



RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Extent of participation of rural youths in farming: A study in Jorhat district of Assam

■ M. BURAGOHAIN, N. BORDOLOI AND T.V. KUMAR

ARTICLE CHRONICLE :

Received :

11.07.2017;

Accepted :

25.08.2017

KEY WORDS :

Extent of participation, Ex-Post-Facto research design, favourable attitude towards farming, farm operations, decision making

SUMMARY : The study entitled “Extent of participation of rural youths in farming: A study in Jorhat district of Assam” was carried out in Jorhat district of Assam, following Ex-Post-Facto research design. A total of 200 respondents were selected by using multistage purposive cum random sampling technique. The data were collected by means of personal interview schedule during 25th Feb, 2016 - 3rd April, 2016. The findings revealed that majority (49.50%) belonged to the age group of 25-29 years and educated up to middle school level (26.50%) with single type of family (72.00%) and most of them (47.50%) had marginal operational land holding. The main occupation of majority (56.00%) of the respondents’ families was farming and annual income for highest percentage of respondents (35.50) ranged between Rs. 160001 - Rs. 260000. The majority of respondents (57.50%) received one day training related to agriculture and majority (94.50%) of respondents had more favourable attitude towards farming and the majority (68.00%) of respondents had medium level of mass media exposure. It was found that majority (52.00%, 49.50% and 49.50%) of respondents had medium level of participation in farm operations, management activities and decision making, respectively.

How to cite this article : Buragohain, M., Bordoloi, N. and Kumar, T.V. (2017). Extent of participation of rural youths in farming: A study in Jorhat district of Assam. *Agric. Update*, **12** (TECHSEAR-10) : 2800-2805.

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Agriculture remains fundamental to poverty reduction and economic growth in the 21st century. The economic development of the country, by and large, depends on the development of the agricultural sector and provision of employment to the vast rural youth. The role of youths is important in making future of a country. The state of Assam predominantly has a rice based agricultural system. Sali rice is the main rice crop which covers about 70 per cent of the total rice area.

The farmers of Assam are characterized by small land holding, less cash inflow and poverty. If they cultivate rice crop more specifically sali rice, their cash inflow will be more, which will lead to reduction of rural poverty and increase in capital for further investment. Gogoi (1989) studied participation of women in farm operation and defined participation in farm operations as the frequency of involvement of the women in different farm operations. He measured participation of women in farm operations by calculating frequency and percentages. In the

Author for correspondence :

M. BURAGOHAIN

Department of
Extension Education,
Assam Agricultural
University, JORHAT
(ASSAM) INDIA
Email: moromiburagohain13
@gmail.com

See end of the article for
authors’ affiliations

present study extent of participation in farm operation is defined as the frequency at which the rural youth's are taking active part in various farm operations. Extent of participation in management activities was also considered in the same way and defined as the frequency at which the rural youth took active part in various farm management activities.

Likewise extent of participation in decision making was defined as the frequency with which the rural youths were involved in making decision regarding various farm activities. Karmakar (1992) in her study on extent of participation of women in decision making used the scale developed by Laxmi Devi (1988) for measuring this variable. The participation of rural youths in sali rice cultivation will be motivating factor for developing a sense of work culture for the youths of the non sampled area and also for generating income through such production oriented activities. In this study active participation of the rural youths in farm operations related to various aspects of farming were identified as the areas of farming where participation of rural youths is possible.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The population of the study comprised the rural youths in the study area that were engaged in farm operation during the study. Jorhat district was purposively selected for the present study. Two sub-division *viz.* Jorhat and Titabor were selected randomly from Jorhat district. Two A.D.O. circles from each sub division were selected randomly. These were - Dhekorgorah and Teok A.D.O. circles under Jorhat sub-division and Madhapur and Baghchung A.D.O. circles under Titabar sub-division were selected randomly. Two villages from each A.D.O. circle were selected randomly for the present study. Thus altogether there were eight randomly selected villages. Hence a total of 200 rural youths were sampled.

