

3.0% has been found effective against rice stem borer (*Scirpophaga incertulas* (Wlk.) (Sellammal Murugesan *et al.*, 1987), rice gall midge *Orseolia oryzae* (Wood - Mazon) (Schin Foon - Chiu *et al.*, 1984) and *Heliothis armigera* (Hb.) on black gram (*Vigna mungo*)

(Rao *et al.*, 1985). It is inferred that deltamethrin alone at 0.09% can be used for the control of cotton bollworms and addition of neem oil has not offered any additional benefit in terms of efficacy and higher yield of kapas.

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CHANGES PREFERRED BY FISH FARMERS IN THE TRAINING PROGRAMME OFFERED BY FISH FARMERS' DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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ABSTRACT

Changes were preferred by the three groups of respondents with respect to the season, duration and subject content of the training, and the amount of stipend awarded to the trainees.

KEY WORDS : Training, Fish farmers, Adoption behaviour.

Training plays an important role in imparting knowledge and skills. The Fish Farmers Development Agency (FFDA) gives preliminary training to the fish farmers on fish culture and fish

breeding aspects. The FFDA further helps them to take up fish culture in their own villages by arranging for the supply of fingerlings and credit facilities through lead banks.

One of the objectives of this study conducted on the adoption behaviour of fish farmers was to know the changes preferred by the fish farmers in different aspects of the training they had undergone before taking up fish culture. The changes preferred by the fish farmers would suggest some ways to improve the quality of training further so that it would have a better impact on the trainees.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Madurai East and Melur blocks of Madurai district. These two blocks were purposely selected for the study as these blocks had nearly half of the respondents (49.5%) of the Madurai district FFDA.

Fish farmers who had enrolled themselves with Madurai district FFDA during the year 1979, 1980 and 1981 constituted the population for this study. A sample of 30 from among each year group was selected randomly as the sample for the study. Thus, the size of the sample was 90. A well prepared and pre tested interview schedule was used for data collection.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data presented in Table 1 revealed that the respondents of the study suggested changes in aspects like season, duration, subject content of the training and the amount of stipend paid to the trainees.

Regarding season of training, majority of the respondents of all the three groups (63.33% to 70.00%) preferred changes. July - August season was preferred by majority of such respondents. At the time of study, the FFDA used to give training as and when a required number of clients join the agency. But the respondents

preferred to have a fixed time for training so that they could plan in advance and make satisfactory alternate arrangements to look after their other occupations and domestic work. The July-August season was preferred by majority (47.62% to 70%) of those who sought changes in the season of training because it was the apt season for conducting practicals on 'induced fish breeding' which was an improved fish breeding technique. Some respondents preferred April-May (10.52 to 28.58 per cent) season for the reason that it was the off season for their agriculture operations. Some other respondents (15.00 to 23.80 per cent) preferred November-December season for conducting the training as all ponds and reservoirs would have adequate water for conducting practical classes in a better manner.

More than half of the respondents of all the three groups (50.00- 60.00 per cent) preferred changes in the duration of training. Among those who preferred changes in duration, a majority (60-80%) wanted training for 30 days duration. At the time of study, the duration of the training was 15 days only. The respondents preferred to have training for more than 15 days because during the training, the farmers were taken on tour to some government and FFDA fish farms located at different parts of Tamil Nadu. This involved more travel and a considerable portion of the training period was spent on travel. Hence, they felt the actual time available for the training was inadequate. So, they wanted the duration of training to be enhanced.

The changes preferred in subject matter was studied in two dimensions viz., i) New subject areas to be included in the training; ii) Subject areas in which more intensive training was

Table 1. Changes preferred in the training programme in fish culture.

S.No.	Major aspects of training	1979 group			1980 group			1981 group			
		'n'	No.	Percent- tage	'n'	No.	Percent- tage	'n'	No.	Percent- tage	
1.	Season of training	19	2	10.52	21	6	28.58	20	3	15.00	
	a) April to May	(63.33)	13	68.43	(70.00)	10	47.62	(66.67)	14	70.00	
	b) July to August		4	21.05		5	23.8		3	15.00	
	c) November to December		15	3	20.00	18	4	22.22	15	6	40.00
2.	Duration of training		12	80.00	(60.00)	14	77.78	(50.00)	9	60.00	
	a) 20 days		12		14			13			
	b) 30 days		(40.00)		(46.67)			(43.33)			
3.	Subject content of the training										
	a) Additional subject to be included:										
	i) Diseases of fishes and their control.		12	100.00		14	100.00		12	92.3	
	ii) Soil and water analysis.		2	16.66		5	35.71		6	46.15	
	b) Subjects in which intensive training is needed:	13			21			14			
	i) Induced fish breeding.	(43.33)			(70.00)			(46.67)			
	ii) Rearing of fish.		13	100.00		21	100.00		14	100.00	
	iii) Manuring of fish ponds.		4	30.76		8	37.61		4	28.57	
	iv) Stocking of fingerlings.		2	15.38		6	28.57		4	28.57	
	v) Fish pond preparation.		2	15.38		6	28.57		4	28.57	
	vi) Weed control by means of chemicals.		2	15.38		6	28.57		4	28.57	
4.	Payment of training										
	To be increased				3		14.29		2	14.29	
							100.00		6	100.00	

N.B. : i) Because of multiple responses the total percentage may not add up to 100 in respect of serial number

3. 'n' = number of respondents in each group preferred change in major aspects of training.

ii) Figures in parantheses indicate the percentage of respondents to the total of each group.

needed. A fairly high proportion of respondents (40.00 to 46.66 per cent) of all the three groups preferred inclusion of new subject areas like diseases of fishes and their control and a new preferred inclusion of soil and water analysis in the training programme.

These two areas were not included in the training programme. Even though fish diseases were not a major problem in the study area, yet diseases problem was faced by some of the respondents. So, these respondents felt the need to have some knowledge on fish diseases and their control measures. Of the respondents who preferred inclusion of new subject areas in the training programme, some (16.60 to 46.15 per cent) wanted to have knowledge on soil and water analysis. Perhaps these respondents may be more inquisitive to know about new things.

More than fifths (43.33 to 46.66 per cent) of the respondents of 1979

and 1981 groups and nearly three fourths (70.00 per cent) of the respondents of 1980 group preferred to have more intensive training on some subjects already dealt in the existing training. All such respondents wanted more intensive training in induced fish breeding, which is a new technique developed for breeding fishes in captivity. As the training was of preliminary nature, this subject was not dealt in detail in the training. So, the respondents wanted more intensive training in this subject. However, the FFDA used to give a separate intensive training on induced fish breeding to the experienced progressive fish farmers.

A few respondents of 1980 and 1981 groups (10.00 and 20.00 per cent respectively) wanted to increase the then daily allowance of Rs.5/- per trainee. Now the FFDA had increased the daily allowance to Rs. 10/- per trainee considering the increasing trend in the cost of living.

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WEED CONTROL IN SPANISH BUNCH GROUNDNUT UNDER IRRIGATED CONDITIONS

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ABSTRACT

Experiments indicated that pre-emergence application of either fluchloralin (0.75 kg a.i./ha) or pendimethalin (1.0kg a.i./ha) followed by one hand weeding were effective in controlling predominant annual grass weeds *Echinochloa colonum*, *Dactyloctenium aegyptium* and *Panicum ripens* and for achieving pod yields in groundnut irrigated by canal water on red sandy loam soils of Tamil Nadu.

KEY WORDS: Herbicides, Groundnut.

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