



Participation of the tribal farm women in crop management

NIKULSINH M. CHAUHAN

ABSTRACT

Farmwomen are the backbone of Indian agriculture. Growing food has been an interminable saga of her life. Like other rural women, tribal farmwomen also play an important role in agriculture. Farmwomen play vital role within home as housewives in managing the domestic affairs and they work as co-partners in the farming profession. No field operation is beyond the reach of women. They take important decisions in the home and outside the home. Scientific achievements and modernization are yet to make an impact on them. Like other rural women tribal women also play an important role in agriculture. From the study it was observed that Farmwomen's participation in pre-sowing and sowing operations revealed that the highest respondents engaged with sowing followed by stubble collection, clode crushing, manuring and seedbed preparation. Incase of interculturing operations the participation of the farmwomen were observed the highest in weeding followed by gap filling, application of fertilizer, bird scaring, irrigation, bunding and hoeing with hand. In harvesting and post harvesting operations, the highest participation was obtained in nipping / picking and threshing followed by harvesting, winnowing, storage, making threshing yard, bagging, packing and marketing of agriculture products. Majority of the decisions regarding farm management was dominated by husband and majority of the farm management decision was taken by their husband's. The relationship between independent variables like age, education, herd size, land holding, family size and number of children of the respondents and their participation in crop husbandry was observed positively significant. Whereas the negative relationship was observed incase of occupation, type of family and age at marriage.

Correspondence to :

**NIKULSINH M.
CHAUHAN**

Krishi Vigyan Kendra,
Regional Rice Research
Station, N.A.U., Vyara
TAPI (GUJARAT)
INDIA

Email : nikulsinh_
m@yahoo. in

M. Chauhan, Nikulsinh (2011). Participation of the tribal farm women in crop management. *Agric. Update*, 6(3&4): 210-212.

INTRODUCTION

The assumption of agriculture without farmwomen is a difficult task. Farmwomen are the backbone of Indian agriculture. Growing food has been an interminable saga of her life. Like other rural women, tribal women also play an important role in agriculture. Even cultural anthropological literature suggests that agriculture is invention of women. Farming in India is mainly a family occupation (Khanduri *et al.* 2004). Most of the family members are intensely engaged in farming. At present when the farm technology is changing at faster speed, a farmer has to adopt this in order to become a competitive and efficient farmer. The change in farming has increased manifold. The farming capabilities for taking timely and judicious decisions by the farm families have a direct bearing on the agricultural development in country. It is well known fact that decision is the heart of management. Much of success of

farm families depends upon how well the family members develop skills in decision making. Empowerment of the farm women is a current need of the time in agrarian country like, India. Tribal women of the southern part of the Gujarat though illiterate, contributing a lot to the agricultural development. It is therefore imperative to study the involvement of Adiwashi farm women in Crop husbandry. Keeping in view the present investigation on involvement of the tribal farm women in crop husbandry in Navsari District of South Gujarat was undertaken with the following specific objectives:

–To analyze the role performed by rural tribal women in crop husbandry, to study the participation of the tribal farm women in decision making related to the crop husbandry and to examine the relationship with socio personal variables with the role performance of women in crop husbandry.

Key words :

Tribal farm
women, Crop
management

Received:

Jul., 2011;

Revised:

Sep., 2011;

Accepted :

Oct., 2011

METHODOLOGY

The present investigation was conducted in Navsari district of the Gujarat state, which is one of the tribal dominated tiny districts of the state. Six villages viz., Adda, Aat, Chhapra, Hansapore, Matwad and Mogar were randomly selected for the study. Twenty tribal farm women were selected randomly from each of the selected villages. Thus, the total sample size was confined to 120 farm women. Data were collected by personal interview. The data were collected during the month of March-2005. Ex-Post-Facto research design was employed to analyze the data. The mean was obtained by the total number of score divided by total number of respondents. Coefficient of correlation was computed to find out the relationship between each of the independent variables and the dependent variable.

OBSERVATION AND ANALYSIS

The findings of the present study as well as relevant discussions have been presented under following heads:

Participation of tribal farmwomen in pre-sowing and sowing operations:

The perusal of the data in Table 1 revealed that the highest participation of tribal farmwomen was observed in sowing / transplanting followed by stubble collection, clode crushing, manuring and seedbed nursery/preparation. Chauhan and Thakor (2006) have reported the same results.

Sr. No.	Pre-sowing and sowing operation	Mean value	Rank
1.	Sowing / transplanting	2.63	I
2.	Stubble collection	2.51	II
3.	Clode crushing	2.40	III
4.	Manuring	2.02	IV
5.	Seedbed preparation / nursery	1.32	V

Participation of the tribal farmwomen in interculturing operations:

Frequency of participation by farmwomen in various interculturing operations was measured with the help of 4 point rating scale, as most frequently, frequently, least frequent and no participation with scale value of 4, 3, 2 and 1, respectively.

The data presented in Table 2 revealed that the highest participation of the tribal farmwomen was observed in weeding, followed by gap filling, application of fertilizer, bird scaring, irrigation, bunding and hoeing with hand. Chauhan (2009) and Diwan (2000) also reported the same results.

