

## Training needs of farm women in post harvest technology

J.V. MANDE AND S.D. NIMBALKAR

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to :

J.V.MANDE

Department of  
Extension Education,  
College of Agriculture,  
LATUR (M.S.)  
INDIA

### ABSTRACT

The large number of working women in India are engaged in farm operations either as cultivators or as agricultural labourer. They participate mainly in post harvest activities, like harvesting, grading, storing, processing and preservation of farm products. Therefore, it becomes necessary to train the farm women in post harvest operations. The present study was undertaken in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra to identify training needs of farm women in post harvest technology. The study revealed that most needed areas of training as perceived to be most needed by farm women were methods of safe storage (94 per cent), control measures against storage pests (92 per cent), different storage pests and their nature of damage (88 per cent) and drying period for safe storage (84 per cent).

### INTRODUCTION

The large number of working women in India are engaged in farm operations either as cultivators or as agricultural labourer. Their participation in seed treatment, sowing of seeds, interculturing, water management, crop harvesting, drying, winnowing, storing of seeds and farm products is well recognized. The contribution of women in agriculture is roughly estimated to be about 70 to 80 per cent.

They participate mainly in post harvest activities, like harvesting, grading, storing, processing and preservation of farm products. Once the farm produce is brought to the house, future responsibility rests with women. Post harvest technology is a multi-disciplinary applied science and engineering, evolved for scientific conservation of agricultural produce by eliminating avoidable losses and for making available the nutritive food and high value products. In spite of the fact that fairly good training programmes are conducted for rural reconstruction, not much attention is paid to improve skills and to utilize the potential of the farm women in agriculture. Therefore, it becomes necessary to train the farm women in post harvest operations. The present study was undertaken with the main objective of determining the training need of farm women in post harvest technology.

### METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in

Madhewadgaon and Kashti village of Shrigonda Tahsil in Ahmednagar district from which 150 respondent women were selected by multistage random sampling. The data were collected with the help of structured interview schedule by personally interviewing the farm women. Frequency, percentages and coefficient of correlation were worked out for analyzing and interpretation of data.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It is evident from Table 1 that farm women perceived the highest need of training in the method of storage of agricultural produce with 2.94 score followed by the other major areas viz., control measures for storage pests (2.92), storage pests and their nature of damage (2.88), drying period for safe storage (2.85), with about 84 per cent to 94 per cent farm women identifying as most needed areas of farming. The other areas of training need were low cost storage structures and preparation of processed products with 2.3 and 2.06 training need score and 58 and 41 per cent of respondents mentioning most needed areas of training, respectively. Moreover, 32 per cent respondents mentioned grading, packing, transporting of fruits and vegetables as most needed item of training.

### Overall training need:

Table 2 indicates that the majority of the farm women (58.0 per cent) needed medium training, while 30.67 per cent needed high and

**Key words :**  
Training need,  
Farm women,  
Post harvest  
technology

Accepted :  
July, 2010