



Role performance of women in decision making of vegetable cultivation in Poonch district

■ Neerja Sharma, Arun Gupta¹, R.K. Arora and Sanjay Kher

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (S.K.U.A.S.T.), POONCH (J&K) INDIA

¹Division of Vegetable Science and Floriculture, Faculty of Agriculture, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Chatha, JAMMU (J&K) INDIA

Email : neeraj1975@gmail.com

ARTICLE INFO :

Received : 09.05.2012
Revised : 29.08.2012
Accepted : 04.10.2012

KEY WORDS :

Participation, Decision making, Rural women

HOW TO CITE THIS ARTICLE :

Sharma, Neerja, Gupta, Arun, Arora, R.K. and Kher, Sanjay (2012). Role performance of women in decision making of vegetable cultivation in Poonch district, *Adv. Res. J. Soc. Sci.*, **3** (2) : 170 - 173.

ABSTRACT

Rural women of Poonch, in addition to their daily work routine, consisting of, cooking, cleaning, and other domestic chores, are also heavily involved from crop production to livestock rearing, they participate in various practices of vegetable cultivation. In vegetable cultivation, women perform a variety of tasks both in cultivation as well as marketing. Practices related to vegetable cultivation have now been considered as a family enterprise in which husband and wife participate to share work and pleasure both. Thus, it is expected that all decisions related to practices of vegetable cultivation are also taken jointly. The study focused on rural women of Poonch in what extent they participate in decision making process. Women of Poonch of low economic category were found to participate in more practices related to vegetable cultivation. Formation of self-help group, Mahila Mandal needs to be encouraged to increase their knowledge and skill, so that their participation in various practices of vegetable cultivation will not only remove drudgery and also provide adequate nutrient supplements. Thus, there is a great need for involving rural women of Poonch in vegetable cultivation as cash crop and their skills in the activities which they are vitally concerned.

INTRODUCTION

Development of women in rural areas is the major thrust area of many rural development programmes implemented by the government as they not only constitute nearly half of its population, but also influence growth of the remaining half of the population. Despite, women are poorer than men mostly because they are deprived of equal rights and opportunities, denied of the access to the financial/economic resources and the status in the society. Moreover, women are illiterate and have little time to know about the latest advances in vegetable production. Women are generally engaged in multiple occupations ranging from unpaid family labour to self-employed in their home or village or outside to generate income for themselves. In Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) women constitute nearly half (47.15%) of the total population that form about 29

per cent of total labour force (Baba *et al.*, 2010). Out of the total of 10.74 lakhs female workers, 15.45 per cent are engaged in agricultural sector either as cultivators or agricultural labourers. Rural women of district Poonch participate in various practices of vegetable cultivation. In the vegetable production, women perform a variety of tasks both in cultivation as well as marketing. With the advent of science and technology, the rural society is witnessing unprecedented changes in all spheres of life; consequently, the members of families involved in vegetable cultivation are called upon to make certain adjustments which involve series of decisions. Practices related to vegetable cultivation have now been considered as a family enterprise in which husband and wife participate to share work and pleasure both. Thus, it is expected that all decisions related to practice of vegetable cultivation are also taken jointly. So, a study was undertaken to know how far rural women of Poonch