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### Skill development trainings and its impact on employment and livelihood status of livestock rearers: A study on tribal farmers in Rajouri district of J&K

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#### Abstract

From the time immemorial the tribals especially living in the hilly areas are leading a very harsh and tough life. The scientists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Rajouri have made a noble effort through imparting skill development programmes for the upliftment of their livelihood status and generating new employment opportunities. Impact of skill development programme on livelihood improvement of tribal farmers was assessed by the scientists of KVK, Rajouri through a questionnaire based survey. A total of 200 tribal farmers of the district Rajouri who participated in different skill programmes were chosen for the study. A set of questions were framed to assess the knowledge level, setting of start-ups, constraints faced in setting of start-ups and social stratum of tribal farmers. The response of tribal farmers was studied by personal interview method. The inference of survey suggested that the various skill development training programmes imparted by KVK, Rajouri to livestock rearers on the several aspects of scientific rearing of livestock and poultry farming have a very significant positive impact on the improvement of their livelihood security.

**Keywords:** Tribal farmers, skill development trainings, livestock rearers, livelihood security

#### 1. Introduction

The agricultural economy in mid hills could be well developed through rearing of small ruminants and poultry farming that might leads to upliftment of economy of J&K U.T. Skill development programmes could play a vital role in changing the attitude of farmers and farm women to livestock farming. Training component act as a crucial input in development of human resources for bringing a desirable changes in behavior (Biswas *et al.*, 2008) <sup>[2]</sup>. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Rajouri (SKUAST-Jammu) conducts time to time training programmes for skill development of rural youth, farm women and farmers of district Rajouri regarding improvement in milk yield. Entrepreneurship is a success key for socio-economic development of tribal farmers. Economic status of farmers and farm women could be uplifted through process of self employment and entrepreneurship (Bhagyalakshmi, 2004) <sup>[1]</sup>. They enhance community stability, stimulate personal income, promote linkages of industries, develop rural livelihood and leads to raise the status of involvement in economical affairs (Sathibama, 2010) <sup>[9]</sup>. Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Indian Council of Agricultural Research executes a differential role by conducting several programmes to the tribals for their upliftment in respect of knowledge and adoption of technology for improvement in crop production and livelihood security *etc.* The KVKs empowers the excellence

of up skilling and training that helps tribals to develop self reliance and maximize their inherent potential and endeavor. Krishi Vigyan Kendras act as the science information hub for the farmers or farm women. The two mandates of Krishi Vigyan Kendras are 'skill training' and 'need based training'.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Rajouri conferred training programmes which aids in the development of skills to each participants which helped to enhance the knowledge, skill and attitude about a particular enterprise among the trainees. Various enterprises could be established which leads to higher income generation through these skill development training programmes. In The Rajouri district, mixed crop-livestock farming is generally practiced due to large number of small and marginal farmers. Cattle, buffalo and small ruminants are mainly reared by the tribal farmers of the district contributing milk, draft power and farmyard manure. Mainly marginal and small households rear livestock to sustain their livelihood. The study conclusively revealed that low-availability of input for production and green fodder throughout year, increased price of concentrates, low productivity of animals and lack of knowledge were the main stumbling block in adoption of advanced feeding practices, breeding and health care practices, respectively (Gupta, *et al.* 2019) <sup>[4]</sup>. Thus, to overcome these constraints, KVK planned to impart skill development trainings on conservation of green fodder: silage making and

computation of ration for livestock rearers with the following objectives:

1. To assess impact of KVK's skill development programmes on enhancement of knowledge of tribal farmers.
2. To assess the impact of KVK's skill development programmes on start ups and the constraints faced by the tribal farmers.

This research paper presents the outcomes of study conducted to evaluate the efficiency of skill development programmes in the improvement of knowledge enhancement level of livestock rearers in district Rajouri of Jammu and Kashmir UT.

## Materials and Methods

KVK, Rajouri represents the different Agro-climatic zones like sub tropical, intermediate and temperate along with social and cultural diversities. Total sample of 200 tribal farmers to whom KVK imparted the skill development trainings selected for this evaluation. About 200 tribal farmers selected from the different villages of district Rajouri. The skill development trainings were imparted to the selected tribal farmers on various aspects of scientific rearing of milch animals and backyard poultry farming. KVK scientists interviewed personally the tribal respondents and collected the requisite information through the questionnaire. Assessment of skill development trainings in terms of up gradation of knowledge levels and entrepreneurship development among the selected tribal farmers after receiving trainings from Krishi Vigyan Kendra. The gathered information was analyzed by using means, frequencies and percentages as suggested by Rayanagoudar *et al.*, 2012<sup>[8]</sup>.

