

## TRAINING NEEDS OF TRIBALS IN RELATION TO AGRICULTURAL OCCUPATION

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### ABSTRACT

Government has planned its approach by collecting information of tribals through various sources, however, magnitude of work on tribals is beyond the efforts made. As such, in order to achieve national objective of the Government to bring the tribal communities into the mainstream of national life, it is necessary to add as many efforts as possible to study these weakest masses and find out solution to make them fellow travelers in our way to progress. However, this study envisages bridging this gap by knowing the training need of tribals with special reference to agriculture work being performed by them. It was found that tribal farmers were aware of some improved farming practices but did not have detail knowledge about them and hence most of them expressed training need mainly on selection of suitable varieties, methods of application of fertilizers, major pest and diseases and its control, importance of organic and chemical fertilizers and their type, attributes and advantage of improve varieties. The tribal labourers were aware of agricultural operations but needed detail knowledge about them especially method of application of fertilizer, organic and chemical fertilizer doses and method of application, method of transplanting, plant protection measures, methods of harvesting and method of intercropping. Tribal goat keeping farmers reported maximum training need with respect to veterinary care of goat and care of pregnant goat.

### INTRODUCTION

The progress of the country is related with tribal development as the tribal population in the country is not small. Late Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of India has said on one occasion that he would prefer to be a nomad in the hills. He also observed that the tribal were democratic and disciplined. The tribal are also inseparable part of rural population except difference in habitat. Tribal population inhabits in almost all part of the world. Tribals have been an under privileged class of population living in the most remote part of inaccessible area of mountain and forest.

The factors like hard working, dignity of labour and affection for the land are genetically prevailing among them which are considered to be the fundamental assets of tribals. However, in spite of high social values prevailing in these communities, they have remained backward, underdeveloped or neglected due to the factors like lack of ambition,

lack of initiative, inadequate land holding, limited needs and orthodox behaviour.

India has the second largest tribal concentration with population of 8,43,26,240 in the world after Africa (Census 2001); which lives with peculiar customs and lead to an altogether different walk of life. There are 533 tribes as per notified schedule under Article 342 of the constitution of India in different states and Union Territories of the country; with the largest number of 62 being in the states of Madhya Pradesh, followed by Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. In Maharashtra, tribal population is 85,77,276 mainly concentrated in 14 districts especially in western hilly area and eastern forest area. The tribal population in Konkan region and Raigad district is 13.08 lakh and 2.69 lakh, respectively. Tribals in Maharashtra are engaged in agriculture i.e. 40 per cent in farming and remaining generally work as labourers under contractors in forest, collection of firewood, wild

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honey and selling in nearby market.

Training has become an integral part of the entire system and Tribals need to be equipped with latest knowledge, technology in agriculture for rural development. Thus, the present research was designed with the objective to find out first hand information about training needs of the tribals in relation to agriculture.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Raigad district of Maharashtra state. Out of fifteen tahsils, Sudhagad-pali tahsils having maximum tribal population and Roha tahasil adjoining to Sudhagad-pali tahasil were selected. From each selected tahsil five villages and from each selected village ten respondents were selected, randomly. Thus, the total sample consisted 100 tribals. Interview technique was used to collect data from the respondents. The data were processed and tabulated by using simple frequencies and the parameters like percentage, mean, and standard deviation.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results and discussion pertaining to this study is presented in the following order.

### Major occupation of tribals

The data in respect of major occupation of tribals were collected and the respondents were categorized into two groups as shown in table 1.

**Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to their major occupation**

S. No.	Category	Respondents (N=100)	
		Number	Percentage
<b>A) Agriculture</b>			
1	Farming	34.00	34.00
2	Agricultural Labour	34.00	34.00
3	Goat Keeping	13.00	13.00
<b>B) Other</b>			
1	Labour in industry (MIDC)	10.00	10.00
2	Collection and selling of forest products	9.00	9.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen from table 1 that, identical number of

respondents (34.00 per cent) had engaged in farming and agricultural, labour occupation. This was followed by the occupation of goat keeping (13.00 per cent) and 'labour in industry' (10.00 per cent). Only 9.00 per cent of the respondents were engaged in collection and selling of forest products. The findings are similar with the findings of Yadappanavar (1994) and Sharma and Singh (2001).

### The training need of tribals in relation to agriculture occupation

The data pertaining to the area wise intensity of training need of tribals in relation to Farming, Agricultural labour, and Goat keeping are given and discussed hereunder.