Data were collected using structured schedule and open ended questions administered to 200 randomly selected respondents. Variable for analysis included the following: Age, Education, Type of family, Size of family, Operational land holdings, Annual income of family, Occupation of parents, Training exposure, Attitude towards farming, Mass media exposure and level of participation in farm operations, management activities and decision making. Data analysis was carried out through the use of frequency counts, percentages.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

Table 1 shows that highest percentage of sampled respondents (49.50%) belonged to 25-29 years. The educational level of the respondents ranged from illiterate to post graduate and above level. Majority 26.50 per cent of respondents were middle school passed. Majority of the respondents (72.00%) had nuclear type of family. It was found that majority of the respondents (50.00%) had small sized family consisting of 2-4 members. 47.50% of the respondents had marginal land holding in overall sample. It was seen that majority (35.50%) of the respondents belonged to group with annual income ranging between Rs.160001-260000. It was found that the parental occupation of the majority of the respondents (56.00%) was farming and majority of the respondents (57.50%) had attended 1 day trainings related to agriculture. Table 1 reveals that majority of the respondents (94.50%) had more favourable attitude towards farming and also majority 68.00% had medium level of mass media exposure.

Table 2(a) shows that the youths in the study are participated in most farming operations regularly, especially transportation of bundles from field to threshing floor (60.50%), storage of straw (59%), storage of grains (58%), transportation of storage to market (47.50%), land preparation (46.50%), preparation of bundles (45%), preparation of bed (43.50%), application of fertilizers (40.50%) and seed sowing (40%) among them.

Table 2(b) shows the extent of participation of the respondents in farm operations. An examination of the table reveals that majority of the respondents (52.00%) had medium level of participation followed by 24.00% low and 24.00% medium.

From the Table 3(a) it was observed that majority of the respondents (48.00%), (54.50%), (44.00%), (43.00%) and (50.00%) regularly participated in distribution of labour in different farm activities, collection or procuring inputs like seeds / fertilizers / plant protection chemicals from different agencies, contracting wholesaler / middle man for selling of farm produce, keeping contact / vigilance for obtaining proper share from tenants and Supervising labours in their day to day activities, respectively among them.

Table 4.3(b) shows that the majority of respondents had medium (49.50%) level of participation in management activities. About 25.50 per cent of the respondents had low participation and the rest 25.00 per

Table 1: Distribution of respondents by socio-economic and psychological characteristics. (n= 200)

Variables	f	%
Age (Years)		
15-19	45	22.50
20-24	56	28.00
25-29	99	49.50
Total	200	100
Educational level		
Not literate	9	4.50
Literate without formal schooling	4	2.00
Literate but below primary level	12	6.00
Primary school	15	7.50
Middle school	53	26.50
High school	29	14.50
Higher secondary	42	21.00
Diploma/certificate course	9	4.50
Graduate	24	12.00
Post graduate and above	3	1.50
Total	200	100
Type of family		
Single	144	72.00
Joint	56	28.00
Total	200	100
Size if family		
Small (2 to 4)	104	52.00
Medium (5 to 7)	61	30.50
Large (8 and above)	35	17.50
Total	200	100
Size of operational land holding		
Marginal (below 1 ha)	95	47.50
Small (1-2 ha)	77	38.50
Semi medium (2-4 ha)	28	14.00
Total	200	100
Annual income of family		
Below Rs. 60000	8	4.00
Rs. 60001 to 160000	61	30.50
Rs. 160001 to 260000	71	35.50
Rs. 260001 to 360000	37	18.50
Rs. 360001 to 460000	15	7.50
Rs. 460001 to 560000	7	3.50
Above Rs. 560000	1	0.50
Total	200	100
Occupation of parents		
Farming	112	56.00
Farming + Business	31	15.50
Farming + service	44	22.00
Farming + Business + Service	13	6.50
Total	200	100
Training exposure		
No training	51	25.50
1 day training	115	57.50
2 day training	31	15.50
3 day training	0	0
4 day training and above	3	1.50
Total	200	100
Attitude towards farming		
Less favourable attitude (0-20)	11	5.50
More favourable attitude (above 20)	189	94.50
Total	200	100
Mass media exposure		
Low (<1.25)	34	17.00
Medium (1.25-6.37)	136	68.00
High (>6.37)	50	15.00
Total	200	100

