

Access and control of gender of district Ganganagar over agriculture resources

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ABSTRACT

Gender roles demarcate responsibilities between men and women in social and economic activities, access to resources and decision making authority. Due to gender bias approach, women find it difficult to gain access to valuable resources such as land, credit and agricultural inputs, technologies, extension training and services that would enhance their production capacity. Equal access to and control of women over productive resources increase their participation in decision and policy making, reduce their work load and enhance their opportunities for paid employment and income. The present study was undertaken to find out the access to and control of gender over agriculture activities and resource. The study was conducted in district Ganganagar, Rajasthan. The sample consisted of 150 households (including one male and one female respondent from each household). Personal interview, observation and focus group discussion were used for data collection. The findings indicated that men had more access and control than women over the resources like agriculture land, farm assets, inputs such as improved seeds, fertilizers and insecticides, retention of produce for commercial purpose, management of labour, management of cash and procuring and repaying loan.

KEY WORDS : Gender, Access, Control, Agriculture resources

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INTRODUCTION

Agriculture in India is the vertical backbone of the country and is regarded as the largest sector of the country's economic activity. About 80 per cent of the Indian population either directly or indirectly depends on agriculture. Most of the women perform various works for their livelihood and agriculture is considered as the biggest unorganized sector where large number of Indian rural women take part actively.

Despite the women's' key role in agriculture, there has been a lack of adequate attention towards gender issues in the fields of agriculture research, agriculture extension, information, resources, development projects and mobilization of resources. Keeping the above facts in mind, the present study is an attempt to find out the access to and control of gender over agricultural resources.

METHODS

The present study was carried out in district Ganganagar, Rajasthan under All India Coordinated Research Project in H.Sc.Ext.Edu.-ICAR, New Delhi. The data were collected from 150 rural households

(including male and female) selected proportionately to the profile of the district from four land holding categories of farmers viz., large, medium, small and landless. The sample has been drawn from 6 villages and two blocks. The structured interview schedule was developed to collect the relevant information from the respondents. Personal interview, observation techniques and focus group discussion were used for data collection. The collected data have been analyzed by using frequency and percentage.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

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

Socio-economic status of the respondents:

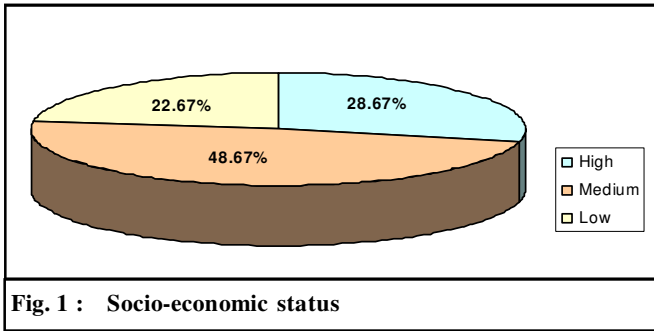
Regarding socio-economic status Fig. 1 shows that nearly half of the respondents (48.67 %) had medium socio-economic status and 28.67 per cent had high socio-economic status and rest 22.67 per cent had low socio-economic status.

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(61.3-85.9%) had complete access over almost all the agricultural resources except three *i.e.* retention of produce for household purpose, grading and storage of produce where 20-44.9 per cent women had complete access. It is surprising to note that a vast majority of female (73.6-88.9%) had no access over farm assets like use and purchase of tractor (81.3%), inputs like fertilizers and insecticides (84.3%), hiring (73.6%), assigning duties (75.9%) and supervising labour (83.9%), credit procuring and repaying (81.5-88.9%). The reasons for such findings might be women's confinement to household activities, lack of mobility, low skill, low educational level, lack of training, bargaining power, fewer opportunities for employment, cultural taboos, male resistance and financial constraints. Further, they were deprived in getting credit and increasing their productive capacity. Acharya (2003) reported that the lack of access over productive resources is the main factor limiting women's equal participation in economic activities, thereby hampering the human

Extent of access of gender to farm related resources:

In the present study resources defined as means and goods including those that are economic (income) and productive (land, equipment, tools, credit). Access to resources referred as right to use of resources by the farm family members. Kolli and Sanghi (1993) defined access to resources as the freedom or permission to use the resources.