The training needs in respect of thirty sub-area of farming occupation mentioned in Table 2, it was observed that the tribal farmers needed training mainly on selection of suitable varieties, methods of application of fertilizers, major pest and diseases and its control, importance of organic and chemical fertilizers and their type, attributes and advantage of improve varieties, concentrations of crop protection chemicals, equipments for plant protection chemicals, their availability and costs, chemicals used for seed treatment, seed rate and methods of irrigation.

Whereas the sub-areas namely irrigation interval, method of transplanting, spacing between plants, plant protection measures (nursery), importance of seed treatment, organic and chemical fertilizers doses and method of application (in nursery), different types of improved implements, methods and handling of improved implements, scientific methods of storage and precautions and precaution during seed treatment indicated medium level of training need by the tribal farmers.

Further, the lower training need expressed by the tribal farmers in respect of sub-areas such as method of interculturing, time of interculturing, age of seeding at the time of transplanting, precautions during uprooting, method of harvesting, implements for harvesting, types of insecticides and pesticides, implements to be used for interculturing, their availability and price, doses of organic and chemical fertilizer and threshing techniques; its time and importance. This findings are somewhat similar with the finding of Meghawal (2002) and Kher (2004.)

**Table 2. Training need of the respondents with respect to farming occupation**

S. No	Subject matter areas	Score	Rank
<b>I</b>	<b>High yielding varieties</b>		
1	Attribute and advantage of improved varieties	104	5
2	Selection of suitable varieties	114	1
3	Seed rate	97	9
<b>II</b>	<b>Seed treatment</b>		
4	Importance of seed treatment	86	15
5	Chemical used for seed treatment	98	8
6	Precautions during seed treatment	80	20
<b>III</b>	<b>Nursery management</b>		
7	Organic and chemical fertilizer doses and method of application	85	16
8	Plant protection measure	88	14
9	Precautions during uprooting	74	24
<b>IV</b>	<b>Transplanting</b>		
10	Age of seedling at the time of transplanting	76	23
11	Method of transplanting	91	12
12	Spacing between plants	89	13
<b>V</b>	<b>Fertilizer application</b>		
13	Importance of organic and chemical fertilizers and their types	107	4
14	Method of application of fertilizers	113	2
15	Doses of organic and chemical fertilizers	68	29
<b>VI</b>	<b>Interculturing</b>		
16	Method of interculturing	78	21
17	Time of interculturing	77	22
18	Implements to be used for interculturing, their availability and price	69	28
<b>VII</b>	<b>Water management</b>		
19	Methods of irrigation	95	10
20	Irrigation interval	94	11
<b>VIII</b>	<b>Plant protection measures</b>		
21	Major pest and diseases of crop and their control	110	3
22	Types of insecticides and pesticides	70	27
23	Concentration of crop protection chemicals	102	6
24	Equipment used for plant protection chemicals, their availability and cost	100	7
<b>IX</b>	<b>Improved implements</b>		
25	Different types of improved implements	84	17
26	Method of handling improved implements	83	18
<b>X</b>	<b>Harvesting</b>		
27	Method of harvesting	73	25
28	Implements for harvesting	71	26
<b>XI</b>	<b>Storage</b>		
29	Threshing techniques, its time and importance	66	30
30	Scientific method of storage and precautions	81	19

As regards the training needs in respect of eighteen sub-areas of agricultural labour occupation mentioned in table 3, observed that the tribal labour needed training mainly on method of application of fertilizer, organic and chemical fertilizer doses and method of application, method of transplanting, plant protection measures, methods of harvesting and method of interculturing.

The sub-areas indicated medium level of

training need by the tribal labour were namely doses of organic and chemical fertilizer, method of irrigation, water requirement of crop at different stages of growth, implements for harvesting, method of sowing and age of seedling at the time of transplanting, whereas, the tribal labour expressed 'lower' training needs in respect of sub-areas such as irrigation interval, implements to be used for interculturing, their availability and price, method of threshing, equipments used for threshing, and

scientific method of storage and precautions in storage.

