Current Agriculture **2 (1) 1-3 (January, 2018)**

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Impact of KVK on transferring knowledge about the scientific animal husbandry practices among the tribal farmers of Panchmahal district in central Gujarat

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Manuscript received: Dec.,03, 2017; Decision on manuscript: Dec, 15, 2017; Manuscript accepted: Jan., 2, 2018

Abstract

Impact of KVK on transferring knowledge among tribal farmers on animal husbandry practices in Panchmahal district of central Gujarat was undertaken by the ICAR-KVK, Panchmahal to improve the knowledge of improved animal husbandry practices among the tribal farmer of the district and to create awareness regarding the efficient technologies through various efficient extension tools. Random sampling technique was applied to draw the samples of 60 farmers from four villages of Kalol and Jambughoda Tehsil of Panchmahal district. Accordingly strategies of technological intervention were made regularly during the period of study. In adopted villages, KVK, Panchmahal organized several activities like as animal health camps, training programmes, advisory services and FLDs on different aspects of animal husbandry. The results of the study revealed that the average means score of knowledge before and after were recorded 1.18 and 2.24, respectively. The overall 97.71% increase in knowledge on various aspects of animal husbandry after intervention of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Panchmahal. Based on the study it may be concluded that the overall improvement in the knowledge of the tribal farmers with respect to adoption of animal husbandry technologies would be possible through the demonstration of efficient technologies needed for healthy livestock rearing which had not only created awareness but also improved the knowledge and attitude of tribal farmers in relation to scientific animal husbandry practices.

Keywords: Animal husbandry, training, tribal farmers, knowledge

Introduction

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) is an innovative science based institution which functions on the collaborative participation of scientist, subject matter experts, extension functionaries and farmers. The main purpose of KVK is to impart learning through work experience for those who are engaged in farming. The progresses in any field depend to a large extent on quick and effective dissemination of new technologies among the beneficiaries and bring back of their problems to the research labs for their solution. Knowledge may be defined as those behavior and test situations, which emphasize upon memorization the remembering, either by recognition or recall of ideas. One of the main mandate of KVK is to provide and improve the level of knowledge of the trainees about the improved farm technologies, because knowledge is cognitive component of individual's mind and plays an important role in covert as well as overt

behavior. Therefore the individuals with a greater technical knowledge of improved practices would lead to a high adoption possibly because knowledge is not inert. Once knowledge is acquired and retained, it undergoes and produces changes in the thinking process and of mental alchemy. This study was, therefore, conducted to ascertain the impact of animal husbandry technologies among tribal farmers as well as their prevailing level of awareness knowledge of the animal husbandry technologies.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted under the banner of ICAR-KVK, Panchmahal in the Godhra district of Gujrat. The accessible population for this descriptive study was sixty (N=60). Random sampling technique was applied to draw the samples of 60 farmers from four villages of Kalol and Jambughoda Tehsil of Panchmahal district during 2017-18. The data were collected through personal interview method using structural schedule. The bench mark survey data of the KVK was used as the baseline for the existing knowledge score of the farmer while the degree of impact of KVK in terms of gain in knowledge of farmers was measured with the help of schedule developed for the study purpose. Accordingly strategies of technological intervention were made regularly during the period of study. In adopted villages, KVK, Panchmahal organized several activities like as animal health camps, training programmes, advisory services and FLDs on different aspects of animal husbandry. The technological interventions were proposed to assess, refine and improve the productivity of livestock in terms of milk, meat etc. and health management. To collect the data, the respondents were individually interviewed by the investigator herself after making good rapport with them. We used local language to build good rapport with the indisuals. The information recorded on scale point of fully knowledge, considerable knowledge, least knowledge and not knowledge were analyzed with score value of 3, 2, 1 and 0 respectively. The collected data were subjected to basic statistical analysis as per Snedecor and Cochran (1994).

Results and discussion

The tribal farmers have the affinity for animal component and traditional habit of rearing dairy animals like cow, buffalo, goat and also some poultry birds in backyard system. The results of the study revealed that the before and after intervention of technologies *viz*., Animal health camp, training programme, advisory service and FLDs influenced the knowledge of tribal farmers towards the knowledge of recommended technologies for animal husbandry. Analysis of data revealed (Table1) that the average means score of knowledge before and after was recorded 1.18 and 2.24, respectively. The results of the present study revealed that the tribal farmers of the area had inadequate knowledge about scientific animal husbandry practices. The overall 97.71% increase in knowledge on various aspects of animal husbandry after intervention of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Panchmahal. More or less similar results ware also reported by *Khadda et al*.,(2012), Gupta and Verma (2013), Singh *et al*., (2014), Narayan (2015) and Khadda *et al*., (2015). The respondents need to be further expected through training programme, animal health camp, advisory service, diagnostic visit, FLDs, etc. to equip sufficiently with knowledge and skill enabling to adopt the recommended practices for better income.

Based on the study it may be concluded that the overall improvement in the knowledge of the tribal farmers with respect to adoption of animal husbandry technologies would be possible through the demonstration of efficient technologies needed for healthy livestock

rearing which had not only created awareness but also improved the knowledge and attitude of tribal farmers in relation to scientific animal husbandry practices. The knowledge regarding the available viable animal husbandry is essentially required to improve the productivity of livestock as well as socio-economic condition of the resource poor tribal farmers.

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Table 1: Knowledge gained on animal production

Sl. No.	Knowledge	Mean Score		Increase (%)
		Before	**After**	
1	Breeds and selection criteria	1.2	2.3	84.8
2	Up gradation of local breeds	1.3	2.1	53.2
3	Heat detection	1.2	2.3	93.4
4	Housing and general management	1.2	2.2	89.1
5	Balance ration feeding	0.9	2.1	115.3
6	Mineral mixture feeding	0.7	2.1	176.0
7	Common salt feeding	1.1	2.3	110.0
8	Formulation and preparation of balance ration	0.8	2.0	143.0
9	Kid/ calf rearing	1.5	2.3	50.0
10	Treatment of repeat breeder	1.3	2.2	60.5
11	Vaccination	1.2	2.3	95.0
12	Deworming	1.2	2.3	90.0
13	Green fodder production round the year	1.5	2.6	64.5
14	Clean and quality milk production	0.7	1.8	142.3
Average		1.1	2.2	97.7