

## Role of women in Agriculture

■ FATIMA BUCHH, NEELOFAR KHAN AND FARHAT JAN

Received: 26.03.2012; Revised: 20.04.2012; Accepted: 20.05.2012

See end of the paper for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to :

**FATIMA BUCHH**  
Womens Studies Centre,  
University of Kashmir,  
KASHMIR (J&K) INDIA

■ **ABSTRACT** : Agriculture is a contraption of escalation and poverty diminution in Srinagar where it is the focal occupation of the meagre. But the agricultural sector in Barakpora is underperforming, in parts because women, who represent a key reserve in agriculture and the rural economy through their roles as farmers and labourers almost everywhere, face more rigorous constraints than men in access to fruitful resources.

■ **KEY WORDS** : Women, Role, Agriculture

■ **HOW TO CITE THIS PAPER** : Buchh, Fatima, Khan, Neelofar and Jan, Farhat (2012). Role of women in Agriculture. *Asian J. Home Sci.*, 7 (1) : 144-147 .

Women make essential contributions to the agricultural and rural economies in all developing countries. Their roles diverge significantly among and within regions and are changing rapidly in many parts of the world, where economic and social forces are transforming the agricultural segment. Rural women often manage intricate households and pursue numerous livelihood approaches. Their activities typically include producing agricultural crops, tending animals, processing and preparing food, working for wages in agricultural or other rural enterprises, collecting fuel and water, caring for family members and maintaining their homes. The Indian social systems exhibit momentous disparities. Their traditional roles are not identical in all strata of society, norms and taboos governing their roles and behaviours within and outside the family, the structure of family organizations and social practices and the positions accorded to women in a community differ considerably across regions, cultures and levels of socio-economic development. Women in rural areas generally bear primary responsibility for the nutrition of their children, from gestation through weaning and throughout the critical period of growth. In addition, they are the principal food producers and preparers for the rest of the family. Despite their contributions to food security, women tend to be invisible actors in development. Often, their work is not recorded in statistics or mentioned in reports. As a result, their contribution is poorly understood and often

underestimated.

Women make important contributions to the agricultural and rural economies of all regions of the world. However, the exact contribution both in terms of magnitude and of its nature is often difficult to assess and shows a high degree of variation across countries and regions. Women constitute one half of the nation's population *i.e.*, half of its human resource, make a significant contribution to economic and social development, as citizens, workers and mothers, therefore, emancipation of women and their involvement in developmental efforts should be considered as economic and social progress. Women are featured mostly in welfare programmes for health, education and child care, but not in the designing and implementation of developmental programmes. They are generally employed in the poorest paid, lowest skilled, least regular, most marginal and arduous jobs, because of the constraints imposed upon them as 'women' (Roy *et al.*, 1984).

In 2007, women made up about 41 per cent of total employment in agriculture globally. FAO's projections through 2010 indicate that of the percentage of economically active women in least developed countries, more than 70 per cent work in agriculture. In developing countries, most women's work is devoted to agriculture. Women are involved in every stage of food production.

According to Swaminathan, the famous agricultural