

Research Paper :

Access to and control over productive resources of members of dairy cooperatives

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Haryana State, India on a sample of 200 members of dairy cooperative, comprising of 100 men and 100 women drawn from 10 villages of two districts, Hisar and Mahendergarh. Gender profile revealed that majority of both the men and women were in middle age groups, men were matriculates and women were illiterate, both were having medium size of family and farming was the main occupation. It was found that men had more access to and control over land, capital, farm income, animal related, household related, extension services and trainings and institutions and markets.

Key words : Productive resources, Dairy cooperatives, Gender analysis

The access and control profile of resources and benefits profile is a tool to help identify gender-based patterns of power and decision-making. The ability and opportunity to acquire resources by men and women does not necessarily imply that they will have the power to command or control the benefits that are derived from these activities. It is generally seen that though women have access to productive resources *viz.* land, animals, house, property, gadgets, media, credit, technology etc. but as they lack control of these resources they are away from commanding, participation and decision making regarding their use, sale and purchase.

Gender analysis undertaken in several studies in different parts of the world for different contexts reveal that men and women do not have the same access or control over productive resources and benefits accruing from them. This gender-based inequality has implications on personality, capacity, behaviour, authority, development, participation and empowerment. Sethi (1991) stated that lack of land rights are major reason for women's lack of authority and power in the decision making process. Nath (1992) revealed that rural women earnings are only 10 per cent of that of their male counterparts. Quist (1995) stated that despite equal right of women to own property there is a tendency that land and property are more often owned by men.

In India, livestock development is emerging as a major rural development activity and more so as an activity which is likely to benefit women directly (Ramkumar *et al.* 2004; Chaudhary, 2005). Rural farmers in the state of Haryana are engaged in agro-based activities especially

as land is a limiting factor. Dairying is emerging as the best suitable alternative in this situation for ensuring regular marketing of their produce, timely payment and other benefits (Grover and Sethi, 2005; Birthal and Taneja, 2006). Although, the involvement of women in livestock production is a long-standing tradition all over the world, but livestock patterns differ widely among ecological zones, and socio-political systems (Niamir, 1990). The present study has been undertaken to investigate access to and control over productive resources of members of dairy cooperatives in Haryana state through gender analysis.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Haryana state, India on a sample of 200 members of dairy cooperatives, comprising of 100 men and 100 women drawn from 10 villages of two districts, Hisar and Mahendergarh. Five dairy cooperatives from each selected district, which is total of ten dairy cooperatives, were selected purposively. The selected dairy cooperative societies were Baropati, Talwandi Rana, Arya Nagar, Ladwa and Dhaima from Hisar district and Balaha Kalan, Raghunathpura, Bachhod, Silarpur and Ratta Kalan from Mahendergarh district.

The relevant variables for the present study were selected on the basis of extensive review of literature, consultation with experts and a pilot study conducted in the area of investigation. An interview schedule was prepared and used for primary data collection from the field. The responses for these productive resources were collected for various aspects under category of access