

Role of farm women workers in decision making of farm families

U.D. PATIL, T.B. DEOKATE AND S.D. SURYAWANSHI

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to :

U.D. PATIL

Department of
Agricultural Economics,
Mahatma Phule Krishi
Vidyapeeth, Rahuri,
AHMEDNAGAR
(M.S.). INDIA

ABSTRACT

Rural women play a significant role in domestic and socio-economic life of the society such that national development is not possible without developing this important and substantial segment of our society. This study was conducted to examine the role of farm women workers in decision making of farm families. 120 samples were selected from 4 villages. Chi-square test was used to quantify decision-making process of farm women. It was observed that the socio-economic characteristics of the women farmers significantly affect the decision making in agriculture.

INTRODUCTION

Women are the lifeblood in developing countries. Women play a considerably role in the economic welfare of the families in the complex rural society. However, a particular activity is specified to be performed either by men or women exclusively. Men and women are actors in a complex rural society which functions more or less smoothly and benefits both sexes. Both men and women perform complementary and more often multiple roles to improve the welfare of their families. As per 2001 census total population in India is 1027.0 millions and out of that the population of Maharashtra is 96.7 millions. Total number of males are 53.12 crores (about 52 per cent) and female 49.58 crores (about 48 per cent). As many as 72.2 per cent of population live in rural areas and the urbanities constitute 27.8 per cent. In India, 67 per cent of total population are engaged in agriculture. Agriculture and allied industrial sectors employ as much as 89.5 per cent of total female labour. In the case of working population rural female participation rate is 27.2 per cent *i.e.* nearly thrice of the urban female participation rate (9.7 per cent) Indian rural women carry a heavy burden of participation in different farm operations and activities. In addition to this physical work, women also help in decision-making with regard to farm practices, operations and household affairs. Successful management of the farm and family is totally dependent upon

taking a right decision at right time and execution of the same with proper zeal and ability. Thus, women as wives and mothers have a considerable part in decision making in home as well as in farm affairs and because of this, it is considered that women play an important role in the development process. The objective of the study is the role of women in decision making of farm family.

METHODOLOGY

From Sangamner Tahsil of Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra state. 120 samples were selected from four villages. From each village, 30 samples were collected. Out of 120 samples, 30 samples were selected from each size group of farmers *viz.*, I, II, III and IV, having the size of holding, 0.01 to 2.00 ha, 2.01 to 4.00 ha and above 4.01 ha, respectively. The landless families were taken as size group-I. The data were collected with the help of questionnaire specially designed for the purpose. The data were pertaining to agricultural year 2004-05 from selected sample families. The data of the sample families were compiled according to size groups of farms.

Decision making function:

Chi-square tests was used to quantify the decision making process of farm women. The following formula was used :

$$\chi^2 = (1/n) \sum \frac{(a_{ini} - b_{ini})^2}{(a_i + b_i)}$$

Key words :

Farm women,
Farm family,
Decision making

Accepted :
July, 2009