



## Extent of participation of farm women in different farm practices

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### ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted during the year 2007, in Chikmagalur district of Karnataka with respect to know the extent of participation of farm women in different farm activities and post harvest practices. The study revealed that cent per cent of the respondents were participating in farm activities like transplanting and weeding followed by sowing (91.6 per cent), seed treatment (66.6 per cent), watch and ward (66.6 per cent) and manure application (58.3 per cent). With regard to post harvest practices, majority of the respondents participated in harvesting (87.5 per cent), cleaning (87.5 per cent) and packing / bagging (58.33 per cent) .

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### INTRODUCTION

Over the last 25 years, the role of women in agriculture has become a familiar and well-developed subject, broadly speaking, the early studies legitimized the idea of women as productive partners in agriculture, discovering and documenting the various roles played by women as farmers, farm wives, and agricultural professionals and recounting the stories of successful women in these roles. We have learned that in many cultures women are the farmers, on whom families and communities depend for food production. We have also learned that women often help, support family farm operations or their households through paid farm work for others, or through off-farm and non-farm businesses or paid employment. More recently has come discussion of rural and farm women as important players in successful approaches to food security and in the development and adoption of sustainable agricultural practices. Many studies have analyzed the implications for successful development programmes and policies of incorporating an accurate understanding of women's roles in agricultural systems, and of involving women as leaders and professionals

in the transfer of new technologies and practices.

### Objectives:

- To know the participation of farm women in different farm actives,
- To study the extent of involvement of farm women in post harvest practices.

### METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted during the year 2007, in six villages of Chikmagalur district. Lakya hobli. Twenty farm women from each village were selected in random sampling techniques thus, making a total 120 respondents. The data pertaining to extent of participation of farm women in different farm activities were considered for land preparation, irrigation, fertilizer application, manure application, intercultivation, sowing, seed treatment, nursery raising, transplanting, weeding, spraying of chemicals, watch and ward and harvesting. Where as extent of involvement of farm women in post harvest practices were transportation (from field to threshing yard), threshing, winnowing, cleaning, grading, packing/bagging, transportation (from

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threshing yard to home), storage and marketing. Data were collected by using pre tested interview schedule by personal interview method. The collected data were tabulated and analyzed by frequencies and percentage.

### **OBSERVATION AND ANALYSIS**

The findings of the study have been discussed in detail as under:

#### **Participation of farm women in farm activities :**

Table 1 indicates the information regarding extent of participation of farm women in different farm activities. It is revealed that among the 13 practices listed, cent per cent of the farm women participated in transplanting and weeding. Majority of them participated in sowing (91.6 per cent), harvesting (87.5 per cent), seed treatment (66.6 per cent), watch and ward (66.6 per cent) and manure application (58.3 per cent). This might be attributed to the reasons that the above said farm practices are usually preformed by the women folk as these activities are easy to perform and need less muscular power or energy. None of the farm women participated in spraying of chemicals, where as other agricultural operation like irrigation, fertilizer application, inter cultivation, nursery raising were found low level of women participation. This may be due to the reasons that the above said agricultural operations are skill oriented and need energy.

Sr. No.	Farm activities	Number	Per cent
1.	Land preparation	0	0.0
2.	Irrigation	22	18.3
3.	Fertilizer application	17	14.1
4.	Manure application	70	58.3
5.	Intercultivation	12	10.0
6.	Sowing	110	91.6
7.	Seed treatment	80	66.6
8.	Nursery raising	30	25.0
9.	Transplanting	120	100.0
10.	Weeding	120	100.0
11.	Spraying of chemicals	0	0.0
12.	Watch and ward	80	66.6
13.	Harvesting	105	87.5

Geetalakshmi *et al.* (2002) made the comprehensive study on the farm activities preformed by women labourers in shimoga district. Narayanaswamy *et al.* (2005) emphasized the activities of farm women in organic sericulture.

#### **Participation of farm women in post harvest practices:**

Table 2 clearly indicate that majority of the farm women participated in cleaning the produce at threshing yard (87.5per cent) and packing/ bagging (58.33per cent). Nearly more than half of the respondents were involved in winnowing and grading the produce (54.16 per cent). Only 37.5 per cent of the respondents were performing storage activities. This might be due to these agricultural operations need less energy and more patience, usually farm women had more patience than the men. Where as none of the women participated in transportation of their produce from field to threshing yard and threshing yard to home or market and marketing process. This may be due to transportation of the produce needs more muscular power to load and unload the produce to bullock cart / tractor, with regard to marketing process most of the rural families are more orthodox in nature and highly traditional, they hesitate to send farm women to town to marketing their produce. Premavathi and Seetharaman (2006) made a comprehensive study on the participation of rural women in farm as well home activities.

**Table 2 : Participation of women in post harvest practices (n=120)**

Sr. No.	Farm activities	Number	Per cent
1.	Transportation (from field to threshing yard)	18	15.00
2.	Threshing	15	12.50
3.	Winnowing	65	54.16
4.	Cleaning	105	87.5
5.	Grading	65	54.16
6.	Packing/Bagging	70	58.33
7.	Transportation (from threshing yard to home)	0.0	0.0
8.	Storage	45	37.5
9.	Marketing	0	0.0

#### **Conclusion:**

Majority of farm women participated in almost all the farm practices and post harvest practices like manure application, sowing, seed treatment, transplanting, weeding, watch and ward, harvesting, winnowing, cleaning, grading, packing and bagging Hence, development departments and extension agency/ institution may be given special attention to conduct need based extension programmes in order to increase their knowledge level of the farm women in tern which will help to adopt the new improved practices in order to

improve the socio-economic status of the farming community in general and farm women in particular.

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