## Results and Discussion

### Assessment of KVK's skill development programmes on knowledge development

The tribal farmers agreed that their knowledge regarding scientific rearing of milch animals and backyard poultry enhanced after the skill development training programmes imparted by the KVK, Rajouri. Further among all the tribal beneficiaries of back yard poultry farming, average maximum 65% participants accrued higher development level which was followed by 29% participants showing medium level of development; whereas 6% participants confirmed lower level of development in awareness regarding scientific feeding, housing, vaccination and various management aspects related to the back yard poultry farming. All the tribal beneficiaries assures that their knowledge regarding the conservation of green fodder for scarcity period: silage making especially during the harsh winter season (December-February) increased after the skill development training imparted by KVK, Rajouri. Furthermore, among all the respondents of silage making, average maximum 53.5% participants showed increased developmental level followed by 36.4% participants showed medium developmental level whereas, only 10.1% participants showed very low developmental level in knowledge about selection of crops, harvesting stage of crops and the ensiling procedures for preparation of high quality silage. The tribal beneficiaries agreed that their

knowledge regarding the computation of balanced ration for the enhancement in milk production increased after the training programme conducted by KVK, Rajouri scientists. Furthermore, among all the tribal farmers of balanced ration computation, maximum 72.5% beneficiaries showed high level development; which was followed by 17.5% beneficiaries showed moderate level development whereas, only 10% beneficiaries showed low level of development in their knowledge regarding various aspects related to balanced ration computation. The other researchers who also imparted skill/vocational training programmes to the farmers have also more or less similar results (Chauhan, 2023 and Kaur *et al.*, 2019)<sup>[2, 6]</sup>.

### Assessment of KVK's skill development programmes on start ups

For skill development training of small poultry farming, tribal beneficiaries ensure the enhancement of skill on scientific poultry farming after the training provided by KVK scientists (Table 2). Gupta *et al.* (2019a)<sup>[5]</sup> also reported that the rearing of poultry in backyard played a vital aspect in sustainability of rural livelihood with an availability of protein source in their diet to eliminate malnutrition in farm women and children. The tribal beneficiaries, 50% of which showed increased developmental level followed by 40% showed medium developmental level; whereas 10% showed low developmental level in skills regarding rearing of backyard poultry. Regarding the skill development of conservation of green fodder, the tribals were of the opinion that skill pertaining to silage enhanced after the knowledge provided by the KVK scientists. Among the tribal farmers, mean maximum 51% participants depicted medium developmental level which was pursued by 31% depicted high developmental level, whereas; 16% depicted low developmental level about the technical knowhow of silage making. Maximum 55% beneficiaries showed moderate level impact follow by 30% high impact and 15% tribals confirm lower impact on the start-ups of computation of balanced ration using local resources.

### Constraints perceived by tribals in setting of start-ups

Data revealed the various problems faced by tribals in the acceptance of different interventions studied in the skill development programmes imparted by the scientists of KVK, Rajouri (Table 3). In skill development training programmes of poultry farming, majority (47%) of the tribal farmers considered the major constraint was market linkage, whereas 22% considered lack of resources. Shortage of time and money were the other problems faced by tribals in the start-ups of the professional work. Regarding the skill development training of silage making, majority of the tribal farmers (45%) perceived lack of time as a major constraint, while as 28% considered poor resources and 23% absence of self confidence as various other problems in the setting of start-ups. In case of computation of ration for livestock, majority of the tribal participants (26%) perceived lack of market linkage and money as a major constraint; whereas 17 per cent perceived lack of selfconfidence and resources as the other constraints in the start-up of professional work. Poor resources and financial crunches were considered as main parametres for not setting of start ups by the tribals

which were similar to findings by Kaur *et al.*, 2019<sup>[6]</sup>.

### Socio-economic status improved by the start-ups

The data explained the improvement in socio-economic status of the tribal farmers after getting the different skill development training programmes imparted by the scientists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Rajouri (Table 4). In case of skill development training of poultry farming, majority of tribal beneficiaries (78 per cent) agreed upon status improvement after getting the training and out of these 73% accepted an enhancement in socio-economic status. The training of silage making, 66 per cent of trainees ensures the status upliftment is due to technical know how; from which 100%

tribals accepted an improvement in their social status; whereas 49% found an economic status improvement. In case of skill development training of computation and preparation of ration, majority of the tribal farmers (70%) confirmed their status improvement after skill practice, from which 78% tribals confirmed an improvement in economic status.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra imparted skill development programme that would enlightened the technical knowledge level of the tribal farmers and farm women about technical knowhow of skill, attitude, acceptance and other socio-economic attributes besides management issues. Thus the similar findings were observed by Prasad *et al.*, 2015<sup>[7]</sup>.

