



Research Note

Role of Thar women in vegetable production

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Farm women play a perceptible role in a number of activities in agriculture. Rural women play a significant role in domestic and socio-economic life of the society and therefore, national development is not possible without developing this important and substantial segment of our society. Thar women are actively involved in production of different crops, in production of vegetables too, as kitchen gardening. A substantial volume of various activities is carried out by women. Keeping this in mind, a study was carried out to determine the extent of participation of women in vegetable production.

The study was taken up by Home Science division of K.V.K., Barmer in KVK adopted village. For the purpose of study, multistage random sampling technique was used to select 60 farmers belonging to four distinct size groups *viz.*, marginal (upto 1 ha), small 1-2 ha), medium 2-3 ha) and large 73 ha). Farms comprised 15 farmwomen in each category of adopted village. For collection of data, specially designed schedules and questionnaires were used and cross section data were collected from female respondents of sample house holds. Women constitute a significant volume of available farm labour and carry out various operations in production of vegetables. Major vegetables grown in Thar include brinjal, tomato, root crops, spinach, chilly and cucurbits crops etc.

Women's participation in vegetables production has been calculated out for 1 acre of land across different size groups of farm. Eight

hours of work rendered by a women workers has been converted to 0.75 standard man productive works.

Participation in production of vegetables:

Result of Table 1 shows that in production of vegetables, out of total 113.09 mandays, 22.61 mandays were contributed by women labour. Women's participation in production of vegetables ranged from 21.10 mandays in large farms to 23.47 in small farms. Percentage analysis showed that out of total labour used in vegetable production 19.99 per cent operation was carried out by women. Among different operations, maximum 32.50 per cent of sowing/transplanting was done by women followed by 26.89 per cent harvesting operations. Operations like irrigation and application of fertilizer and manure were mostly carried out by men where only 3.98 per cent work was done by women.

From Table 1, it was found that the contribution of women in production of vegetables was substantial, in the case of harvesting/ transplanting carried out by women. In the case of harvesting and interculture operation, contribution was more than 20 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively, interculture operation.

Gogai and Bhowmick (2003) also worked on the role of Assamese women in vegetable production. While Lakshmi Raju *et al.* (1999) made contribution on role of women in animal production.

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Table 1. Women's participation in production of vegetables

Size group	Sowing/transplanting		Interculture		Irrigation and manure and fertilizer application		Harvesting		PHT		Total	
	W	T	W	T	W	T	W	T	W	T	W	T
Marginal	7.67	23.33	3.83	23.30	1.60	23.36	6.40	23.37	3.83	23.30	23.33	116.66
Small	7.21	23.48	4.53	23.48	0.67	23.43	6.20	23.46	4.86	23.47	23.47	117.32
Medium	8.20	22.55	5.33	22.55	0.82	22.53	5.18	22.79	3.07	22.52	22.25	112.94
Large	6.31	21.10	4.77	21.12	0.49	21.03	6.66	21.10	2.87	21.07	21.10	105.42
All farms	7.35	22.62	4.62	22.61	0.90	22.59	6.10	22.68	3.66	22.59	22.61	113.09
	(32.50)	(100)	(20.43)	(100)	(3.98)	(100)	(26.89)	(100)	(16.20)	(100)	(19.99)	(100)

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