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Impact of KVK trainings on promotion of backyard poultry farming by KVK Hanumangarh-I

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Abstract

The current evaluation makes an effort to evaluate the state of backyard poultry in the district of Hanumangarh, Rajasthan, as well as the various management practices used there. Backyard poultry farming is primarily practised in underdeveloped and resource-limited regions of the district and offers rural family's good sources of income, nutritious food sources, such as meat and eggs, improves the status of women in rural society, creates jobs for the unemployed, and narrows the gap between the demand and supply of poultry meat and eggs. In the present investigation, on and off-campus training and front-line demonstrations organised at farmers' backyards to strengthen farmers' economies as well as the nutrition of their communities were the focus. The percentage gain in knowledge of respondents was maximum for scavenging habit of followed by new breeds, brooding, balance feeding, housing and vaccination. Similarly, the percentage of adoption level after training was highest for housing followed by new breeds, scavenging habit of poultry, balance feeding, brooding and vaccination respectively.

Keywords: KVK trainings, poultry farming, eggs

Introduction

Poultry farming has been practised in India for more than 5000 years, and it makes a significant economic contribution to the country's rural areas. India is the world's fifth-largest producer of eggs and its ninth-largest producer of poultry meat. A total of 30% of the output is produced by the unorganised sector of the poultry industry, and the remaining 70% is produced by the organised sector. The economic development of the nation is significantly influenced by backyard poultry raising (Nath *et al.*, 2012) [5]. In order to affect desired changes in human behaviour, training is a crucial part of human resource development in all disciplines, including agriculture, poultry husbandry, animal husbandry, fishing, and any other field (Biswas *et al.*, 2008) [3]. Backyard poultry farming has been increasingly crucial for rural youth's ability to maintain their rural way of life in recent years. In this farming, birds are kept in low-input, low-output systems that are simple for rural women and the household children to handle. About 11% of India's total egg production comes from local native chicken varieties raised in free-range backyard environments for centuries, and the development community is aware of the importance of backyard poultry farming in sustaining and improving the livelihoods of the poor in developing nations (Ahuja *et al.*, 2008) [1].

India's poultry production has continued to show impressive growth despite several setbacks over the years. With an annual growth rate of over 8%, poultry is one of the farming sectors in India that is growing the fastest. Over a period of four decades, the poultry sector in India has undergone a change in perspective, structure, and activity, which has been its transformation from a backyard activity into a large business agri-based enterprise. Currently, there are 851.81 million chickens in our nation, of which 317.07 million are kept in backyards, and 103.93 billion eggs were produced in 2018–19 (BAHS 2019) [2]. Compared to commercial poultry, which has expanded by only 4.5 percent since the last census, backyard poultry production has exhibited a phenomenal growth rate of 45.79 percent. According to BAHS 2019 data, there are currently 79 eggs available per person annually (2018–19). According to BAHS 2019, the output of poultry meat is predicted to reach 4.06 million tonnes, or around 50%, of the entire production of meat. However, it is less than the Indian Council for Medical Research's recommended threshold of 180 eggs and 10.8 kg of poultry meat per person annually. Poultry farming has played a crucial role in both providing employment and substantially boosting the country's GDP. In emerging nations, it has been observed that interest in animal protein sources is growing.

As a result of the massive commercial poultry production that is steadily increasing in urban and peri-urban areas, which has proven to be an incredible asset for the eradication of malnutrition, the mitigation of rural poverty, and the creation of lucrative employment in vast rural areas, village or backyard poultry can be promoted profitably in rural areas. According to market analysis, home bird expenses per kg of live weight might range between 50% and 100% more than those for commercially bred birds. Due to their rich flavour and widespread backyard rearing, desi or indigenous poultry breeds are currently in high demand in urban areas (Conroy *et al.*, 2005) [4]. Backyard poultry is a practical business among traditional farmers with a low initial investment cost, substantial economic return, and a guarantee for reducing protein insufficiency among the poor. The idea of training programmes in the scientific approach of backyard poultry farming through KVK sangaria has become more popular as a result of farmers' increased need for advanced poultry science technology. By boosting family income and creating jobs, the poultry population contributes significantly to the national economy and the socioeconomic development of landless, small, and marginal farmers. The majority of farmers raise chickens using outdated methods and lack of scientific expertise. The purpose of the current study is to determine the effect of training provided by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sangaria, on scientifically based backyard chicken farming and feeding techniques.

