

## Gender role in farm activities

J.R. RODGE AND C.M. BELLURKAR

### ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken in Parbhani district of Marathwada region to correlate the selected variables and participation of rural women in farming activities. The results indicated that participation of women alone in farming activities was not cognizable, while it was quite notable as a joint venture with husbands. The correlation coefficient of rural women's participation in farming activities with different variables depicted that education and land holding were not significantly correlated, while age, occupation and family size were negatively significant, whereas type of family was correlated positively and it was highly significant. Income was not significant with participation of rural women in farming activities.

**KEY WORDS :** Rural women, Rural men, Participation, Farming activities, Post harvest activities

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### INTRODUCTION

In India agriculture has always been a way of life rather than commercial vocation. In 70.00 per cent of the Indian population, farming is mainly a family occupation where both men and women of all ages take part in various activities related to production, processing and storage of farm produce.

Rural women play a vital role as house wives and co-partners in farming profession. As cultural and social endowment, they have the responsibility for all domestic tasks including cooking, fetching of water, washing, care of children and livestock. In addition they toil in the fields engaging various pre and post harvest operations. Majority of women work in marginal occupations to supplement family income by collection of fuel wood, fodder, practicing animal husbandry and marketing of many rural and forest produce (Srivastava, 1988). Rural women contribute about 36.00 per cent of the total employment of the agriculture.

Participation of woman in agriculture, especially in third world has been silently appreciated without much recognition (Prasad *et al.*, 1988). Thus, in reality they have remained invisible. The role of woman as an important work force, understanding wide variety of activities in farm is widely accepted, yet their role in decision making is not well identified. Unrecognizing of their participation may

be due to the variation in this role in different situation.

The present study was therefore under taken with the following objectives to find out the extent of participation of farm women in farming activities and to find out the correlation between personal characteristics of farm women with their participation in farming activities.

### METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in two villages, namely Bori and Zari located in Parbhani district of Marathwada region. A total of 150 rural housewives, 75 each from Bori and Zari villages belonging to land holding families were randomly selected. The interview schedule was formulated to elicit the specific information. Variables selected for the study were age, education, occupation, land holding, income, type of family and size of family of the respondents. The collected data were consolidated and tabulated for calculating the coefficient of correlation to indicate the relation between different variables with farm activities.

### OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSION

It was found that maximum number of respondents (85.35 per cent) belonged to nuclear families and 69.36

#### Correspondence to:

J.R. RODGE, Department of Family Resource Management, College of Home Science, Marathwada Agricultural University, PARBHANI (M.S.) INDIA

#### Authors' affiliations:

C.M. BELLURKAR, AICR Project, Department of Home Science Extension Education, College of Home Science, Marathwada Agricultural University, PARBHANI (M.S.) INDIA