



Rural women in integrated farming system-A critical appraisal

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ABSTRACT

The study was taken up in Dharmapuri district. Two villages in each taluks were chosen randomly. The samples were drawn by using proportionate random sampling technique. Thus a total sample size was 100 respondents. The data were collected through interview schedule using statistical tools. The findings of the study revealed that in agriculture about three fourth of the respondents perceived and expressed their desire for training in post harvest operations, marketing, plant protection and preparatory cultivation. All the respondents (100%) needed training in preparation of kitchen garden, vegetable seed production, grafting and pot mixture preparation. About 75 per cent in flower cultivation and post harvest processing(65%) in horticulture. In dairy farming, cent per cent of them needed training in purchase of animals, maintenance of cattle shed and processing of milk. Among other areas in protection of animals (75%)and marketing(68%) and feeding of goats(52%). All of them preferred training in protection of birds and marketing of eggs in poultry farming. In the case of goat rearing also needed in protection and marketing aspects. More than two third of them needed training in silkworm rearing cocoon production. Majority of them (65%) opted for training during crop season and in their village. This might be due to the reason that they can immediately use the training content during the training season itself.

INTRODUCTION

Integrated farming system is one of the potential approaches for small and marginal farmers. In general these category of farmers are resource poor and lower economic sustainable dependent on only one or two inefficient enterprises. In farming system, soil health, economic sustainability and employment generation are more concern for successful system. Farming system approach is one of the approaches where in the risk in dealing with single component which can be minimized and at the same time the productivity per unit area per unit time can be sustainability enhanced through effective recycling. Crop husbandry, the selection of crops and cropping system to a particular location depends on the adaptability and sustainability yield potential. Instead of mono crop of high intensive crop go for double cropping or intercropping. The various enterprises that could be included in farming system are crops, dairy, poultry, fish, goat, pig, sericulture, mushroom cultivation, agro-forestry etc. with combination of field crops and horticultural crops viz., fruits,

vegetables, plantation crops enhance the farm income. The plantation / agro-forestry plants managed significantly for fuel wood and economic returns were tamarind, drumstick, jack fruit etc. The selection of each enterprise on the basis of contribution to the total net income it should contribute at least 10 per cent of the total and not more than 50 per cent to the total.

Agriculture, the back bone of Indian economy is basically a family enterprise in which woman has active participant. She is a cultivator, co-operator, labourer and contribution to farm and family income. In order to increase the agricultural productivity farmers and rural women should be helped to acquire more scientific knowledge and skills to bring the new technologies to farm. Singh (1986) claimed that training alone can bring the effective communication. The women in the family also have equal share in the farm operations and decision making about the involved enterprise. Under this juncture, it is imperative to know the capabilities of women in the skills acquired to play a substantial role in farming and what they need.