Materials and Methods

Consequently, a current study was conducted at the Hanumangarh district Krishi Vigyan Kendra, sangaria, with the participation of poultry farmers from various villages in the Hanumangarh district. At the KVK, Sangaria, 30 benefiting farmers participated in on-campus training sessions in scientific poultry farming, including feeding, breeding, and disease management. Participants willingly and with interest engaged in the training session. Rural youth farmers and farm women who attended trainings held at KVK were given a pre-determined questionnaire to complete in order to learn about and document their experiences. Data were gathered through personal contacts with the aid of a well-structured interview schedule in order to establish their adoption of the scientific approach of backyard chicken production at the farm level. Before the training programme began, the participants were given a set of questions pertaining to the training topic, and the same questions were once again presented after its conclusion. Pre evaluation score and post evaluation score were acquired as two sets of scores, and the method was used to quantify knowledge increase.

$$\text{Knowledge gain (\%)} = (\text{Post evaluation score} - \text{Pre evaluation score}) / \text{Total score}$$

In a table, the percentage of information gained and the adoption level for each training session are shown. The acquired data was processed, tabulated, categorised, and percentage-based analysis was performed in light of the study's goals. To determine the level of scientific method adoption and expertise in backyard chicken production, all approaches were chosen.

Results and Discussion

The increase in respondents' knowledge of scientific backyard poultry production practises was expressed as a percentage in

Table 1. Knowledge before training and understanding after training, or the increase in knowledge about scientific methods of backyard poultry husbandry and feeding technology, were both documented. It is clearly evident from table that percentage gain in knowledge was maximum for scavenging habit of poultry and minimum for vaccination. Distribution of respondents according to adoption about scientific method of backyard poultry farming and the feeding technology is presented in Table 2. The percentage adoption level after training was highest for housing followed by new breeds, scavenging habit of poultry, balance feeding, brooding and vaccination respectively. These findings are also in support with Verma, *et al.*, (2018) [6], who concluded that training, had positive impact on the farmer's perception and performance.

Table 1: Shows the respondents' knowledge gains on backyard poultry raising using scientific methods and feeding technology (n=30).

S. No.	Technologies	Gain in knowledge(no.)		Gain in knowledge (%)	
		Before training	After training	Before training	After training
1	New Breeds (RIR, Kharknaath)	14	24	33.3	80
2	Housing	18	21	10	70
3	Brooding	9	23	46.7	76.7
4	Balance feeding	10	22	40	73.3
5	Vaccination	8	19	36.7	63.3
6	Scavenging habit of poultry	13	26	43.3	86.7

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to adoption about scientific method of backyard poultry farming and the feeding technology (n=30)

S. no.	Technologies	Gain in knowledge (%)		Adoption level increase (%) after training
		Before training	After training	
1	New Breeds (RIR, Kharknaath)	33.3	80	46.7
2	Housing	10	70	60
3	Brooding	46.7	76.7	30
4	Balance feeding	40	73.3	33.3
5	Vaccination	36.7	63.3	26.6
6	Scavenging habit of poultry	43.3	86.7	43.4

Conclusion

In present study it was concluded that the training program has a tremendous impact on the farmers on adoption of scientific method of backyard poultry farming. The overall adoption percentage by the farmers indicated that training had a significant impact in uptake of new technologies thereby increasing their livelihood with renewed income. The training imparted to farmers increased the awareness about new technologies among the beneficiaries and increased their knowledge. As most of the poor and marginal farmers have very limited capital assets and they mostly depend on poultry farming for their livelihoods.

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