Table 2 Extent of participation of the respondents in farm operation**Table 2(a) Distribution of respondents based on frequency of extent of participation in farm operations**

Sl. No.	Category	Regularly		Sometime		Never	
		<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%	<i>F</i>	%
1.	Land preparation	93	46.50	49	24.50	58	29.00
2.	Preparation of bed	87	43.50	36	18.00	77	38.50
3.	Seed sowing	80	40.00	44	22.00	76	38.00
4.	Puddling in main field	73	36.50	50	25.00	77	38.50
5.	Application of fertilizer	81	40.50	62	31.00	57	28.50
6.	Application of manure	83	41.50	61	30.50	56	28.00
7.	Weeding	31	15.50	50	25.00	119	59.50
8.	Bunding	40	20.00	60	30.00	100	50.00
9.	Spraying/dusting	52	26.00	45	22.50	103	51.50
10.	Harvesting	26	13.00	44	22.00	130	65.00
11.	Preparation of bundles	90	45.00	71	35.50	39	19.50
12.	Transportation of bundles from field to threshing floor	121	60.50	68	34.00	11	5.50
13.	Threshing	66	33.00	66	33.00	68	34.00
14.	Storage of straw	118	59.00	66	33.00	16	8.00
15.	Storage of grains	116	58.00	67	33.50	17	8.50
16.	Transportation of storage to market	95	47.50	47	23.50	58	29.00

Table 2(b) : Distribution of respondents based on extent of participation in farm operations (n=200)

Sr. No.	Category	Score range	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	S.D.
1.	Low	<7.38	48	24.00	16.94	9.56
2.	Medium	7.38-26.50	104	52.00		
3.	High	>26.50	48	24.00		
Total			200	100		

Table 3 : Extent of participation of the respondents in management activities**Table 3(a) : Distribution of respondents based on frequency of extent of participation in management activities**

Sl. No.	Category	Regularly		Sometime		Never	
		<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%
1.	Distribution of labour in different farm activities	96	48.00	44	22.00	60	30.00
2.	Collection or procuring inputs like seeds / fertilizers / plant protection chemicals from different agencies	109	54.50	63	31.50	28	14.00
3.	Contracting wholesaler / middle man for selling of farm produce	88	44.00	28	14.00	84	42.00
4.	Maintaining records of different farm produce	33	16.50	40	20.00	127	63.50
5.	Maintaining records of different farm inputs	33	16.50	39	19.50	128	64.00
6.	Keeping contact / vigilance for obtaining proper share from tenants	86	43.00	33	16.50	81	40.50
7.	Supervising labours in their day to day activities	100	50.00	55	27.50	44	22.00
8.	Allocation of funds to meet the expenses on different farm activities	84	42.00	29	14.50	87	43.50
9.	Arrangement of funds to meet the expenses on different farm activities	83	41.50	33	16.50	84	42.00

Table 3(b) : Distribution of respondents based on extent of participation in management activities (n=200)

Sl. No.	Category	Score range	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	S.D.
1.	Low	<2.5	51	25.50	8.95	6.45
2.	Medium	2.5-15.5	99	49.50		
3.	High	>15.5	50	25.00		
Total			200	100		

cent had high level of participation in management activities.

From the Table 4.4(a) it was observed that majority of the respondents regularly participated in all the decision making activities related to farming viz. deciding about new areas to put under different crops(43.50%), quantity and type of manures and fertilizers to be used in the farm (47.50%), use of plant protection measures such as pesticides, herbicides, insecticides (47.00%), taking loan from bank (43.50%), borrowing money for farm operations from neighbours, relatives, friends (51.00%), arrangement of family labours (53.50%), deciding about involving labour in monthly, weekly, daily payment basis(49.00%), purchasing of tools and implements (54.50%), purchasing a new piece of land (54.50%), selling a piece of own land (54.00%), giving / taking land on lease (50.50%) and quantity of produce or grains to be marketed (49.50%).

A perusal of the Table 4(b) reveals that out of 200 respondents 45.50 per cent had medium level of participation in decision making. About 29.00 per cent of the respondents had high level of participation and the

rest (25.50%) had low level of participation. The finding was similar to the finding of Sharma (1994) and Vidya *et al.* (2009).

