

TRAINING NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF POULTRY FARMERS IN TEHSIL FAISALABAD

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ABSTRACT

There are a lot of problems faced by poultry farmers regarding rearing, shed management, and disease management knowledge. Hence there is need to find out those areas of poultry farming in which poultry farmers need to be educated. The study was conducted in tehsil Faisalabad, comprised of 4 towns named as Jinnah town, Madina town, Lyallpur town, and Iqbal town. There are 489 poultry farms in Faisalabad District. The owner of all such poultry farms comprised the population of the study. A simple random sample of 150 poultry farmers were selected. A validated interview schedule was prepared to collect information from the respondents. The data thus collected were analyzed. The top 9 training required areas of layer farming for establishing a poultry farm followed by treatment of CRD, maintaining distance of shed from residential area space for adult bird preparation of room before arrival of chicks, equipment cleaning treatment of food poisoning treatment of pullorum and preventive measure of pullorum. The top 9 training required areas of broiler farming are cleaning shed followed by preventive measures of coccidiosis symptoms of coccidiosis symptoms of coryza treatment of coccidiosis treatment of coryza vaccination schedule of hydro pericardium preventive measures of gumboro and symptoms of new castle disease. Overwhelming majority agree on regular training of disease management. They also pointed out that Govt. should launch easy loaning scheme for them.

Key words: Training needs assessment, poultry farmer

INTRODUCTION

In Pakistan where the population is growing at a faster rate, the gap in production of food especially of animal origin is widening year after year (FAO, 1998). Out of various sources to overcome the animal protein gap, poultry meat seems to offer much better prospect in this respect. It is capable of providing protein in terms of quality and quantity and can narrow down the animal protein supply gap in minimum possible time as compared to other sources of animal protein ((Maqbool *et al.*, 2005).

With the continuous depletion of supply of red meat, poultry is the cheapest available animal protein for the masses as constitutes 35-40% of total meat production in the country (PPA, 2009). The average consumption of animal protein is about 17 grams, which is against the daily requirement recommended of 28 grams. The shortage of animal protein in Pakistan has been estimated about 1.5 million tons on the basis of even population of 140 million (Nazir, 2007).

The poultry industry at present is handicapped on account of high feed cost which has increased to more than 70 percent of the total cost of production. Among diseases common in poultry are colds, bronchitis, coccidiosis, chicken pox, newcastle, pullorum. Many diseases can be prevented by selecting healthy breeding stock; keeping chicks separate from adult stock. By keeping houses clean, ventilated and maintaining at proper temperature, good brooding practice, i.e. care of chicks during the first week and by providing an adequate

diet during such period better results are obtained. Lack of vaccination and veterinary services, scientific trainings and marketing organizations are some other constraints (Dawn, 2008). The farmers should be aware of the latest farming techniques, biosecurity and principles of poultry business. Small subsistence farms should never be engulfed by large commercial units. The government should bring subsistence farmers in the mainstream of technologically advanced poultry farming by educating them in farm management practices, private sector especially feed mills and hatcheries recruit their own extension staff for promotion and extension activities. Although technical and extension field staff is mainly intended to promote sales of the feed mills and hatcheries' products, it also helps boost the poultry industry. The poultry sector also needs attention to educate farmers.

The needs assessment and training for poultry farmers is the base for extension process and its activities so, determining these needs in different practices of poultry farming such as egg and meat production, management practices, and disease management with all its different aspects considers an important step in planning the appropriate interventions that aiming at building farmers capacity and consequently achieving the development objectives.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The basic objective of the study was the assessment of training needs of the poultry farmers in

tehsil Faisalabad. In four towns of tehsil Faisalabad, there are 489 poultry farms (District Coordinating Office Faisalabad). The owner of all such poultry farms comprised the population of the study. A simple random sample of 150 poultry farmers out of 489 was drawn by using the random number generator website available at [www.randomizer.com]. An interview schedule was prepared to collect information from the respondents. To check its validity the interview schedule was pre tested on 10 poultry farmers (except sample) from tehsil Faisalabad. The schedule was finalized after making necessary amendments (by adding more demography parameters and erasing some doubted questions) in the light of pre testing experience. The data thus collected were coded and fed to the computer for analysis. Statistical package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used for analysis of the data and simple percentage, mean and standard deviations was counted.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study was to analyze the current socio economic status and training needs of poultry farmers in tehsil Faisalabad. The basic objectives of this study were to identify demographic characteristics of poultry farmers and possessed and required level of knowledge and construct some suitable suggestions for poultry farmer's training.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their education and age

