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Training Needs of Pig Farmers in Darjeeling Hills

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ABSTRACT

Assessment of training needs prior to commencement of training programmes and imparting knowledge according to the needs of the farmers makes the training more effective and meaningful. This paper deals with the objective to analyse the training needs of pig farmers in Darjeeling hills. The study was conducted by personally interviewing 120 respondents. The study shows that training need index (TNI) of the pig farmers was highest for animal healthcare management followed by feeding management and general management practices. The study also shows that use of antibiotic drugs during illness, preparation of low cost feed, special care to sow after furrowing, sign and symptoms of pregnancy were most preferred sub topic on animal healthcare management, feeding, general management and breeding management respectively. The study further shows that floor spacing requirement, preparation of value added meat product and knowledge about transmission of zoonotic diseases were most preferred sub topic on housing, marketing strategies and environment control respectively.

1. Introduction

Pig production particularly in the tropical Indian condition has high potentials for optimum profit making. Pig farming provide employment opportunities to seasonally employed rural farmers and supplementary income to improve their living standards. Importance of pig farming among livestock farmers seek need for training in the scientific pig farming practices among all livestock enterprises (Sanjeev and Singha, 2010). Training is a process of acquisition of new skills, attitude and knowledge in the context of preparing for entry into a vocation or improving ones productivity in an organization or enterprise. Training provides a systematic improvement of knowledge and skills which in turn helps the trainees to function effectively and efficiently in their given task on completion of the training. The kind of education we call as training is not for knowing more but behaving differently. Transfer of technology is a function of many factors, training being the crucial one (Lynton and Pareek, 1998).

A training need assessment is the process of identifying performance requirements and the "gap" between what level of performance is required and what present level of performance is. If there is a variance between the desired and actual levels, a needs assessment explores the causes responsible for the gap and methods for closing the gap. To make training more effective the training needs have to be established prior to commencement of training programmes so that the subject matter of the training could be determined on the basis of the needs of the trainees (Singh and Gill, 1982). Assessment of individual training needs was also important as trainees come from different backgrounds, varies in their strengths and weaknesses, encourages trainees to become aware of their own limits or knowledge – a sound base for future learning and informs for future training strategy. Considering these facts and importance of pig farming among livestock farmers, a study was undertaken to assess the training needs of the backyard pig farmers in Darjeeling hills.

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2. Materials and Methods

Locale of the study

The present study was purposively conducted in Darjeeling hills due to high pig population in the area. Out of 8 blocks, one block each from three subdivisions i.e., Darjeeling-Pulbazar, Kalimpong-II and Mirik block under Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Kurseong subdivision respectively were considered under study.

Methods of sampling

Random selection techniques were applied to select the respondents. Ten farmers (10) each were selected randomly from randomly selected 4 villages from one block each from the 3 subdivisions in Darjeeling hills. Thus, the total sample size was 120 respondents.

Tools and techniques of data collection

The basic instrument used for the study was personal interview schedule. The questions were related to different operations related scientific pig farming practices.

Measurement of dependent variables

In order to assess the training needs, responses were rated on three point continuum viz., mostly needed, somewhat needed and least needed by assigning a score of 3, 2 and 1 respectively. The Training Need Index (TNI) was computed with the help of following formula (Patil and Kokate, 2011).

$$TNI = \frac{\text{Total obtained score}}{\text{Maximum obtainable score}} \times 100$$

3. Results and Discussion

The study shows that animal healthcare was the 1st ranked major operation on which pig farmers need training followed by feeding management and general management practices. Among other major operations record keeping, issues of animal welfare and environment control were least preferred subjects by the pig farmers for training (Table 1). These might be due to the fact the pig farmers had adopted pig farming in backyard system and these types of issues were not a major concern for them. Similar types of findings were reported by Roy et al. (2013) among backyard poultry farmers in the study area.

Table 1. Training needs for major operation in scientific pig farming

Sl.	Major Operation	Total Score	Mean	TNI	Ranking
1.	Housing management	273	2.28	75.83	V
2.	Feeding management	321	2.68	89.17	II
3.	Breeding management	295	2.46	81.94	IV
4.	Animal healthcare management	338	2.82	93.89	I
5.	General management	301	2.51	83.61	III
6.	Animal welfare	199	1.66	55.28	VIII
7.	Environment control	210	1.75	58.33	VII
8.	Record keeping	150	1.25	41.67	IX
9.	Marketing strategies	243	2.03	67.50	VI

Table 2 shows that floor spacing requirement was the most preferred sub topic under housing management on which pig farmers need training followed by types of housing and orientation of housing.

Table 2. Training needs for housing management

Sl.	Particulars	Total Score	Mean	TNI	Ranking
1	Types of housing	269	2.24	74.72	II
2	Orientation of housing	237	1.98	65.83	III
3	Floor space requirement	279	2.33	77.50	I
4	Lighting management	200	1.67	55.56	V
5	Drainage requirement	226	1.88	62.78	IV

Table 3 shows that preparation of low cost feed was the most preferred sub topic under feeding management on which pig farmers need training followed by requirement of daily ration and fodder production.