**Table 3. Training need of the respondents with respect to agricultural labour occupation**

S. No	Subject matter areas	Score	Rank
<b>I</b>	<b>Nursery management</b>		
1	Method of sowing	47	11
2	Organic and chemical fertilizer doses and method of application	68	2
3	Plant protection measure	63	4
<b>II</b>	<b>Transplanting</b>		
4	Age of seedling at the time of transplanting	44	12
5	Method of transplanting	64	3
<b>III</b>	<b>Interculturing</b>		
6	Method of interculturing	58	6
7	Implements to be used for interculturing, their availability and price	41	14
<b>IV</b>	<b>Fertilizer application</b>		
8	Doses of organic and chemical fertilizers	55	7
9	Method of application of fertilizers	70	1
<b>V</b>	<b>Harvesting</b>		
10	Method of harvesting	61	5
11	Implements for harvesting	48	10
<b>VI</b>	<b>Water management</b>		
12	Water requirement of crop at different stage of growth	50	9
13	Method of irrigation	52	8
14	Irrigation interval	42	13
<b>VII</b>	<b>Threshing</b>		
15	Method of threshing	40	15
16	Equipments used for threshing	37	16
<b>VIII</b>	<b>Storage</b>		
17	Scientific method of storage	36	17
18	Precautions in storage	34	18

As regards the training needs in respect of twenty one sub- areas of goat keeping mentioned in table 19, it was observed that the tribal goat keeping farmers needed training mainly in general information regarding various diseases, care of disease suffering animals and curative measures, vaccination, deworming of goat, feeding the animals on the basis of body weight, parturition, feeding of energetic feed to the goat for some days and care of pregnant goat before kidding.

Whereas the sub-area namely, care of pregnant goat at the time of Kidding, feeding of pregnant goat, feeding colostrums to the newly born

kid, care of kis after birth and weaning the kid, feeding salt and minerals, keeping goat shed clean, hygienic with sufficient sunlight and ventilation and care regarding expulsion of placenta and preventing from eating the same, Medium level of training need expressed by the tribal goat keeping farmers.

The tribal goat keeping farmers expressed 'lower' training need in respect of the sub- areas such as feeding green fodder and dry fodder, immediate feeding and watering the goat after parturition , cutting navel cord of the new born kid, immediate milking the goat after kidding, preventive measures against the disease of goat animal, floor

space required and arrangement of feeding manger.

**Table 4. Training need of the respondents with respect to goat keeping occupation**

S. No	Subject matter areas	Score	Rank
<b>I</b>	<b>Care of pregnant Goat</b>		
1	Care of pregnant goat before kidding	54	7
2	Feeding of pregnant goat	54	7
3	Care of pregnant goat at the time of kidding	53	9
<b>II</b>	<b>Care of goat after kidding</b>		
4	Care regarding expulsion of placenta and preventing goat from eating the same after kidding	45	14
5	Immediate feeding and watering the goat after parturition	42	16
6	Immediate milking the goat after kidding	34	18
7	After parturition, feeding of energetic feed to the goat for some days	58	6
<b>III</b>	<b>Care of newly born calf</b>		
8	Feeding colostrum to the newly born kid	50	10
9	Cutting naval cord of the newly born kid	38	17
10	Care of kid after birth & weaning the kid	48	11
<b>IV</b>	<b>Management of goat shed</b>		
11	Keeping goat shed clean, hygienic with sufficient sunlight and ventilation	47	12
12	Arrangement of feeding Manger	28	21
13	Floor space required (Kid, Adult goat, Breeding buck, etc.)	30	20
<b>V</b>	<b>Management of feeding</b>		
14	Feeding animals on the basis of body weight	60	5
15	Feeding salt and minerals	47	12
16	Feeding green fodder and dry fodder	44	15
<b>VI</b>	<b>Diseases of goat &amp; It's preventive measures</b>		
17	General information regarding various diseases of dairy animals	68	1
18	Care of diseased animals and curative measures	65	2
19	Preventive measures against the diseases of goat animals	32	19
20	Vaccination	64	3
21	Deworming of goat	62	4

## CONCLUSION

Till some better alternatives in occupation are made available to tribals, it is necessary to improve their knowledge, skill and efficiency to perform their present activities. This could be done by organizing the programmes such as training, demonstration, exhibitions and by providing modern tools and equipments to the tribals. The employment in service and industrial sector in tribal blocks need to be strengthened to give them remunerative occupation.

The medium intensity of training need suggests the scope for increasing their knowledge and skill, which could be done by instilling confidence among them to participate in various

programmes. The extension organizations should give more attention towards the training of tribals in relation to their occupations.

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