

## Role performance of tribal farmwomen in domestic and agricultural activities in Gujarat state

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### ABSTRACT

Like other rural women, tribal farmwomen also play an important role in agriculture. Farmwomen play vital role within home as housewives in managing the domestic affairs and they work as co-partners in the farming profession. Scientific achievements and modernization are yet to make an impact on them. Keeping this fact in view the present investigation on role of tribal farmwomen in agriculture in Navsari district was undertaken. Based on the study it was observed that farmwomen's participation in pre-sowing and sowing operations revealed that the highest respondents engaged with sowing followed by stubble collection, clode crushing , manuring and seedbed preparation. Incase of interculturing operations the participation of the farmwomen was observed to be the highest in weeding followed by gap filling, application of fertilizer, bird scaring, irrigation, bunding and hoeing with hand.

**KEY WORDS** : Role performance, Tribal Farm women, Agricultural activities

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### INTRODUCTION

Even cultural anthropological literature suggests that agriculture is invention of women. Farming in India is mainly a family occupation. Most of the family members are acutely engaged in farming. At present when the farm technology is changing at faster speed a farmer has to adopt this in order to become a competitive and efficient farmer. The change in farming has increased manifold. The farming capabilities for taking timely and judicious decisions by the farm families have a direct bearing on the agricultural development in country. It is well known fact that decision is the heart of management. Much of success of farm families depends upon how well the family members develop skills in decision making. There has been little realization about the contribution of women in the economic activities of a country. This was a position in most of counties till recently and India is no exception.

Farmwomen play vital role within home as housewives in managing the domestic affairs and they work as co-partners in the farming profession. No operation in field is beyond them. They are best in sowing, transplanting, weeding, manuring, harvesting, winnowing, threshing, storing, marketing and rearing livestock etc. Besides they are the manager to the household activities.

They take important decision in home and outside the home. Scientific achievements and modernization are yet to make an impact on them.

Agriculture is a predominant sector, which provides employment in rural areas. The female population constitutes nearly half of the total population. It is a well recognised fact that more than 60 % of agricultural operations have been traditionally handled by women. The contribution of women to the farm sector has largely been ignored and inadequately understood in the Indian context.

Though women play different roles in their home activities as wives, as mothers and as homemakers, they also play a pivotal role in agriculture and livestock management. They still continued to share number of farm operations with men from early ages of invention of agriculture to the present day of modern agriculture.

Looking the significant role of tribal women in agriculture and allied activities, the study on rural woman's role in farm management was undertaken keeping in view of the increasing importance of involvement of rural women in agricultural production programmes. Studies in this field so far have exhibited a little concern on rural woman's role in Gujarat state. Hence this study was conducted in Navsari disctrict of Gujarat with the

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