Sign and symptoms of pregnancy was the most preferred sub topic under breeding management on which pig farmers need training followed by sign and symptoms of heat and recommended numbers of service during breeding. Among other major breeding management practices rearing of breeding boar, rearing of cross breed and breeding age of pig was least preferred sub topic for training by the pig farmers (Table 4).

Table 3. Training needs for feeding management

Sl.	Particulars	Total Score	Mean	TNI	Ranking
1.	Types of feeding	267	2.23	74.17	IV
2.	Preparation of low cost feed	331	2.76	91.94	I
3.	Fodder production	278	2.32	77.22	III
4.	Requirement of daily ration	303	2.53	84.17	II
5.	Requirement of water	243	2.03	67.50	V
6.	Silage preparation	188	1.57	52.22	VI
7.	Provision of creep ration	171	1.43	47.5	VII

Table 4. Training needs for breeding management

Sl.	Particulars	Total Score	Mean	TNI	Ranking
1.	Rearing of cross breed	200	1.67	55.56	VIII
2.	Use of flushing ration before estrus	269	2.24	74.72	V
3.	Breeding age of pig	225	1.88	62.50	VII
4.	Recommended numbers of service	288	2.40	80.00	III
5.	Sign and symptoms of heat	304	2.54	84.44	II
6.	Insemination techniques	276	2.30	76.67	IV
7.	Sign and symptoms of pregnancy	324	2.70	90.00	I
8.	Twice furrowing in a year	235	1.96	65.28	V
9.	Rearing of breeding boar	191	1.59	53.06	IX

Table 5 shows that use of antibiotic drugs during illness was the most preferred sub topic under animal healthcare management on which pig farmers need training followed by use of ectoparasitic drugs and vaccination against infectious diseases. Patel et al. (2012) reported similar finding in training need of dairy farm women in dairy farming practices.

Special care to sow after furrowing was the most preferred sub topic under general management on which pig farmers need training followed by special care to pregnant sow and artificial provision of heat (Table 6).

Table 7 shows that preparation of value added meat product was the most preferred sub topic under marketing strategies on which pig farmers need training followed by procurement of cut meat production and certification and branding of pork.

The knowledge about transmission of zoonotic diseases was the most preferred sub topic under environment control on which pig farmers need training followed by methods of carcass disposal and site for carcass disposal (Table 8).

Table 5. Training needs for animal healthcare management

Sl.	Particulars	Total Score	Mean	TNI	Ranking
1.	Deworming practices	269	2.24	74.72	VI
2.	Use of ectoparasitic drugs	330	2.75	91.67	II
3.	Use of antibiotic drugs	342	2.85	95.00	I
4.	Vaccination against infectious diseases	299	2.49	83.06	III
5.	Iron injection for pigment anemia	288	2.40	80.00	IV
6.	Treatment of repeat breeding	276	2.30	76.67	V
7.	Maintenance of personal hygiene	244	2.03	67.78	VII

Table 6. Training needs for general management

Sl.	Particulars	Total Score	Mean	TNI	Ranking
1.	Special care to pregnant sow	336	2.80	93.33	II
2.	Special care to sow after furrowing	340	2.83	94.44	I
3.	Cutting of needle teeth	245	2.04	68.06	VIII
4.	Weaning of piglets within two months	250	2.08	69.44	VII
5.	Castration of piglets after weaning	286	2.38	79.44	V
6.	Artificial provision of heat	307	2.56	85.28	III
7.	Bedding of furrowing pen	305	2.54	84.72	IV
8.	Regular cleaning of pig sty	283	2.36	78.61	VI

Table 7. Training needs for marketing strategies

Sl.	Particulars	Total Score	Mean	TNI	Ranking
1.	Preparation of value added meat product	307	2.56	85.28	I
2.	Procurement of cut meat production	305	2.54	84.72	II
3.	Certification and branding of pork	286	2.38	79.44	III
4.	Hygienic meat product	250	2.08	69.44	IV
5.	Selling of pork at the time of festival	235	1.96	65.28	VI
6.	Formation of producers group	245	2.04	68.06	V

Table 8. Training needs for environment control

Sl.	Particulars	Total Score	Mean	TNI	Ranking
1.	Method of waste disposal	277	2.31	76.94	V
2.	Methods of carcass disposal	330	2.75	91.67	II
3.	Site for waste disposal	306	2.55	85.00	IV
4.	Site for carcass disposal	311	2.59	86.39	III
5.	Knowledge about transmission of zoonotic diseases	349	2.91	96.94	I

Conclusions

Animal healthcare, feeding of animal, general management and breeding were major concern of pig farmers in the study area, so they seek training on these topics. So, while preparing a training programme for pig farmers in the study area more focus have to be given on animal healthcare, feeding, general management, breeding, housing, marketing and environmental control for better knowledge and understanding which thereby increase in adoption level on scientific pig farming practices.

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