

Adoption of organic and integrated farming practices followed by women farmers in northern transitional zone of Karnataka

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Received: 12.09.2012; Revised: 30.10.2012; Accepted: 30.11.2012

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■ **ABSTRACT** : Indian rural women are extensively involved in agricultural activities. However, the nature and extent of their involvement differ with the variations in agro-production systems. The mode of female participation in agricultural production varies with the land owning status of farm households. The present study is an attempt to profile the adoption of organic farming and integrated farming practices followed by women farmers in northern transitional zone of Karnataka. The study was carried out to know the impact of sustainable agriculture on family income. Ninety women farmers from Belgaum, Dharwad and Haveri districts were selected as the respondents of the study. The results indicated that the women farmer of Belgaum district followed the organic farming practices in higher percentage followed by Dharwad district. Women farmers in Belgaum district adopted higher per cent of the integrated farming practices such as practicing and processing of vermicompost (70.00%), using vermicompost in field (64.44%) and maintaining dairy (56.67%).

■ **KEY WORDS** : Organic farming, Integrated farming practices, Women farmers

■ **HOW TO CITE THIS PAPER** : Jadhav, Veena S., Bhatnagar, Archana and Naik, Deepa (2012). Adoption of organic and integrated farming practices followed by women farmers in northern transitional zone of Karnataka. *Asian J. Home Sci.*, 7 (2): 487-489.

Indian rural women are extensively involved in agricultural activities. However, the nature and extent of their involvement differ with the variations in agro-production systems. The mode of female participation in agricultural production varies with the land owning status of farm households. Their roles range from managers to landless labourers. In overall farm production, women's average contribution is estimated at 55 per cent to 66 per cent of the total labour force with percentages, much higher in certain regions. In the Indian Himalayas, a pair of bullocks work 1064 hours, a man 1212 hours and a woman 3485 hours in a year on one-hectare farm, a figure that illustrates women's significant contribution towards agricultural production (Shiva FAO, 1991).

Women play a significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields including in the main crop production, livestock production, horticulture, post harvest operations, agro/social forestry, fisheries etc. in a fact long taken for granted but also ignored. In some of the farm activities

like processing and storage, women predominate so strongly that men workers are numerically insignificant (Aggarwal, 2003). Studies on women in agriculture conducted in India and other developing and under developed countries all points to the conclusion that women contribute for more to agricultural production than has generally been acknowledged. Recognition of their crucial role in agriculture should not obscure the fact that farm women continue to be concerned with their primary functions as wives, mothers and homemakers. The present study is an attempt to profile the adoption of organic farming and integrated farming practices followed by women farmers in northern transitional zone of Karnataka.

■ RESEARCH METHODS

The study was conducted in three districts of Northern Transitional Zone of Karnataka. These three districts viz., Belgaum, Dharwad and Haveri receive moderate to heavy rainfall, there facilitating production of a variety of crops.