**Table 1:** Distribution of tribal farmers on the basis of impact of skill development trainings on knowledge level.

Skill development trainings	Duration (in days)	Year	Tribal Farmers		Impact on knowledge level of tribal farmers		
			Male	Female	Low	Moderate	High
Small Poultry Farming	35	2019-20	16	4	1 (5)	5 (25)	14 (70)
Silage Making	3	2019-20	4	13	2 (11.8)	6 (35.3)	9 (52.9)
Small Poultry Farming	35	2020-21	5	20	2 (8)	8 (32)	15 (60)
Conservation of green fodder for scarcity period	3	2021-22	4	14	2 (11.1)	7 (38.9)	9 (50)
Computation and preparation of balanced ration for livestock	3	2021-22	21	19	4 (10)	7 (17.5)	29 (72.5)
Backyard poultry farming	3	2021-22	3	37	2 (5)	12 (30)	26 (65)
Feed resource development and preparation of silage	3	2021-22	0	40	3 (7.5)	14 (35)	23 (57.5)
Total			53	147	16 (8)	59 (29.5)	125 (62.5)

**Table 2:** Distribution of tribal farmers on the basis of impact of skill development trainings on start ups.

Skill development trainings	No. of tribal farmers	Impact of skill trainings on Start ups		Level of impact of skill trainings on start ups		
		Yes	No	Low	Moderate	High
Small Poultry Farming	20	15 (75)	5 (25)	2 (10)	8 (40)	10 (50)
Silage Making	17	11 (65)	6 (35)	3 (18)	8 (47)	6 (35)
Small Poultry Farming	25	20 (80)	5 (20)	4 (16)	11 (44)	10 (40)
Conservation of green fodder for scarcity period	18	11 (61)	7 (39)	3 (17)	8 (44)	7 (39)
Computation and preparation of balanced ration for livestock	40	32 (80)	8 (20)	6 (15)	22 (55)	12 (30)
Backyard poultry farming	40	33 (83)	7 (17)	5 (13)	18 (45)	17 (42)
Feed resource development and preparation of silage	40	22 (55)	18 (45)	6 (15)	26 (65)	8 (20)
Total	200	144 (72)	56 (28)	29 (15)	101 (50)	70 (35)

**Table 3:** Distribution of tribal farmers on the basis of constraints faced in setting of start-ups.

Skill development trainings	Constraints Faced by tribal Farmers in the start-ups				
	Lack of money	Lack of resources	Lack of time	Lack of self-confidence	Lack of market linkage
Small Poultry Farming	--	4 (25)	2 (12.5)	2 (12.5)	8 (50)
Silage Making	1 (10)	2 (20)	5 (50)	2 (20)	-
Small Poultry Farming	-	4 (23)	3 (18)	3 (18)	7 (41)
Conservation of green fodder for scarcity period	-	4 (27)	7 (46)	4 (27)	-
Computation and preparation of balanced ration for livestock	8 (23)	6 (17)	5 (14)	6 (17)	10 (29)
Backyard poultry farming	--	4 (17)	5 (21)	3 (12)	12 (50)
Feed resource development and preparation of silage	--	8 (36)	9 (41)	5 (23)	--

**Table 4:** Distribution of tribal farmers on the basis of status improved by the start-ups.

Skill development trainings	No. of tribal farmers	Status improvement of tribal farmers		Type of status improved	
		Yes	No	Social	Economic
Small Poultry Farming	20	15 (75)	5 (25)	15 (100)	11 (73)
Silage Making	17	11 (65)	6 (35)	11 (100)	5 (45)
Small Poultry Farming	25	20 (80)	5 (20)	20 (100)	13 (65)
Conservation of green fodder for scarcity period	18	12 (66)	6 (34)	12 (100)	6 (50)
Computation and preparation of balanced ration for livestock	40	28 (70)	12 (30)	28 (100)	22 (78)
Backyard poultry farming	40	32 (80)	8 (20)	32 (100)	26 (81)
Feed resource development and preparation of silage	40	27 (67)	13 (33)	27 (100)	14 (52)

## Conclusion

It was concluded that the many of tribal farmers had less knowledge on several aspects of scientific rearing of livestock and poultry farming. The technical know-how of the respondents enhanced by attending skill development programmes and the scientific expansion in knowledge was mainly due to two way tactics accepted by KVK scientists and participants. Impact of the training could further disseminate the technical know-how to the other tribal farmers and farm women of areas.

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