

Technological training need and interest of the farm women for different crop cultivation operations of Haryana State

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ABSTRACT

Women play an important role in agriculture. Majority of farm women are associated directly/indirectly with the agricultural operations. Since women are little bit exposed to formal education, imparting training to them on the agricultural work being performed by them would help in improving quality of their work. For this, a critical analysis of their training need was felt necessary with the specific objectives *viz.* to make a profile of farm women and to assess the technological training need and interest of the farm women. The above study was conducted in six villages, two from ladwa block (Kurukshetra) two from Indri block (Karnal) and two from Bilaspur block (Yamunanagar) of Haryana during 2004-05 and 2005-06. A purposive proportionate sample of 250 farm women, who were actively involved in farming, was selected for the present study. The data were collected with the help of structured interview schedule. Most of the farm women were in young age group belonging to backward caste, illiterate, having low family education status, negligible social participation belonging to nuclear family with agriculture as their main occupation low innovative proneness. Regarding information input sources, use of localite source were of high extent, while low cosmopolite and mass media exposure. It is concluded that the storage and harvesting were found the most needed and interested training area by farm women with the highest rank of 2.58 and 2.34 mean square, respectively while the medium rank was found for weeding, transplanting, nursery raising, insect-pest management and manure and fertilizer application. The lowest rank of 1.50 average square was found for land preparation and irrigation. Farm women reported their need and interest for farming in rice cultivation. In case of sugarcane growing area most needed interesting training area was harvesting with mean square 2.29 followed by weeding (M.S. 2.29) and storage (M. S. 2.23). Therefore, need-based trainings for farm women should be organized in order to update their knowledge and skills and thereby change in their attitude for cultivation of rice and sugarcane crop more effectively. These experiences can also be utilized for other similar area at global level for farm women.

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Women constitute half the world's population, accomplish about two third of its working hours, receive one tenth of the world's income and own less than one-hundredth of the world's property (Gupta, 1987).

Agriculture is the mainstay of nation's economy especially rural community of the Haryana state. In rural areas, women are equally the bread earners of the family and work as much as men in various agricultural operations. A large number of farm women are engaged in farming operations either as cultivators or helpers to cultivators or agricultural labourers.

Women participate in most of the agricultural operations like manuring, land preparation, sowing of seeds, transplanting, weeding, applying fertilizers, taking care of standing crops, harvesting, threshing, carrying the produce from farm to home, storage of food grains, cattle care and preparation of manure pit. The success or failure of a farm depends mainly on the contribution made by farm women (Rani *et al.*, 2001).

The media is playing an important role in passing on meaningful information at faster rate to the large number

of farm women in our country. It has emerged as one of the powerful sources of seeking relevant scientific information by our farm women, therefore, tapping and utilizing media for transferring the newly generated technologies in agriculture among the Indian farm women is crucial and of significant importance. This is mainly due to the fact that the vast majority of our farm women inhabiting in remote rural areas where facilities could not be arranged for sustainable individual or group approaches of technology transfer as it could be highly expensive and difficult in managing information infrastructure.

In view of importance women farmers direct access to technological information sources. Thus, the present study was undertaken with objectives to make the profile of the farm women and to assess the training need of the farm women.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Yamuna Nagar, Karnal and Kurukshetra districts. The study was undertaken in Ghespur and Dhalera villages of Bilaspur block of Yamuna