

Role of women in farming, allied and off-farm activities

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ABSTRACT

Women played a distinctive and accepted role in the process of earning a livelihood for the family in both the marketing of products of agriculture and handicraft. The study was undertaken with the objective of studying the role of farm women in farming, allied and off-farm activities. Majority of the farm women were engaged in farm activities like sowing, transplanting, intercultural, harvesting and post harvesting operations. Most of the farm women were engaged the role in dairy activities, poultry keeping, goat rearing, sericulture and horticultural operations activities. Some of them were also engaged in small scale industries and income generating activities.

Key words : Farming, Off-farm activities, Agricultural operations.

Women constitute half of the Indian population. Around 80 % of the total female population lives in rural and out of 31 million women work force of the country, 20 million are living in rural areas. The role played by women in agriculture is more enormous and fully recognized. Women accounted for more than 76 per cent of the marginal workers and about 16 per cent of them are main workers. Among main workers as well as marginal workers more women belong to the category of agricultural labourers. The role of women and their involvement is more in production, processing and storage of grains. In general, 60-70 per cent of labour input is provided by womenfolk which increases upto 80 per cent in rice. Women formed part of a highly valuable human resources which with appropriate training and education, can bring about phenomena changes in the desirable direction. By keeping this view, the main focus of this paper was, to find out the role played by the farm women in farming, allied and off-farm activities.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Tirupattur Taluk of Vellore district in Tamilnadu. Ten villages were randomly selected. A list of farm women families were obtained from Village Administrative Officers. A sample of 360 respondents was selected using proportionate random sampling method from 10 villages of Tirupattur Block of Vellore district. Out of which 210 were engaged in farming, 90 were in farm and allied activities and 60 were in farm. The data were collected by using a pre-tested structured schedule through personal interview method. The data were tabulated and interpreted with suitable statistical tools.

OBSERVATION AND DISCUSSION

Role of women in farm activities:

It could be ascertained from Table 1 that the tasks performed by the farm women under land preparation

Table 1 : Role of farm women in farm activities (n=210)

Sr. No.	Role performance	Farm women	
		No.	%
I. Land preparation			
i.	Ploughing, puddling and levelling	-	-
ii.	Stubble collection	55	26.19
iii.	Application of manures	25	11.90
iv.	Cleaning of field boundaries	30	14.28
v.	Farming ridges and furrows	-	-
II. Nursery preparation			
i.	Selection of seeds	167	79.52
ii.	Seed treatment	152	72.38
iii.	Sowing the seeds	210	100.00
iv.	Irrigating the nursery	-	-
v.	Plant protection in nursery	-	-
III. Transplanting			
i.	Pulling out the seedlings from the nursery	180	85.71
ii.	Bio-fertilizer application	62	29.52
iii.	Transporting the seedlings	91	43.33
iv.	Transplanting the seedlings	210	100.00
IV. Inter-cultivation			
i.	Irrigation	-	-
ii.	Cleaning the irrigation channels	60	28.57
iii.	Thinning and gap filling	210	100.00
iv.	Earthing up	192	91.42
v.	Detrashing	102	48.57
vi.	Weedicide application	-	-
vii.	Top dressing	51	24.28
viii.	Plant protection measures	-	-
V. Harvesting			
i.	Draining the water	-	-
ii.	Harvesting	210	100.00
iii.	Collection and heaping	152	72.38
iv.	Bundling	150	71.42
v.	Carrying to the yard	162	77.14