Sr. No.	Interculturing operation	Mean value	Rank
1.	Weeding	3.16	I
2.	Gap filling	2.22	II
3.	Application of fertilizer	2.14	III
4.	Bird scaring	1.69	IV
5.	Irrigation	1.24	V
6.	Bunding	1.09	VI
7.	Hoeing with hand	1.07	VII

Participation of tribal farmwomen in harvesting and post-harvesting operation:

Data collected from the respondents regarding frequency of participation in harvesting and post harvesting operations were given in Table 3.

Perusal of the data presented in Table 3 indicated that the highest participation of the tribal farmwomen was observed in nipping / picking and threshing followed by harvesting, winnowing, storage, making threshing yard, bagging / packing and marketing of agricultural produce. The roles of tribal farmwomen in all the operations were observed up to the importance level.

Sr. No.	Harvesting and post-harvesting operations	Mean value	Rank
1.	Nipping / picking and threshing	3.22	I
2.	Harvesting	2.93	II
3.	Winnowing	2.34	III
4.	Storage	2.12	IV
5.	Making threshing yard	1.93	V
6.	Bagging / packing	1.54	VI
7.	Marketing of agricultural produce	1.29	VII

Tribal farmwomen's participation in the process of decision making about the crop husbandry:

Data collected from the respondents regarding their involvement in the process of decision-making about crop husbandry are given in Table 4. It is evident from the data that in majority of the decisions regarding farm management were husband dominated such as when to irrigate the fields (87.50 per cent), quantity and type of fertilizers to be used in the farm (85.00 per cent), introduction of new crop variety (82.50 per cent), buying farm machinery / equipment (80.00 per cent), using plant protection measures (76.67 per cent), borrowing money for farm operation (70.00 per cent), respectively. Gidda

Table 4 : Tribal farmwomen participation in the process of decision making for crop husbandry (n = 120)

Farm management	Only-self		Husband		Along with family (Joint decision)		Not related	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Deciding area to be sown under different crops	05	4.17	75	62.50	40	33.33	--	--
Introduction of a new crop variety	04	3.33	99	82.50	17	14.17	--	--
Selection of seed	03	2.50	78	65.00	39	32.50	--	--
When to irrigate fields	01	0.83	105	87.50	06	5.00	08	6.67
Quantity and type of fertilizers used on the farm	--	--	102	85.00	12	10.00	06	5.00
Using plant protection measures	01	0.83	92	76.67	05	4.17	22	18.33
Hiring farm labours	--	--	25	20.83	80	66.67	15	12.50
Buying farm machinery / equipment	02	1.67	96	80.00	22	18.33	--	--
Installing oil engine and electric motor	--	--	80	66.67	40	33.33	--	--
Buying and selling of land	--	--	34	28.33	86	71.67	--	--
Borrowing money for farm operations	--	--	84	70.00	36	30.00	--	--
Selling of surplus farm produce	03	2.50	47	39.17	70	58.33	--	--

Reddy and Rashid, (1999) reported the same results. The same was also observed by Praveena *et al.* (2005).

Relationship between independent variable of the respondent and their participation in crop husbandry was studied and presented in Table 5:

Data presented in Table 5 indicated that age of the respondents was observed positively significant with their participation in crop husbandry. It means old aged tribal farmwomen were more actively participated in agricultural operations as compared to young aged farmwomen. Farmwomen’s participation in agriculture was increasing with increasing their age. The positive significant relationship was seen between the role of tribal farmwomen in crop husbandry and their age, education, herd size, land holding, family size and number of children. Whereas, the negative relationship was observed among occupation, type of family and age of marriage.

Table 5 : Relationship between independent variable of the respondent and their participation in crop husbandry (n = 120)

Sr. No.	Independent variables	Correlation coefficient ('r' value)	
I.	Personal variables		
1.	Age	0.8430	**
2.	Education	0.7409	**
II.	Economical variables		
3.	Occupation	- 0.5553	*
4.	Herd size	0.7854	**
5.	Land holding	0.7774	**
III.	Social variables		
6.	Family size	0.8074	**
7.	Type of family	- 0.6284	**
8.	Number of children	0.4918	*
9.	Age of marriage	- 0.8709	*

*and ** indicate significance of values at p= 0.05 and 0.01 respectively

Conclusion:

It can be concluded that the tribal farmwomen did not play dominant role in making important decisions of farm management.

REFERENCES

Chauhan, N.M. (2009). Crop husbandry with participation of tribal farm women .Paper presented on “Participatory Approach in rural Development” on 31st August 2009 at J.A.U., JUNAGADH, GUJARAT (India).

Chauhan, N.M. and Thakor, R.F. (2006). Participation of tribal farm women in agriculture. A paper presented in National seminar on “Rural Development through People’s Participation”, held at Marathawada Agricultural University (MAU), Parbhani, Maharashtra, during 27-28th February-2006 organized by Indian Society of Extension Education.

Diwan, Yogita(2000). Major roles performed by the tribal farm women in maize.

Gidda Reddy, P. and Rashid, M.A.(1999). Areas and decision making pattern of farm women in rice based farming system. *J. Research, ANGRAU*, 25(4): 48-52.

Khanduri, B. K., Rukma, R. and Rawat, R. (2004). Role of women in sustaining life in Garhwal Himalaya, Uttaranchal. *Economic-Affairs Calcutta*, 48(3): 152-161.

Praveena, P.L.R.J, M. Rao, Achuta Rama and Rao, P.Venkata (2005). Decision making pattern of rural women in.

