



# Role of tribal farm women in decision making towards agricultural operations

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## ABSTRACT

The women are the backbone of agricultural workforce but worldwide her hard work has mostly been unpaid. She does the most tedious and back-breaking tasks in agriculture, animal husbandry and homes. They undertake various activities in agriculture such as field preparation, sowing, intercultural practices, weeding, harvesting, picking, grains cleaning, grains storage etc. In this study tribal farm women take the decision making process in eight agriculture operation like crop selection, seed selection, seed treatment, use of weedicide, use of fertilizers, plant protection measures, improved method of storage, time of selling farm produce etc. Hence, the present study was conducted to determine the contribution of tribal farm women in decision making mainly in crop selection. The study that total of 105 tribal farm women were selected as respondents from each five villages of selected block. Related data were collected with the help of personal interview technique. Data analysis by appropriate statistical tools. Whereas, found that recessive in decision regarding farm operation like seed treatment, use of weedicide and plant protection measure etc. Because it is note that most of decision was dominated by male. It is necessary that encourage of tribal farm women for development of his family by appropriate decision and it is a task for government, policy makers and for all to empower the tribal farm women from each and everywhere.

## INTRODUCTION

Women are said to be originator of agriculture. They not only give stability to the life of nomadic habitat, but simultaneously made agriculture a way of life. The labour force participation rate of women is 22.7 per cent, less than half of the men's rate of 51.6 per cent. In rural India, agriculture and allied industrial sectors employ as much as 89.5 per cent of the total female labour.

Agriculture generally involves five stages *viz.*, production, processing, consumption, storage and marketing. In most of the stages farm women are actively involved. Tribal people live in remote area, confined within their society. They are mostly backward, poor, illiterate and indebted. They have their own tradition, style and problem which are quite different from other sections of Indian community. In short they are the traditional bound people with apathetic attitude towards

the change and development tribal development. Tribal women and men help each other in numerous areas of life and without the participation of women life is not complete like household works and agriculture operation. Decision is at the root of all human activities. Every individual is confronted with the problem of decision making in all walks of life. Every action of an individual is the result of conscious or unconscious decision arrived at by him. Decision making is important because much of the success of any enterprise and particularly farming depends upon now the family makes decision. Decision is one of sequence present decision has its root in the past and reflects the nature of future decision. women also play important role in joint decision making process.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was carried out in Seoni district of Madhya Pradesh. The Seoni district comprises of 8 blocks *i.e.* Seoni,

Kurai, Lakhnadon, Chhapara, Ghansor, Dhanora, Keolari and Barghat, out of which one block *i.e.* Chhapara was selected purposively for the study because this block having maximum tribal women population as compared to other blocks of the district. Chhapara block covering 156 villages, out of which 5 villages were selected randomly for study purpose. The selected villages were Chhindwaha, Pipariya, Pondi, Sarandiya, and Khursipar. For the selection of respondents, a list of tribal farm women from each selected village was prepared and from the list, 8 per cent tribal farm women were selected from all 5 villages by random sampling method. Thus, 105 tribal farm women constituted the total sample size (n) of the study. Only ten independent variables have been taken for study and one dependent variable decision making process is using steps developed by Sinha (1966). These steps are desire for change, getting initial information, recognition of the problem, getting additional information, consideration of alternative mean, consideration of resources, consideration of alternative uses of means, decision.

### OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The socio-economic characteristics of respondents were analyzed and presented in Table 1. The study revealed that highest percentage of the tribal farm women belonged to middle age (42.86) group of 31 to 43 years. This might be due to that the tribal farm women of this age group were more involved in agriculture operations than other age group. Similar result were reported by Warkade (2010). Regarding the level of education, majority of tribal farm women were illiterate. Such findings might be on account of the limited availability of education facilities and time or perhaps the tribal women could not afford to have higher education. This study finds support by Wakle *et al.* (2003). Majority of tribal farm women belonged to joint family. This shows that the trend of joint family system is more prevalent in tribal areas. The work of Gokhe (2007) confirmed the present finding. Maximum of tribal farm women belonged to large size (>5) of family. In case of land holding, the finding revealed that the maximum tribal farm women were having small size of land holding and in farm power, higher percentage of the tribal farm women had one bullock pairs of farm power. Similar results were reported by Warkade (2010). Regarding material possession, majority of tribal farm women belonged to medium category of material possession because of having low level of annual income. The findings of Jaiswal (1998) confirm the present study. Most of tribal farm women had low extension contact. This might be due to less opportunity to them for associating in extension activities. More tribal farm women had only one subsidiary occupation. This might be due to fact that tribal women were depending on their main occupation farming and the study revealed that Majority of tribal farm women belongs to low annual income. This might be due to that the tribal women had limited source of income.

