

ANALYSIS OF TRAINING NEEDS OF FISH FARMERS IN IKORODU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA

A. O. AJALA, E.A. KOLAWOLE AND A.O. OWOLABI

Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Landmark University, Omu-Aran, Kwara State, Nigeria.

Correspondence: ajala.abiodun@lmu.edu.ng, 07068617924

ABSTRACT

This study investigated the training needs of fish farmers in Ikorodu Local Government Area of Lagos State. 80 out of 150 fish farmers currently operating in the Fish Farm Estate, Ikorodu were randomly selected and data was collected with structured interview schedule. Result show that the following practices were practised by farmers in the study area: pond/vats/fibre glass/tank cleaning, water quality maintenance and management, pond fertilisation, brood stock production, spawning, fingerlings sourcing/production, disease prevention, control and management, feed formulation and production/sourcing, record keeping, fish feeding, fish processing, fish storage, fish sorting, pest and predator control, fry care, transfer and feeding, siphoning, and fish transportation. The mean age of the fish farmers was 45 ± 13.0 years with 63.8% being male. Majority (78.8%) were married with mean family size of 4 ± 2 . Majority (82.5%) of the farmers had more than twelve years of formal education. The mean farming experience was 8 ± 3 years with average mean income of 1.4 million naira. 58.8% of the farmers had high level of knowledge of the practices. Training was needed in seven out of the seventeen practices thus: pond/vats/fiber glass/tank cleaning, pond fertilization, record keeping, fish feeding, fish sorting, fry care, transfer and feeding, and siphoning. The major constraints to fish production are high cost of feed and lack of capital. It is recommended that training by extension agents should focus on the needs of the farmers.

Keywords: Training, fish, farmers, training needs, knowledge.

INTRODUCTION

Aquaculture is the farming of fish in confined waters. It also includes the husbandry, management, and multiplication or breeding of all useful aquatic organisms in manmade ponds, cages or other enclosures in lakes and coastal waters. The problem of animal protein supply over the years in Nigeria has been tackled by various efforts of the government, one of which is fish production. This effort has gone a long way in reducing malnutrition and poverty, but has not proved to be enough in eradicating them. Training is a process of acquisition of new skills, attitude and knowledge in the context of preparing for entry into a vocation or improving one's productivity in an organization or enterprise (Sajeev, Singha and Venkatasubramanian, 2012). Sajeev and Singha (2010) posited that training plays an important role in the advancement of human performance in a given situation.

According to Wikipedia (2015), training needs analysis is the process of identifying the gap in employee training and related training needs. The purpose of training needs analysis is to

provide answers to the following questions: what is needed and why, where is it needed, who needs it, how will it be provided, how much will it cost and what will be the business effect? (Greenberg, 2015). Currently, numerous challenges are confronting fish farming practices; among which are poor management, inadequate supply of good quality fish seed, lack of capital, high cost of feed, inadequate access to extension services and poor marketing of products. Although, most research and extension efforts have focused on providing information on improved fish production technologies, it appears that these efforts are not enough. Consequently, this study identified the training needs of fish farmers in Ikorodu Local Government Area of Lagos State.

METHODOLOGY

The study took place in Lagos State. Lagos State shares boundaries with Ogun State both in the north and east. The state is endowed with marine, brackish and fresh water ecological zones with varying species that provide productive fishing opportunity for fishermen

(Adesoji and Kerere, 2013). Eighty out of the 150 fish farmers in the Fish Farm Estate, Odogunyan, Ikorodu were randomly selected for the study. The training needs of the fish farmers were measured using the 5 Point Likert-Type Scale comprising of Not Needed (1 point), Needed (2 points), and Extremely Needed (3 points). The training needs index was the sum of the scores on all 17 practices with maximum score being 85 and the minimum score being 17.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-economic characteristics of the fish farmers.

As shown in Table 1, the mean age of the fish farmers was 45 ± 13 years. This means that majority of the fish farmers were able-bodied and agile young men and women who possessed the physical strength to perform tasks required in fish farming. Majority were male (63.8%) and married, (78.8%) which is conformity with Adesoji and Oladele (2013) findings which reported more male fish farmers. This could mean that fish farming is perceived as a good income channel to meet up with the financial responsibilities arising from their families. Majority (95%) of the fish farmers have a family size of 4 persons. This shows the availability of family labour in assisting the fish farmers in their business. Also, a little above average (55%) of fish farmers had 17 and above years of formal education. This high literacy will enhance their knowledge level and the efficiency of their fish farming operations. The study results showed that majority (76.2%) had less than 10 years of farming experience. Also, above average (55%) of fish farmers had less than ₦ 500,000 income per annum. This shows that most of the fish farmers were small scale operators. Furthermore, 81.2% of fish farmers were engaged in fish farming as a primary occupation which is in agreement with Olaoye *et al.* (2014) findings that majority of fish farmers engage in fish farming as a primary occupation.

Level of knowledge of improved fish production management practices

Results in Figure 1 shows that 58.8% of the fish farmers had high level of knowledge of the identified fish production management practices. In addition; according to the results, 41.2% of the fish farmers had low knowledge level. This is in agreement with the findings of Rajan *et al.*

(2013) that 67.78% of fish farmers in their study area had above average level of knowledge of the identified fish production management practices.