Conclusion and implications of the findings :

Rural youths constitute a formidable force in agricultural production. This work examined youths participation in farming operation in rural areas of Jorhat district. The youths were found to engage in various farming activities like transportation of bundles from field to threshing floor, storage of straw, storage of grains, transportation of storage to market, land preparation, preparation of bundles, preparation of bed, application of fertilizers and seed sowing among them. Also majority of the rural youths were found to have medium level of participation in farm operations, management activities and decision making, respectively.

So, it is recommended that the youths should be given the right incentives by government to intensify the in participation in farming activities. Such incentives include: provision of soft loans, tractor hiring services, facilitating land acquisition, Moreover for low income rural youth

Table 4 : Extent of participation of the respondents in Decision making

Table 4(a) : Distribution of respondents based on frequency of extent of participation in decision making

Sr. No.	Category	Regularly		Sometime		Never	
		F	%	f	%	F	%
1.	Trail / adoption of a new crop / Variety (HYV)	77	38.50	42	21.00	81	40.50
2.	Deciding about new areas to put under different crops	87	43.50	34	17.00	79	39.50
3.	Quantity and type of manures and fertilizers to be used in the farm	95	47.50	35	17.50	70	35.00
4.	Use of plant protection measures such as pesticides, herbicides, insecticides	94	47.00	39	19.50	67	33.50
5.	Taking loan from bank	87	43.50	40	20.00	73	36.50
6.	Borrowing money for farm operations from neighbours, relatives, friends	102	51.00	62	31.00	36	18.00
7.	Arrangement of family labours	107	53.50	64	32.00	29	14.50
8.	Deciding about involving labour in monthly, weekly, daily payment basis	98	49.00	47	23.50	55	27.50
9.	Contracting extension personnel for advise	51	25.50	41	20.50	108	54.00
10.	Purchasing of tools and implements	109	54.50	65	32.50	26	13.00
11.	Purchasing a new piece of land	109	54.50	46	23.00	45	22.50
12.	Selling a piece of own land	108	54.00	45	22.50	47	23.50
13.	Giving / taking land on lease	101	50.50	45	22.50	54	27.00
14.	Quantity of produce or grains to be marketed	99	49.50	53	26.50	48	24.00

Table 4(b) : Distribution of respondents based on extent of participation in decision making (n=200)

Sr. No.	Category	Score range	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	S.D.
1.	Low	<6.32	51	25.50	16.53	10.21
2.	Medium	6.32-26.74	91	45.50		
3.	High	>26.74	58	29.00		
Total			200	100		

category, custom hiring and service centre should be established at panchayat level for enhancing the farm mechanization in their farm among others. These can be facilitated by the Extension Agency helping to organize the youths into co-operative groups and organizing educational and training programmes targeting the active portion of the rural youth mainly. Also government and other Agencies should intensify the provision of amenities in rural areas to make life more comfortable for the youths. These will not only encourage them to stay back, but stimulate greater participation in full-time farming and hence help in bettering the economy in the present democratic dispensation.

Authors' affiliations :

N. BORDOLOI AND T.V. KUMAR, Department of Extension Education, Assam Agricultural University, JORHAT (ASSAM) INDIA
Email : nagen_bordoloi@yahoo.com,
yuvarajbunny6@gmail.com

REFERENCES

- Gogoi, B.C. (1989). A study on womens' knowledge and their participation in farm operations with particular references to Rice Production. M.Sc. Thesis, A.A.U., Jorhat.
- Karmakar, A. (1992). A study of the extent of participation of women in decision making in agriculture in Golaghat district of Assam. M.Sc. Thesis, A.A.U., Jorhat.
- Laxmi Devi, A. (1988). Role performance of women in farm and home management (A path analysis). *J. of Res. APAU*, **XV**(2): 143-147
- Sharma, A. (1994). "A study on the attitude of the rural youth and their extent of participation in farming" M.Sc. Thesis of Extn. Edu., AAU.
- Vidya, P.; Manivannan, C. and Sudeepkumar, N. K. (2009). Situational and psychological profile of dairy farmers of Kannur district in Kerela. *J. of Vet. Anim.Sci.* **40**: 37-39.