable bee keeping enterprises. Data collected on these aspects are presented in Table 2.

The results indicated that among the ten different sub areas of training in apiculture Apiary management during different seasons and Bee keeping aspects was found to be most needed area of training as perceived as majority of the trainees (98.33 per cent) followed by Marketing and business of honey bees (83.33 per cent), Purity testing (75.00 per cent), Export of honey (66.66 per cent), Bee enemy and disease (58.33 per cent), Bee keeping equipment's & Honey extraction and essential operations (50.00 per cent).

The average mean score was 22.85

It was concluded that, Effective training in apiculture should integrate both theoretical knowledge and practical skills, equipping trainees to manage bee colonies efficiently while producing quality bee products. By addressing these training needs, trainees can successfully start and sustain their beekeeping businesses, contributing to income generation, agricultural productivity, and environmental sustainability.

C. Training needs in value addition

Training in value addition is essential for farmers, entrepreneurs and agricultural workers who wish to increase the profitability of their products by enhancing their quality, self-life and marketability. The collected data on training needs in value addition are presented and discussed here in

Table 3.

The data collected on training needs of the KVK trainees in value addition found that the most needed training needs were Quality control and management (95.00 per cent), Manufacturing and preservation techniques of different products (83.33 per cent), Packaging and marketing techniques (79.16 per cent), Advertising of products and brand promotion (75.00 per cent), Procurement of raw materials and Export promotion techniques (66.66 per cent), Production technology (54.16 per cent).

A meagre percentage perceived that training was not needed in the areas of value addition.

The average mean score was 25.10

It was concluded that, Value addition training empowers farmers, entrepreneurs, and agripreneurs to enhance the quality and marketability of agricultural products, leading to higher income and better livelihoods. A comprehensive training program should address technical skills, business strategies, market analysis, and regulatory knowledge, enabling participants to establish profitable value addition enterprises.

D. Training needs in dairy cattle management

Training in dairy cattle management focuses on equipping dairy farmers with the skills and knowledge to enhance milk production, improve animal health and manage the overall dairy farm effectively. Data collected on these aspects are presented in Table 4.

Data given in the table revealed that the most needed training areas were Prevention and Control of Mastitis (65.00 per cent), Loaning process and facilities (83.33 per cent), Prevention and Control of Repeat Breeding, Cause of Mastitis, & Silage Making (66.66 per cent), Feed Preparation and Management (58.33 per cent), Breed Characteristics and Cause of Repeat Breeding (50.33 per cent).

The average mean score was 19.80

It was concluded that, Comprehensive training in dairy cattle management is essential for improving productivity, ensuring animal welfare, and making dairy farming a profitable venture. A well-rounded training program should integrate practical skills, technical knowledge, and business acumen to help dairy farmers succeed and meet market demands.

E. Training needs in poultry farming

Training needs in Poultry farming in crucial for those involved in the industry to improve productivity, ensure bird health and maximize profits. The data on the training needs of the trainees on poultry farming are given in Table 5.

From the table it could be observed that majority of the trainees (95.00 per cent) needed training in the area of new breed (Giriraj/ Swarnadhara) followed by Azolla feeding (95.00 per cent), Scavenging habit (83.33 per cent), Balanced poultry feed (66.66 per cent). Half of the trainees perceived that they needed training in the area of Housing System & Balanced poultry feed (66.66 per cent), Vaccination(F1) (50.00 per cent) An equal proportion of the trainees 50 per cent perceived that they were needed training in the area of Vaccination(F1) & Lime stone grit feeding (50.00 per cent) and Housing System Balanced poultry feed

(66.66 per cent).

The average mean score was 14.30

It was concluded that, Comprehensive training in poultry farming equips farmers with the knowledge and skills to manage their operations efficiently while maintaining high productivity and profitability. Addressing these training needs ensures that poultry farmers can overcome challenges, adopt best practices, and capitalize on market opportunities.

F. Training needs in fisheries

Training needs in fisheries management is essential for

those involved in aquaculture and capture fisheries to enhance productivity, enhance sustainability and optimize returns. The data collected on training needs in Fisheries management are given Table 6.

It was observed from the table that the most needed areas of training in fisheries were Preparation/construction of pond, Integrated fish cum Pig farming, Water quality management (95.00 per cent), followed by Selection of fish species, Balance feeding, Integrated fish cum agriculture and integrated fish cum Poultry farming (66.66 per cent).

