

Women in agriculture : a profile

URMILA DEVI AND SHASHI KANTA VERMA

Accepted : May, 2009

ABSTRACT

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. Majority of the farmwomen are associated directly\indirectly with the agricultural operations. For study, twenty villages from ten districts were selected purposively on the basis of crops grown in area. A proportionate purposive sample were drawn for each villages comprising of 800 rural women. Personal, social, economic, communication, and psychological variables of the farm women were assessed for each of the selected crop. The pretested structured interview schedule was used to collect data personally. The data collected were processed, tabulated and analyzed by using frequency, percentage etc. Results revealed that most of the respondents were in age group between (below 28 years), belonged to general category caste, illiterate had low family education status, belonged to nuclear family, having landholding between 2.51 to 5.0 acre. Most of the respondents had tube-well and canal as source of irrigation, gross monthly income between Rs. 1500 to 5500, and possessed milch animals up to two. Regarding information input sources, use of localite sources was of high extent while cosmopolite and mass media were used to a low extent. Regarding psychological variables, most of the respondents were having low economic motivation and low risk orientation.

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to:

SHASHI KANTA VERMA
Department of Home
Science and Extension
Education, C.C.S. Haryana
Agricultural University,
HISAR (HARYANA) INDIA

Key words : Background, Farm women, Crops, Zone

Women play an important role in agricultural. Majority of the farm women are associated directly\indirectly with the agricultural operations. Agricultural productivity mainly depends on the extent to which the farmers become aware and adopt newly developed technology. In rural areas, women are equally the bread earners of the family and work as much as men in various agricultural operation. Women participate in most of the agricultural operations like maturing, 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 foodgrains, 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.*, 2002). Communication media are the major means used by the farm women to achieve their goals. All agricultural work are done by the men\women and the achievements in agricultural operations depends upon their work performance. It is not only the physical aspects of the farm women that determine their effectiveness but an interplay of farm women characteristics that determine the overall effectiveness (Gupta, 1987). The two aspects communication media and technology, physical tasks are inseparable so far as agricultural work performance is concerned, It is thus imperative to study the profile of the farm women. A number of studies have highlighted special

recruitment for those who work for development of agriculture (Jhamthani *et al.*, 2001). Keeping in view the importance of farm women in the success of agriculture was felt necessary with the following specific objective viz. the background profile of farm women was studied.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Haryana State. The Haryana state was divided into eight agro ecological zones – at least one district from each zone and one block from each district and two villages from each block were selected purposively for the present study. Thus, twenty villages from ten districts were selected purposively on the basis of crops grown in area. A proportionate purposive sample were drawn for each villages which is comprising of 800 rural women. Only those women were selected for the study who were actively involved in farming. Major crops grown in Haryana state were wheat, rice, *bajra*, gram, cotton, sugarcane as cash crop, sorghum and *Berseem* as fodder crop were included in the study.

Personal, social, economic, psychological variables and Information input sources of the farm women were assessed for each of the selected crop.. The structured interview schedule was developed and pretested on non sampled respondents. The interview was conducted personally by the investigator with the women farmers individually. The data thus collected were processed,