

# Participation of rural women in vegetable production

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## ABSTRACT

Women play a significant and crucial role in vegetable production. It is most unfortunate that the role of women and their contribution in farm activities are get to be recognized. Although they perform almost all the activities in the farm but by and large they have been remained as invisible workers. The study was conducted in Salempur and Bhatpar Rani Blocks of Deoria district in Uttar Pradesh to ascertain women participation in vegetable production. 120 house having land for vegetable cultivation were selected. 60 rural women from 60 houses selected from each block. Female respondents from each house were interviewed. The data were collected personally through structured interview schedule. Data collected included the extent of participation and decision making of women in various activities of vegetable production. Study revealed that in vegetable cultivation various intervention points are addressable. Women were involved in operations such as cleaning of land, sowing of seed, transplanting of vegetable nursery, hoeing and weeding, scaring of birds and rodents, harvesting and processing of vegetable and storage of seed. The non participation of women in various operations is due to high fatigueless, requirement of more muscle power, lack of knowledge and awareness with respect to decision making. It is observed that women played only supportive role less participation of women in decision making could be attributed to custom, tradition social barrier, their illiteracy ignorance and less participation in extension programmes. Women education, technical training and adequate extension facilities can create a positive impact leading to a better tomorrow.

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## INTRODUCTION

Vegetable cultivation has become highly commercialized but still there is a wide gap between current production and potential productivity. Women participation in the family farming system is crucial to the sustenance of rural economy. The farm women need to be involved in floriculture sector to push up considerable increase in production level and area under vegetables. Realizing the importance of rural women in vegetable

production on commercial basis. With the view to achieve a high level of production it is not only enough to develop farm innovation but it is also necessary to transfer the latest technology from the research system to ultimate users *i.e.* farmers and farm women growing vegetables.

Women play a significant and crucial role in vegetable production. It is most unfortunate that the role of women and their contribution in farm activities are yet to be recognized. Although they perform almost all the activities in farm buy by and large they have been remained as

invisible workers. Pattanaik (1994) found that farm women are involved in harvesting and storage of grain that in other agricultural activities, Such as fertilizer and pesticide application and crop decision making.

Vegetable cultivation in Deoria district has a vast potential of improving the economic status of farming community. It has been observed that in farm family the participation of women during decision making as well as in the implementation and management of farm planning is very poor, although their contribution towards total land and labour is significant. It is realized on the national basis that being an equal stake holder of society women's participation farm planning to execution plays a significant role in sustainable development any enterprise. Therefore study was carried out to determine the extent of women participation in different activities and decision involved in vegetable cultivation, So that suitable intervention can be planned.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in purposively selected Deoria district in Uttar Pradesh state for case in data collection. Out of twenty blocks of Deoria district

two blocks namely Salempur and Bhatpar Rani were selected to represent the whole district. 20 villages in the total were drawn randomly from the two selected blocks. Ten villages selected from each block. 120 women respondents were selected from twenty villages of these two blocks. A schedule was used to collect the data by personal interview method. The data collected included information related to different activities and decision making conducted by Vegetable production. The collected data was processed, tabulated and presented in the form of table.

## OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The present study focused on the extent of women participation in vegetable production. It varied from one activity to another. Table 1 indicated that activities performed by female are cleaning of land, sowing of seeds, transplanting of vegetable nursery, scaring of birds rodents and animals, and vegetable harvesting. In vegetable processing cent per cent women showed their participation. These are in line of agreement with that reported by Baba *et al.* (2010) from their study in Jammu Kashmir. Above fifty per cent of women involved in

Sr. No.	Activities	F	%
1.	<b>Land preparation</b>		
	Ploughing	00	0.00
	Cleaning of field	120	100.00
	FYM application	00	0.00
	Forming ridges and furrows	00	0.00
2.	<b>Pre sowing and sowing operations</b>		
	Seed treatment	26	21.66
	Sowing of seed	120	100.00
	Plant treatment	00	0.00
	Raising vegetable nursery	29	24.16
	Nursery after care	68	56.66
	Transplanting of vegetable nursery	120	100.00
3.	<b>Intercultural operations</b>		
	Irrigation	19	15.83
	Hoeing and weeding	120	100.00
	Fertilizer application	64	53.33
	Pesticide and weedicide application	13	10.83
	Scaring of birds rodents and animals	120	100.00
4.	<b>Harvesting and post harvesting operations</b>		
	Vegetable harvesting	120	100.00
	Storage of seed	8	6.66
	Marketing	28	23.33
	Vegetable processing	120	100.00

Sr. No.	Operations	F	%
1.	Land selection	22	18.33
2.	Selection of crops to be grown	25	20.83
3.	Method of cultivation	11	9.16
4.	Selection of farm machinery and its implementations	9	7.50
5.	Varietal selection	20	16.66
6.	Fertilizer selection and application	7	5.83
7.	Choice of irrigation	32	26.66
8.	Sale of vegetable produce	39	32.50
9.	Storage of seed	74	61.66
10.	Vegetable processing	108	90.00

nursery management and fertilizer application while 24.16 and 21.66 per cent were participated in raising vegetable nursery and seed treatment, respectively.

Non-participation of women in ploughing, forming ridge and furrows is due to hard labour and in plant treatment due to lack of awareness and knowledge. Similar case has been reported by Srivastava and Singh (2011) from their study in Ballia. Non-participation in various agricultural activities due to drudgery faced in operations by farm women has been also reported by Singh *et al.* (2005) in their study from Madhya Pradesh.

Table 2 indicated that it is highest (90.00%) in vegetable processing followed by 61.66 per cent engaged in Storage of seed and 32.50 per cent participation in sale of vegetable produce. Choice of irrigation (26.66 %), Selection of crops to be grown (20.83%), Land selection (18.33 %), Varietal selection (16.66 %), Method of cultivation (9.16%), Selection of farm machinery and its implementations (7.50 %) and lowest (5.83%) in fertilizer selection and application. The study focus that women has played only supportive role. Less involvement of women in decision making could be attributed to custom, tradition, social barrier and illiteracy, ignorance and less participation in extension programme. Study is in conformation of Baba *et al.* (2010) in their study in Jammu Kashmir.

### Conclusion:

The study showed that in vegetable production on commercial level female participation was found more prominent in sowing of seed, transplanting of vegetable nursery, hoeing and weeding, scaring of birds and rodents, vegetable harvesting and processing. With respect to

decision making women played only supportive role. Women education, technical training, adequate extension facilities for women can create a positive impact leading to a better tomorrow.

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