

# Training Needs of Beekeepers and Constraints Perceived

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## Abstract

Training needs are first and foremost, organizational needs. As pressures for change impinge on an organization, from outside or inside, it responds through expansion, adoption of new technologies, development of new functions and reorganization of existing ones, and through several other options. Many of these organizational responses call for training.

The training needs that an organization has hammered out in response to various pressures for change become in turn the pressures of individuals to change. To deal effectively with impending new jobs and situations, individuals need new knowledge understanding and skills. What they do not already possess, they need to acquire, through training.

Beekeeping is a thriving form of farming with bee products. Honey has also offered great promise to some of the most undernourished areas of the world. Bees benefit the plants not only increasing their yield, but also improve crop quality. Since beekeeping does not compete for inputs with other farming processes or crop, it is an ideal program for integration.

Keeping this fact in view, the present study 'training needs of beekeepers in Haryana' was undertaken with the following specific objectives: to identify the training needs of beekeepers; to establish the relationship between personality traits and training needs of beekeepers and to find out the constraints in the adoption of beekeeping.

The study was conducted in the Haryana state. Kurukshetra and Yamunanagar districts were selected purposively keeping the maximum concentration of beekeepers in the state. A list of beekeepers was prepared for each district separately in consultation with State Department of Agriculture, Department of Entomology CCSHAU, Hisar and Beekeeping Wholesalers of the concerned districts. Accordingly, a total number of one hundred and twenty beekeepers constituted the sample for the study undertaken. The data was collected personally by the researcher through a well-structured and pre-tested interview schedule containing items pertaining to the objectives of the study.

The training needs of beekeepers were assessed by developing a well-structured interview schedule. All the major areas, namely, selection of site and equipments, life cycle of bees and their rearing, frequency of examination during different seasons, management of bee colonies during different seasons, essential operations, bee forage and pollination, bee-hive products and their extraction, processing, and medicinal values, protection of bee pests, diseases and other hazards and the business of bees were included. The respondents were asked to give their preference on a three-point continuum i.e. most required, required and least required training areas and scores assigned as 3, 2, and 1 were given, accordingly. The respondents were grouped into three categories i.e. low, medium into three categories i.e. low, medium and high level of training needs by using equidistance method. The frequency, mean, percentage, correlation, and regression equation were fitted to draw the meaningful results. Income levels of the respondent were categorized into low, medium and high level and their percentage in also calculated.

Similarly, all the major constraints faced by the respondents were categorized into five sub-constraints, namely, technological constraints, service, supply and marketing constraints transfer of technology constraints, economic constraints, and general constraints were included. The respondents were asked to give their preference on a three-point continuum i.e. very serious, serious, and most serious areas in beekeeping and scores assigned as 3, 2 and 1 were

given, accordingly. The frequency, weighted score, cumulative score, mean, constraints percentage, and rank order were used to draw the meaningful results.

The findings revealed that majority of the respondents were belonged to middle to young age group. The study further revealed that majority of the respondents were having medium to high level of family education, socio-economic status, innovativeness and risk bearing capacity. It was also found that majority of respondents had low to medium level of extension contact and land holding, respectively.

With respect to training needs of beekeepers in different areas, it was found highest in protection of bee pests, diseases and other hazards (84.93%) followed by the business of bees (71.35%), bee-hive products and their extraction, processing, and medicinal values (70.55%) and essential operations (64.66%). Lowest was observed in selection of site and equipments.

The training needs of beekeepers were negatively and significantly correlated with their socio-economic status, innovativeness and risk bearing capacity. Their regression analysis showed that about 61 per cent variations were jointly explained by all eight variables. However two independent variables socio-economic status and innovativeness had significant influence on training needs of beekeepers.

The training needs of landless beekeepers were negatively and significantly correlated with their socio-economic status, mass media exposure, risk bearing capacity and innovativeness. Their regression analysis showed that about 58 per cent variations were jointly explained by all the seven variables. However, three variables namely, socio-economic status, risk bearing capacity, and innovativeness had significant influence on training needs of beekeepers.

The study revealed that majority of respondents belonged to medium to low level of income group.

The constraints such as lack of knowledge about pest predator control in beekeeping, fear of loss of colonies due to excessive use of pesticides, Inadequate availability of truly professionals, high cost of equipment lack of timely and appropriate transfer of technology measures by extension organization/State Agricultural University and State Agriculture Department and lack of training facilities at district level were considered as most serious constraints with the highest constraints percentage score in their respective categories of constraints in the adoption of beekeeping.

Key words: training needs, beekeeping, constraints, bee growers etc.

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