It is clear from the Table 1 that majority of male

Sr. No.	Farm related resources	N	Access						
			Complete (%)		Partial (%)		No access (%)		
			RW	RM	RW	RM	RW	RM	
1.	Agricultural land								
	Use	140	0.0	54.9	57.9	44.0	42.1	0.0	
	Purchase	140	0.0	31.0	76.4	69.0	23.6	0.0	
	Sale	140	0.0	37.3	60.7	62.7	39.3	0.0	
2.	Farm assets								
	Tractor	80	1.3	80.2	17.5	19.8	81.3	0.0	
	Tools and implements	140	45.7	63.4	40.7	35.9	13.6	0.7	
3.	Inputs								
	Improved seeds/ varieties	140	0.0	62.7	47.9	29.6	52.1	7.7	
	Fertilizers	140	0.0	85.9	15.7	6.3	84.3	7.7	
	Insecticides/ pesticides	140	0.0	85.9	15.7	6.3	84.3	7.7	
4.	Produce								
	Retention for household purpose	140	31.4	0.0	68.6	69.0	0.0	31.0	
	Retention for commercial purpose	134	0.0	61.3	43.3	38.7	56.7	0.0	
	Grading	69	44.9	19.4	55.1	40.3	0.0	40.3	
	Storage	140	20.0	19.0	77.9	63.4	2.1	17.6	
5.	Management of labour								
	Hiring	87	0.0	64.4	26.4	35.6	73.6	0.0	
	Assigning of duty	87	1.1	65.3	23.0	34.7	75.9	0.0	
	Supervising	87	1.1	71.3	14.9	27.7	83.9	1.0	
6.	Mgt of cash earned from sale of produce	134	5.2	24.8	76.9	75.2	17.9	0.0	
7.	Credit/ loan	54	0.0	81.0	22.2	19.0	77.8	0.0	
	Procuring								
	Source	54	0.0	81.0	18.5	19.0	81.5	0.0	
	Amount	54	0.0	81.0	18.5	19.0	81.5	0.0	
	Repaying								
	Amount	54	0.0	81.0	18.5	19.0	81.5	0.0	
	Mode	54	0.0	81.0	11.1	19.0	88.9	0.0	

development process.

Praveen (2008) in her study on access of rural women to productive resources in Bangladesh reported that due to lack of land ownership the women were always excluded from loans from commercial bank. Due to lack of education, confinement of household activities, lack of familiarity with loan provider and restriction on their motilities, their access to institutional loans was further restricted.

Degree of control of gender to farm related resources:

Control over resources is the availability, usage and decision making regarding its use. According to Kolli and Sanghi (1993), control over resources refers to power to decide whether and how a resource is used and how it is to be allocated.

Data in Table 2 indicate that majority of male (62.7-85.9%) had complete control over most of the farm

resources whereas 20-44.9 per cent female had complete control over three resources *i.e.* retention of produce for household purpose, grading and storage of produce. The table further shows that 73.6 – 88.9 per cent women had no control over few resources like like use and purchase of tractor, inputs such as fertilizers and insecticides, labour hiring, assigning duties and supervising, credit procuring and repaying etc. Bansal (2004) analysed that though rural women were actively engaged in agricultural operations but most of the decisions regarding such operations were made by males thereby denying females of their independent share in decision making. Arora (2006) stated that the controlling power was in the hand of male (84.5%) only and female had low controlling power.

Conclusion:

The present study has provided clear evidence of intrahousehold bias against women in the sharing of benefits from assets or resources possessed by the

Table 2 : Degree of control of gender to farm related resources (n=150)

Sr. No.	Farm related resources	N	Control						
			Complete (%)		Partial (%)		No control (%)		
			RW	RM	RW	RM	RW	RM	
1.	Agricultural land								
	Use	140	0.0	54.9	56.7	44.0	43.3	0.0	
	Purchase	140	0.0	31.0	75.7	69.0	24.3	0.0	
	Sale	140	0.0	37.3	60.7	62.7	39.3	0.0	
2.	Farm assets								
	Tractor	80	0.0	80.2	17.5	19.8	82.5	0.0	
	Tools and implements	140	38.6	66.9	47.9	33.2	13.6	0.7	
3.	Inputs								
	Improved seeds/ varieties	140	0.0	62.7	45.9	27.5	54.1	7.7	
	Fertilizers	140	0.0	85.9	15.7	6.3	84.3	7.7	
	Insecticides/ pesticides	140	0.0	85.9	15.7	6.3	84.3	7.7	
4.	Produce								
	Retention for household purpose	140	31.4	0.0	68.6	69.0	0.0	31.0	
	Retention for commercial purpose	134	0.0	57.7	43.3	35.9	56.7	6.3	
	Grading	69	44.9	19.4	55.1	40.3	0.0	40.3	
	Storage	140	20.0	19.0	77.9	62.7	2.1	17.6	
5.	Management of labour								
	Hiring	87	0.0	64.4	26.4	35.6	73.6	0.0	
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	Supervising	87	1.1	71.3	14.9	27.7	83.9	1.0	
6.	Management of cash earned from sale of produce	134	5.2	19.7	76.9	78.1	17.9	2.2	
7.	Credit/ loan								
	Procuring								
	Source	54	0.0	81.0	18.5	19.0	81.5	0.0	
	Amount	54	0.0	81.0	18.5	19.0	81.5	0.0	
	Repaying								
	Amount	54	0.0	81.0	18.5	19.0	81.5	0.0	
	Mode	54	0.0	81.0	11.1	19.0	88.9	0.0	

household. Extent of farm women's access and control over productive resources reflects their status in the family. Lack of access to and control over productive resources is one of the major factors that hamper women's equal participation in economic activities and the decision making process. To increase farm output equitable allocation of productive resources between male and female farmers should be there. Encouraging farm women to take up income generating activities and creation of minimum assets for farm women may help in increasing their control over productive resources and thereby improving the quality of life of women.

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