



Research Article

Contribution of the tribal farm women in livestock management

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SUMMARY : Women are the critical input in livestock management. Women's involvement in livestock production is a long standing tradition in India, where domestic animals have been an integral part of the family farming system. Although most of the work related to dairy farming is carried out by the women; their role has been ignored. Hence, the study on analysis of different roles performed by the rural women and the factors affecting them are of paramount importance to the planners, decision makers, governments and extension workers involved in the process of rural development. Keeping this fact in view, the present study has, therefore, been premeditated and undertaken in Navsari district of the South Gujarat with specific objectives. The frequency of involvement of tribal farmwomen was seen the highest in cutting and bringing a fodder followed by compost making, watering, feeding, milking to animals, cleaning of cattle shed and so on. The relationship between independent variables of the respondents and their involvement in animal husbandry was found negative for all of the independent variables except type of family. Selection of fodder and feed was dominantly decided by farmwomen followed by sale of milk and its products, whereas the decisions regarding sale and purchase of animal, selection of animal breed and keeping herd size of herd were taken jointly by family members.

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The census data of 2001 reflects the fact that out of the total 496 million of rural female population 23.9 per cent are workers and about 87 per cent female workers are found in Agriculture. Farm women are the backbone of the Indian agriculture and the animal husbandry enterprises are completely dependent on them. Animal husbandry is an allied activity of agriculture and thus it forms an integral part of the rural economy. It is a potential employment creating additional income to the rural poor particularly small and marginal farmers as well as agricultural labourers. Therefore, livestock enterprise has provided a strong support to Indian farmers. India is endowed with the largest livestock population in the world with 55 per cent buffaloes and 16 per cent of the cattle population. Women's involvement in livestock production is a long standing tradition in India, where domestic animals have been an integral part of the family farming system. Although most of the work related to dairy farming

is carried out by the women, their role has been ignored (Khanduri and Rukma, 2004). Hence, the study on analysis of different roles performed by the rural women and the factors affecting them are of paramount importance to the planners, decision makers, governments and extension workers involved in the process of rural development. Keeping this fact in view, the present study has therefore, been premeditated and undertaken in Navsari district of the South Gujarat with the following specific objectives. To analyze the role performed by rural Tribal women in Livestock Management enterprise, to examine the relationship with socio personal variables and the role performance of women in livestock management practices and to study the attachment of the tribal farm women in decision making related to the livestock management.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The present investigation was conducted in Navsari district of the Gujarat state, which is

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