**Table 1 : Socio-personal characteristics of respondents (n=105)**

Sr. No.	Variable	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age	Young (18 to 30 years)	31	29.52
		Middle (31 to 43 years)	45	42.86
		Old (44 to 56 years)	29	27.62
2.	Education level	Illiterate	54	51.43
		Can read and write	15	14.29
		Primary	18	17.14
		Middle	12	11.43
3.	Family type	High School	6	5.71
		Nuclear family	45	42.86
4.	Family size	Joint family	60	57.14
		Small family (1 to 5 members)	41	39.05
5.	Size of land holding	Large family (6 to 10 members)	64	60.95
		Marginal (Up to 1.00 ha)	37	35.23
		Small (1.01 to 2.00 ha)	40	38.10
		Medium (2.01 to 4.00 ha)	19	18.10
6.	Farm power	Big (Above 4 ha)	9	8.57
		No farm power	27	25.71
		Less farm power(1 to 4)	49	46.67
		Medium farm power (5 to 8)	24	22.86
7.	Material possession	High farm power (9 to 12)	5	4.76
		Low (1 to 3)	41	39.05
		Medium (4 to 6)	48	45.71
8.	Social participation	High (7 to 9)	16	15.24
		No member of any organization	67	63.81
		Member of one organization	20	19.05
9.	Extension contact	Member of more than one organization	18	17.24
		No extension contact	12	11.43
		Low extension contact(monthly)	41	39.05
		Medium extension contact(fortnight)	36	34.29
10.	Subsidiary occupation	High extension contact (daily and weekly)	16	15.23
		No subsidiary occupation	23	21.91
		Labour	54	51.43
		Animal husbandary+ Goat keeping+Labour	18	17.14
11.	Annual income	Poultry keeping+Goat keeping+Labour	10	9.52
		Low (Rs.15000 to Rs.30000/-)	48	45.71
		Medium (Rs. 30001/- to 45000/-)	32	30.48
		High (Rs. 45001/- to Rs.60000/-)	25	23.81

**Table 2: Relationship between independent variable of respondents and role of tribal farm women in decision making process (n=105)**

Sr. No.	Independent variable	Chi square (x <sup>2</sup> )
1.	Age	1.22 NS
2.	Education	6.68*
3.	Family type	0.34 NS
4.	Family size	4.37 NS
5.	Size of land holding	8.32*
6.	Farm power	14.99*
7.	Material possession	5.05*
8.	Social participation	8.00*
9.	Extension contact	3.83 NS
10.	Subsidiary occupation	8.39*
11.	Annual income	13.54*

\* indicate significant of value at P=0.05  
NS=Non-significant

The study revealed that majority of tribal farm women were taking decision for crop selection (77.14 %), improved method of storage (75.24 %) and time of selling farm produce (72.38 %). Chauhan and Thakor (2006) reported similar findings in decision making regarding animal husbandry.

The positive significant relationship was seen between the role of tribal farmwomen in agriculture education, size of land holding, farm power, material possession, social participation, subsidiary occupation, annual income. Whereas, the negative relationship was observed among age, family type and size, extension contact etc.

**Conclusion :**

The inference can be drawn from the findings that tribal

farm women were taking decision making in crop selection and improved method of storage. Tribal farm women play recessive role in making important decisions related to seed treatment and plant protection measures. Because they have no knowledge of about seed treatment in study area.

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