The average mean score was 24.29

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their training needs in Mushroom production

Sl. No.	Training areas	Most needed		Needed		Not needed	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	Packaging and marketing	114	95.00	6	5		
2	Post harvest handling and value addition	80	66.66	40	33.33		
3	Nutritive value of mushroom	109	98.33	11	9.166		
4	Cultivation technology of mushroom	20	16.66	100	83.33		
5	Spawn production	100	83.33	20	16.66		
6	Substrate preparation	85	70.83	35	29.16		
7	Pest and disease management	74	61.66	46	38.33		
8	Infrastructure requirement	60	50.00	60	50		
9	Economics of Mushroom	100	83.33	20	16.66		
10	Management of spent compost	70	58.33	30	25	20	16.66
Average 22.08							

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to their training needs in training needs in Apiculture

Sl. No.	Training areas	Most needed		Needed		Not needed	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1.	Honey extraction and essential operations	60	50.00	60	50		
2.	Marketing and business of honey bees	100	83.33	20	16.66		
3.	Value addition of honey	114	95.00	6	5		
4.	Apiary management during different seasons	118	98.33	2	1.66		
5.	Bee keeping aspects	109	98.33	11	9.166		
6.	Bee biology	25.00	20.83	95	79.1	41	34.16
7.	Bee enemy and disease management	70.00	58.33	50	41.66		
8.	Bee keeping equipment's	60.00	50.00	60	50		
9.	Export of honey	80.00	66.66	40	33.33		
10.	Purity testing	90.00	75.00	30	25		
Average 22.85							

Table 3: Distribution of respondents according to their training needs in value addition

Sl. No.	Training areas	Most needed		Needed		Not needed	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1.	Technology upgradation	43.00	35.83	67	55.83	10	8.33
2.	Packaging and marketing techniques	95.00	79.16	5	4.166	20	16.66
3.	Advertising of products and brand promotion	90.00	75.00	10	8.33	20	16.66
4.	Financial management and credit support	35.00	29.1	52	43.33	33	27.5
5.	Production technology	65.00	54.16	35	29.16	20	16.66
6.	Manufacturing and preservation techniques of different products	100	83.33	10	8.33	10	8.33
7.	Procurement of raw materials	80	66.66	40	33.33		
8.	Quality control and management	114	95.00	6	5		
9.	Export promotion techniques	80.00	66.66	40	33.33		
10.	Hygiene, pollution control and environmental management	60.00	50.00	60	50		
Average 25.10							

Table 4: Distribution of respondents according to their training needs in dairy cattle management

Sl.no	Training areas	Most needed		Needed		Not needed	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1.	Breed Characteristics	60	50.00	60	50		
2.	Feed Preparation and Management	70	58.33	50	41.66		
3.	Cause of Repeat Breeding	60	50.00	60	50		
4.	Prevention and Control of Repeat Breeding	80	66.66	40	33.33		
5.	Cause of Mastitis	80	66.66	40	33.33		
6.	Prevention and Control of Mastitis	114	95.00	6	5		
7.	Silage Making	80	66.66	40	33.33		
8.	Loaning process and facilities	100	83.33	10	8.33	10	8.33
Average 19.80							

Table 5: Distribution of respondents according to their training needs in poultry

Sl. No	Training areas	Most needed		Needed		Not needed	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1.	Housing System	80	66.66	40	33.33		
2.	New breed (Giriraj/Swarnadhara)	114	95.00	6	5		
3.	Balanced poultry feed	80	66.66	40	33.33		
4.	Vaccination(F1)	60	50.00	60	50		
5.	Lime stone grit feeding	60	50.00	60	50		
6.	Scavenging habit	100	83.33	20	16.66		
7.	Azolla feeding	114	95.00	6	5		
Average 14.30							

Table 6: Distribution of respondents according to their training needs in fisheries

Sl. No	Training areas	Most needed		Needed		Not needed	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1.	Selection of fish species	80	66.66	40	33.33		
2.	Preparation/construction of pond	114	95.00	6	5		
3.	Balance feeding	80	66.66	40	33.33		
4.	Stocking density of fish species	60	50.00	60	50		
5.	Integrated fish cum agriculture	80	66.66	40	33.33		
6.	Integrated fish cum Pig farming	114	95.00	6	5		
7.	Integrated fish cum Poultry farming	80	66.66	40	33.33		
8.	Integrated fish cum Duck farming	60	50	60	50		
9.	Water quality management	114	95.00	6	5		
10.	Fish marketing	65	54.16	35	29.16	20	16.66
Average 24.29							

Summary and conclusion

Majority of the respondents (95.00 per cent) perceived that packaging and marketing was perceived as most needed area of training in mushroom production, Training in apiculture and Apiary management during different seasons and Bee keeping aspects was found to be most needed area of training as perceived by majority of the trainees (98.33 per cent), Training needs of the KVK trainees in value addition was found that the most needed training needs were Quality control and management (95.00 per cent), Half of the respondents (65.00 per cent) perceived that most needed training areas in dairy cattle management was Prevention and Control of Mastitis of dairy cattle management. Majority of the respondents (95.00 per cent) are need of training in Azolla feeding in poultry. The most needed areas of training in fisheries were Preparation/construction of pond, Integrated fish cum Pig farming, Water quality management (95.00 per cent). It was concluded that, Effective training in fisheries covers both technical and business aspects, enabling fish farmers to enhance production, improve sustainability, and achieve profitability. Addressing these training needs will help fish farmers adopt best practices, overcome challenges, and tap into new

opportunities in the growing fisheries sector.

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