

## RESEARCH PAPER

# Relative participation of farm women in decision making process in relation to different agriculture practices

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## ABSTRACT

Participation of farm women in decision making about different agriculture activities is different from practice to practice. Women had more participated in decision making regarding interculturing and marketing. As participation of farm women in decision making certainly effect by their various constraints prevailing in their situations among them social/cultural norms, lack of self confidence in decision were the major constraints. To encounter such constraints major suggestions offered by farm women were more technical guidance regarding scientific farming should be given to them and training should be imparted at grass root level.

**Key Words :** Participation, Decision making

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**D**ecision making is an important aspect of daily life. Achievement of family goals depends upon effective decision making and task performing which involves coordination, supervision and checking of actions. Women from rural areas are engaged in farm operations right from land preparation to marketing as well as allied activities. Women are key players in the agricultural sector of most developing countries of the world. However, despite this major role, men have reportedly continued to dominate farm decision making, even in areas where women are the largest providers of farm labour. This could be counter-productive, because there is bound to be conflict when women, as key players, carry out farm tasks with out being part of the decision process, especially when the decisions fail to recognize their other peculiar household responsibilities.

Women's participation in decision making varies among the different practices depends on social, cultural and economic conditions in the area. It also varies from region to

region and even within a region, their involvement varies widely among different farming systems, castes, classes and socio-economic status. Keeping in view the importance of decision making by farmwomen in agricultural development, present study was conducted with following objectives : To study the relative participation of farm women in decision making process in relation to different agriculture practices. To know the constraints faced by farm women and suggestions made by them to encounter such constraints while participation in decision making process.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was undertaken in Anand district of Gujarat. Five villages from each three talukas having maximum numbers of small and marginal farmers were selected purposively. Randomly eight farm women from each village were selected for study and hence in all, 120 farm women were selected to

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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 to collect data through personal interview. one way analysis of variance was applied to collected data which are presented in succeeding pages.

## RESEARCH AND REMONSTRATION FINDINGS

Table 1 shows the participation index of farm women in decision making about various agriculture activities. Table 1 indicate that farm women had major contribution in decision making about intercultural activities with highest mean participation index (67.219), followed by marketing (57.361), harvesting and post harvesting activities (45.369), land preparation (35.483), policy decision (28.657), sowing practices (23.128), fertilizer management (21.351) and crop protection (12.954).

The table further indicated that the extent of participation

of farm women in decision making was significantly differed from one practice to another practice as F value was found to be significant and hence it can be said that different agriculture practices play an important role in determination of participation of farmwomen in decision making. Further table reveals that decision making participation index of farm women in relation to sowing practices found to be similar with fertilizer management. While, these difference are considerably higher than critical difference set up in all other practices. Thus, present finding suggested that areas in which participation in decision making was found to be low should be focus by extension functionaries.

As seen from the Table 2 major constraints faced by farm women were ranked and arranged in descending order. Social/cultural norms (79.17 per cent), lack of self confidence in decision (75.00 per cent), dominancy of other family members (69.17 per cent), less contact with extension workers (60.00 per cent), lack of technical know-how (58.33 per cent), busy schedule due to house hold activities (50.83 per cent) and poor educational background (41.67 per cent).

It can be concluded that the major constraints faced by

Sr. No.	Different agriculture practices	Mean participation index
1.	Land preparation	35.483
2.	Sowing practices	23.128
3.	Fertilizer management	21.351
4.	Crop protection	12.954
5.	Intercultural activities	67.219
6.	Harvesting and post harvesting activities	45.369
7.	Marketing	57.361
8.	Policy decision	28.657

Std. Error of mean = 0.7234

C. D. = 2.004

Sr. No.	Source	Type III sum of squares	D. F.	Mean square	F	Significance
1.	Different agriculture practices	300009.173	8	37501.147	597.215	0.000
2.	Error	67251.660	1071	62.793		
3.	Total	1763030.301	1080			
4.	Corrected total	367260.832	1079			

Std. Error of mean = 0.7234

C. D. = 2.004

Sr. No.	Constraints	Number	Per cent	Rank
1.	Lack of technical know-how	70	58.33	V
2.	Busy schedule due to house hold activities	61	50.83	VI
3.	Social/cultural norms	95	79.17	I
4.	Dominancy of other family members	83	69.17	III
5.	Less contact with Extension workers	72	60.00	IV
6.	Lack of self confidence in decision	90	75.00	II
7.	Poor educational background	50	41.67	VII

Table 3: Suggestions offered by farm women to overcome the constraints faced by them				(n=120)
Sr. No.	Suggestions	Number	Per cent	Rank
1.	Policy decision should be made for women empowerment	62	51.67	IV
2.	More technical guidance regarding scientific farming should be given to farm women	98	81.67	I
3.	Training should be imparted at village level	80	66.67	II
4.	More women extension workers should be recruited	37	30.83	V
5.	More women exposure visit should be arranged	75	62.50	III
6.	Government should initiate policies to motivate farm women	35	29.17	VI

farm women were social/cultural norm, lack of self confidence in decision and dominancy of other family members.

#### Suggested offered by farm women to overcome the constraints:

The respondents were requested to offer their valuable suggestions against difficulties faced by them in decision making process. The suggestions offered by the farm women are presented in below Table 3.

On the basis of descending order of frequency percentage, it is clear from the Table 3 that farm women suggested that more technical guidance regarding scientific farming should be given to farm women (81.67 %), training should be imparted at village level (66.67 %), more women exposure visit should be arranged (62.50 %), policy decision should be made for women empowerment (51.67 %), more women extension workers should be recruited (30.83 %) and Government should initiate policies to motivate farm women (29.17 %). Similar to present investigation Gaikwad *et al.* (1997) also worked on involvement of farm women in decision making.

#### Conclusion:

Women contributions in decision making in different agriculture activities which are included in this study are

significantly differed from one practice to another. However, decision in relation to sowing practices was at par with fertilizer management practices and major constraints faced by farm women in participation in decision making process are social/cultural norms, lack of self confidence in decision and dominancy of other family members. Whereas, major suggestions offered by farm women to overcome such constraints are more technical guidance regarding scientific farming should be given to farm women, training should be imparted at village level and more women exposure visit should be arranged.

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