



Seasonwise employment and income of female labourers in Amravati district

D.D. MUNDA, U.S. SHINGANE AND A.O. TRIPATHI

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to :

U.S. SHINGANE

Department of
Agricultural Economics
and Statistics, Shri
Shivaji Agriculture
College, AMRAVATI
(M.S.) INDIA

ABSTRACT

Investigation was undertaken to estimate the socio-economic status, seasonality of employment and contribution of female labourers in the total family income considering soybean, cotton, pigeonpea in *Kharif* season and chickpea and wheat in *Rabi* season. For these, total 120 samples were studied considering large, medium, small, marginal farmers and landless labourers. The employment days were observed more in landless labourers. Income earned by the female landless labourers was highest as compared to most of the females of farmers families group.

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INTRODUCTION

Woman are a vital part of Indian economy. Over the years, there is a gradual realization of the key role of women in agricultural development and their vital contribution in the field of agriculture and women have been putting in labour not only in terms of physical output but also in terms of quality and efficiency. Women play a significant and crucial role in agricultural operations, including different crop production activities, post-harvest activities etc. They are devoting many hours in the field but their work is not given due credit. The multiple role of women in agricultural operation are generally under estimated and under-valued.

METHODOLOGY

The study on socio-economic status of female agricultural labourers in Amravati district was carried out for the present study Amravati and Bhatkuli Tahsils of Amravati district were selected. From these Tahsils, six villages were randomly selected on basis of land holding of farmers. From each village four farmer families and landless family were selected. Twenty four farmers from each group and sixty families from each Tahsil were taken. The families were categorized as large farmers

(above five hectare), medium farmers (2.01 to 5 hectare), small farmers (1.01 to 2 hectare), marginal farmers (upto 1 hectare) and landless labourers families.

The primary data pertaining to the year 2009-10 from these selected farmers were collected by personal interview in a pre-tested questionnaire. The data pertaining to family information, land use pattern, cropping pattern, capital assets etc. farm days on farm work and non-farm days on farm work, wage rates per day, income source were also collected. Collected data were analyzed by using appropriate statistical tools like averages, percentage etc. in order to accomplish the objective of the present study.

OBSERVATION AND ANALYSIS

The findings of the study as well as relevant discussion have been summarized as under :

The employment days were observed more in landless group with 63.87 days and decreased as land holding increased. The lowest employment days were observed in large group of families where the employment days were only 25.92 days spent in the farm work. The unemployment days

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