Training needs of fish farmers

The study results in Table 3 shows the training need distribution of fish farmers on improved fish production management practices using the mean score for each of the improved fish production management practices identified. Specifically, training was needed by fish farmers in the following areas: pond/vats/fiber glass/tank cleaning (mean=1.54), pond fertilization (mean=1.54), record keeping (mean=1.60), fish feeding (mean=1.51), fish sorting (mean=1.46), fry care, transfer and feeding (mean=1.73) and siphoning (mean=1.61).

CONCLUSION

Majority of fish farmers engaged in all the improved fish production management practices. Fish farmers needed training on: pond/vats/fiberglass/tank cleaning; pond fertilization; record keeping; fish feeding; fish sorting; fry care, transfer and feeding; and siphoning. Also farmers level of knowledge of the practices was above average. It is recommended that training should be conducted for fish farmers in the area of their training needs so as to enhance their capacity.

REFERENCES

- Adesoji, S. A. and Kerere, F. O. (2013). Assessment of the knowledge level of fishers and fish farmers in Lagos State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Knowledge, Innovation and Entrepreneurship*. Volume 1 Nos. 1– 2, 2013, pp. 41–56. Retrieved from http://www.kiecon.org/IJKIE_Vol_1_2013_SA_Adesoji.pdf
- Greenberg, C. I. (2015). *How to conduct a training needs analysis*. Retrieved from <http://www.xperthr.com/pages/carli-greenberg>
- Olaoye, O. J., Ashley-Dejo, S. S. and Adekoya, E. O. (2014). Small holder fish farmers Information and training needs in Ogun State of Nigeria. *Global Journal of Science Frontier Research: Agriculture and Veterinary*. Volume 14 Issue 3 Version 1.0 Year 2014. ISSN: 22494626 and Print ISSN: 09755896. Retrieved from

- https://globaljournals.org/GJSFR_Volume14/1SmallHolderFishFarmersInformation.pdf.
- Rajan, P., Dubey, M. K., Singh, S. R. K., and Khan, M.A. (2013). Factors affecting knowledge of fish farmers regarding fish production technology. *Indian Res. J. Ext. Edu.* 13 (2), May, 2013. Pp. 126-129.
- Greenberg, C. I. (2015). How to conduct a training needs analysis. Retrieved from <http://www.xperthr.com/pages/carl-i-greenberg>.
- Sajeev, M. V. and Singha, A. K. (2010). Capacity Building through KVKs: Training needs analysis of farmers of Arunachal Pradesh. *Indian Res. J. Ext. Edu.* 10 (1), January, 2010. Pp. 83.
- Sajeev, M. V., Singha, A.K., and Venkatasubramanian, V. (2012). Training needs of farmers and rural youth: An Analysis of Manipur State, India. *J Agri Sci*, 3(2): 103-112 (2012)
- Wikipedia, (2015). Fish. Retrieved from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fish>.

Table 1: Distribution of Fish Farmers by their Socio-Economic Characteristics

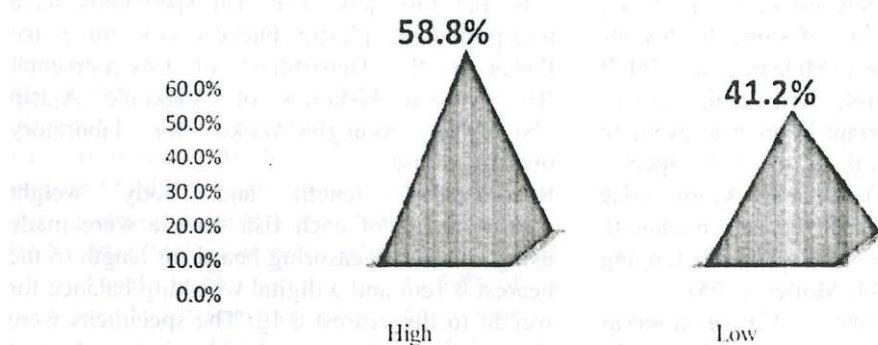
Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Mean±std. Dev
Age (years)			
< 30.00	8	10.0	45±13
30.00 - 39.00	17	21.2	
40.00 - 49.00	27	33.8	
50.00 - 59.00	14	17.5	
60.00+	14	17.5	
Gender			
Male	51	63.8	
Female	29	36.2	
Marital status			
Single	10	12.5	
Engaged	3	3.8	
Married	63	78.8	
Divorced	4	4.9	
Family size (Number of person/house)			
< 4.00	24	30.0	4±2
4.00 - 7.00	52	65.0	
8.00+	4	5.0	
Years spent in formal education			
< 7.00	9	11.2	16±6
7.00 - 11.00	5	6.2	
12.00 - 16.00	22	27.5	
17.00+	44	55.0	
Farming experience (Years)			
< 10.00	61	76.2	8±3
10.00 - 19.99	13	16.2	
20.00+	6	7.5	
Income (in naira)			
< 500000	44	55.0	1.4million
500000 – 999999	13	16.2	
1000000+	23	28.8	

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 2: Distribution of Fish farmers by their Training Needs

Improved Fish Production Management Practices	Mean	Training need
1. Pond/vats/fibre glass/tank cleaning	1.54**	Needed
2. Pond fertilization	1.54**	Needed
3. Record keeping	1.60**	Needed
4. Fish feeding	1.51**	Needed
5. Fish sorting	1.46**	Needed
6. Fry care, transfer and feeding	1.73**	Needed
7. Siphoning	1.61**	Needed
Grand Mean	1.78	

Source: Field Survey, 2016** Training needed.



Source: Field Survey (2016)

Fig 1. Level of Knowledge of Improved Fish Production Management Practices