

## Determinants of participation in decision making process in relation to agriculture activities

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**ABSTRACT :** Women's participation in decision making about farm activities is dependent upon social, cultural and economic conditions in the area and it varies widely among different regions, ecological sub zones, farming system, caste, class and stages in the family cycle. Certain characteristics such as education, social participation, extension contact, land holding, annual income, cosmopolitaness, scientific orientation, risk orientation and economic motivation positively and significantly influenced the participation of farm women in decision making process. While, characteristics of farm women such as age and size of family were failed to show any significance influenced on the participation of farm women in decision making process. Farm women had medium to high level of participation in decision making process in relation to agriculture activities.

**Key Words :** Relationship, Farm women, Decision making, Agriculture activities

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Decision making about farm management is family business in India. Decisions about all aspects of farm management it actively or passively engage whole family members in it. With hope of use best alternatives to increase production as well as reduce the production cost on farm. Generally, women are at par with men in terms of intelligence, thinking, imagination, attitudes, courage and activities. Decision making of farm women refers to integration and morality of the senses of farm women involved to select best potential alternative from various alternative option availed in a proper direction in relation to agriculture activities but, knowledge and skill of farm women as well as certain personal, socio-economic and psychological characteristics which are prevailing in their residence certainly determined their pattern of participation in decision making process. Keeping in view, study was conducted with following objective: to study the level of participation of farm women in decision making process in relation to agriculture activities and to study the relationship between selected characteristics of the farm women and their extent of participation of farm women in decision making process.

The study was undertaken in Anand district of Gujarat. Anand, Borsad and Petlad talukas which have maximum numbers of small and marginal farmers were selected purposively. Accordingly, five villages from each talukas *i.e.* a

total 15 villages were selected purposively. List of farm women living in these villages which are working on their farm were obtained from VLW's of concerned village. Randomly eight farm women were selected for study, in all, 120 farm women were selected to serve as the respondents for the study. Keeping in view the objectives of the study, well structured pre tested Gujarati version interview schedule was developed. The data were collected by personally interviewing the respondent farm women in an informal atmosphere either at home or farm.

Data presented in Table 1 show the farm women's participation in decision making process in relation to agriculture activities. Table indicates that majority (67.50 per cent) of the farm women had medium level of participation in decision making process about agriculture activities, followed by high (17.50 per cent) level of participation and low (15.00 per cent) level of participation in decision making process in relation to agriculture activities.

As per the data presented in Table 2, clearly indicate that farm woman's characteristics such as education, social participation, extension contact, land holding, annual income, cosmopolitaness, scientific orientation, risk orientation and economic motivation were positively and significantly influence the extent of participation of farm women in decision making process in relation to agriculture activities. It means these

**Table 1 : Distribution of farm women according to their participation in decision making process in relation to agriculture activities (n=120)**

Sr. No.	Over all extent of participation	Frequency	Per cent
1.	Low level participation (up to 26.95)	18	15.00
2.	Medium level participation (26.95 to 37.09)	81	67.50
3.	High level participation (above 37.09)	21	17.50
	Total	120	100.00

**Table 2 : Relationship between profile of the farm women and their extent of participation in decision making process in relation to agriculture activities**

Sr. No.	Name of the variable	Correlation coefficients ('r' value)
	Independent variables:	
	<b>Personal variables:</b>	
1.	Age	-0.1272 NS
2.	Education	0.3680**
	<b>Social variables:</b>	
3.	Size of family	-0.0569 NS
4.	Social participation	0.2929**
	<b>Communicational variables:</b>	
7.	Extension contact	0.3849**
	<b>Economic variables:</b>	
5.	Land holding	0.2311**
6.	Annual income	0.3082**
	<b>Psychological variables:</b>	
8.	Cosmopolitaness	0.3111**
9.	Scientific orientation	0.3142 **
10.	Risk orientation	0.3403 **
11.	Economic motivation	0.3574 **

NS=Non-significant

\* and \*\* indicate significance of values at P=0.05 and 0.01, respectively

characteristics of the farm women certainly determined the level of participation of farm women in decision making process in relation to agriculture activities.

While, age and size of family failed to establish any significant relation with extent of participation in decision making process in relation to agriculture activities. They are independent factors have no influence on the participation of farm women in decision making process in relation to agriculture activities.

### Conclusion:

From on going discussion, it can be concluded that various characteristics of farm women such as education, social participation, extension contact, land holding, annual income, cosmopolitaness, scientific orientation, risk orientation and economic motivation had positive and significant influence on the participation of farm women in decision making process in relation to agriculture activities. While, age and size of family failed to show any significant influence on the participation of farm women in decision making process in relation to agriculture activities. In case of participation in decision making process farm women had medium to high (85.00 per cent) level of participation in decision making process in relation to various agriculture activities. Similarly investigations on decision making by farm women/rural women were carried out by Patki and Nikhade (1998), Premavathi and Setharaman (2005 and Toppo (2005).

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