

Training needs and source consultancy pattern of commercial chawki rearing centre owners in Kolar district

V.L. MADHU PRASAD, RAMAKRISHNA NAIKA, USHA RAVINDRA AND M.P. GOKUL RAJ

ABSTRACT

A study was undertaken to assess the training needs of CRC owners, to relate their characteristics with training needs and to know their source consultancy pattern. The list of commercial CRC's in Kolar district was prepared in consultation with Department of Sericulture, Kolar. The structured questionnaire was referred to 74 respondents out of which only 62 have responded. The commercial CRC owners expressed that the training needs were on disinfections and hygiene maintenance (71.66%), chawki rearing appliances (61.29%), pruning chawki garden (53.23%) and chawki rearing house including environment management (48.38%). Out of 12 characteristics studied, only four characteristics namely, education, occupation, area under mulberry and economic motivation had positive and significant relationship with training needs of commercial CRC owners. Majority (61.25%) of the respondents expressed that they were consulting Sericulture Extension Officers as source of information. Hence, Organizing trainings, based on their needs, considering the significantly related characteristics and further strengthening the most consulted information source be brought about awareness for increased quality cocoon production

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to :

V.L.MADHU PRASAD
Directorate of
Extension, University
of Agricultural Sciences,
Hebbal, BANGALORE
(KARNATAKA),
INDIA

INTRODUCTION

Sericulture as an agro-based enterprise is highly suited to small and marginal farm holdings with less capital investment. Mulberry being a long standing crop with less gestation period, the returns are quick, frequent and better when compared to many cash crops. It is this enterprise, which provides better employment opportunities in different sectors viz., nursery raising, seed production, chawki rearing, silkworm rearing, silk reeling, silk twisting, printing and dyeing, fashion designing etc. The success of silkworm rearing largely depends on the quality of young age silkworms or chawki which not only ensures higher productivity of cocoons but also the quality. The concept of chawki rearing (upto second moult) is not new. In Japan, China and Korea about 95 per cent of farmers receive chawki reared larva whereas in India it is only 10-15 per cent. For meeting the growing demand for chawki worms, the government promoted the establishment of Chawki Rearing Centres (CRC's) in private sector under various schemes. Under Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) financial assistance was provided for constructing CRC buildings and procurement of equipments. Training was also provided to commercial CRC owners.

The training enhances the knowledge and skills and thereby helps in producing quality silk.

The identification of training needs is to be carried out on regular basis because of changing nature of technologies. Further, it is often said that knowledge gap and training needs go hand in hand. This hypothesis needs to be tested in real field situation to take advantage of the relationship in designing training strategies. Keeping this in view, this study was envisaged to assess the training needs of commercial Chawki Rearing Centre owners, to know the relationship between the characteristics of commercial Chawki Rearing Centre owners with their training needs and to know the source consultancy pattern used by the commercial Chawki Rearing Centre Owners.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in purposively selected Kolar district. The list of commercial Chawki Rearing Centres was prepared in consultation with the Office of the Deputy Director of Sericulture, Department of Sericulture, (GOK) Kolar. All the commercial CRC owners were considered as respondents for the purpose of the study. In order to ascertain the training needs of owners of CRC's, 22 areas of chawki rearing (cultivation technology for chawki mulberry garden and chawki rearing technology) was prepared in consultation with sericulture experts, extension

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