Education	No.	%
Primary	3	2.0
Middle	37	24.66
Matric	54	36.0
Above matric	56	37.33
Total	150	100
Age	No.	%
18-36 (young)	52	37.4
36-50 (middle)	56	49.0
Above 50	42	28.0
Total	150	100

It is inferred from data that majority of poultry farmers were educated and middle aged and educated staff is required to run this business.

Data presented in table 2 show the awareness level of the poultry farmers regarding various production practices of a poultry farm. It indicates that establishing a poultry farm got the first position with identification of mycoplasma and farm distance from residential area as its subsequent values. On the other hand pullorum treatment and its preventive measures were fell in the end of the table.

Such kind of data show clearly that poultry farmers were well equipped with primary knowledge regarding poultry farm management but in case of technical knowledge they were deficient especially in the areas of disease identification, preventive measures and its treatment.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to their competency of layer farming

Competency of layer farmers	Mean	S.d.	D. Value
The ability to			
Describe basic requirements for establishing a poultry farm	1.63	0.613	1.37
Tell the treatment of Mycoplasma (CRD)	1.65	0.680	1.35
Identify the distance of farm from residential area	1.68	0.638	1.32
Identify the space for adult layer bird	1.68	0.638	1.32
Procedure of preparations of room before the arrival of chicks	1.80	0.553	1.20
Explain practice of cleaning equipments	1.84	0.525	1.16
Describe the treatment of food poisoning	1.88	0.579	1.12
Explain treatment of pullorum	1.88	0.654	1.12
Describe preventive measures of pullorum	1.90	0.675	1.10

Table 3: Distribution of respondents according to their competency of broiler farming

Competency of broiler farmers	Mean	S.d.	D. Value
The ability to			
Explain steps of cleaning shed	1.94	0.629	1.06
Describe preventive measures of coccidiosis	2.02	0.579	0.98
Identify the symptoms of coccidiosis	2.03	0.567	0.97
Identify the symptoms of coryza	2.03	0.567	0.97
Explain treatment of coccidiosis	2.03	0.567	0.97
Explain treatment of coryza	2.03	0.567	0.97
Explain the vaccination schedule of hydro pericardium	2.04	0.558	0.96
Describe preventive measures of gumboro	2.04	0.558	0.96
Identify symptoms of new castle disease	2.04	0.558	0.96

Data presented in above table is in descending order which show the highly needy area for training of poultry farmers in sequential order are steps of cleaning shed then came the preventive measures of coccidiosis, symptoms of coccidiosis and coryza, treatment of coryza,

vaccination schedule of hydro pericardium, preventive measures of gumboro, and symptoms of new castle disease, respectively.

Conclusion: It is concluded that majority of the poultry farmer's knowledge fall between the range of low and average level of knowledge. Main objective of these extension workers was to fulfill their sales target. Majority of the layer farmers have less than average knowledge, and their training needs level also fall below the average, on the other hand majority of broiler farmers have more than average knowledge, and their training needs level fall below then low level of knowledge so it is concluded that there is a very small gap between possessed and required level of knowledge, if it is achieved then it may boost the economy and make better the living standard of poultry farmers.

Suggestions: Government should pay attention to develop breeding farm by providing feed with good and cheap nutritional formula to overcome the gap.

- Supply of better breeds for multiplication and cross-breeding.
- Training should be given on all aspect of poultry farming. For this purpose poultry farmers should be invited regularly for workshops at least one or two times in a year.
- Medicine is one of the major inputs in poultry industry. In order to get disease free flock medicines

should be kept available in the market reasonable cost. Mass vaccination to birds in village against contagious diseases.

- Government should initiate easy loaning scheme and subsidy should be there on each item especially for the poor farmer.
- Strengthening the poultry extension service and poultry husbandry techniques.

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