

Extent of participation of farm women in decision making process in relation to agriculture activities

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Abstract : To know the practice wise participation of farmwomen in decision making process is an important factor for designing plan communication strategy to streamline farm women in agricultural development. The finding showed that majority of the farm women had medium level of participation in decision making process in areas such as land preparation, sowing practices, nutrient management, crop protection, irrigation, intercultural operations, harvesting and post harvest activities, marketing and policy decision. While, according to rank women contribution in decision making is maximum in case of sowing practices and least in case of irrigation.

Key Words : Extent of participation, Farm women, Decision making, Agriculture activities

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Farm women are integral part of Indian agriculture. One can not define agriculture with out women in India. Women contribution is as equals to men in every aspect of life as well as agriculture. Even though their major contribution in successfully carried out various activities either on farm or off farm, there contribution was under estimated or under valued. They have no right to take certain decision and have to depend on men for decision, even though many activities of farm solely done by farm women. Decision making is certainly effects by knowledge and skill of the farm women and how good and immediately they take decision about various aspects related to agriculture. Keep in this view, present study was conducted with following objective extent of participation of farm women in decision making process in relation to various agriculture activities.

The study was undertaken in Anand district of Gujarat. Anand, Borsad and Petlad talukas which have maximum numbers of small and marginal farmers were selected purposively. Accordingly, five villages from each talukas *i.e.* a total 15 villages were selected purposively. List of farm women living in these villages which are working on their farm were

obtained from VLW's of concerned village. Randomly eight farm women were selected for study, in all, 120 farm women were selected to 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. The data were collected by personally interviewing the respondent farm women in an informal atmosphere either at home or farm. The statistical tools used were: mean standard deviation and percentage.

As Table 1 shows the farm women's extent of participation in decision making about various agriculture activities such as land preparation, sowing practices, nutrient management, crop protection, irrigation, intercultural operations, harvesting and post harvest activities, marketing and policy decision.

Table 1 indicated that in all aspects of agriculture activities majority of the farm women had medium level of participation in decision making process. Land preparation (75.83 per cent), sowing practices (71.67 per cent), nutrient management (72.50 per cent), crop protection (79.17 per cent), irrigation (69.17 per cent), intercultural operations (74.17 per

Table 1 : Distribution of farm women according to their practice wise extent of participation in decision making process in relation to agriculture activities

Sr. No.	Name of practices	Mean score	S.D.	Category			Total score	Rank
				Low	Medium	High		
1.	Land preparation	2.09	11.25	09 (07.50%)	91 (75.83%)	20 (16.67%)	251	II
2.	Sowing practices	2.16	4.91	07 (05.83%)	86 (71.67%)	27 (22.50%)	260	I
3.	Nutrient management	2.00	5.93	16 (13.33%)	87 (72.50%)	17 (14.17%)	241	IV
4.	Crop protection	1.90	3.58	18 (15.00%)	95 (79.17%)	07 (05.83%)	229	VII
5.	Irrigation	1.82	10.23	29 (24.17%)	83 (69.17%)	08 (06.66%)	219	IX
6.	Intercultural operations	1.95	11.21	18 (15.00%)	89 (74.17%)	13 (10.83%)	235	V
7.	Harvesting and post harvest activities	1.94	8.83	17 (14.17%)	93 (77.50%)	10 (08.33%)	233	VI
8.	Marketing	2.01	10.48	13 (10.83%)	92 (76.67%)	15 (12.50%)	242	III
9.	Policy decision	1.85	5.19	27 (22.50%)	84 (70.00%)	09 (07.50%)	222	VIII

cent), harvesting and post harvest activities (77.50 per cent), marketing (76.67 per cent) and policy decision (70.00 per cent).

According to mean score, from the table further it can said that women's contribution was highest and ranked first in case of sowing followed by land preparation (rank II), marketing (rank III), nutrient management (rank IV), intercultural operations (rank V), harvesting and post harvest activities (rank VI), crop protection (rank VII), policy decision (rank VIII) and irrigation (rank IX).

Conclusion:

To epitomize the result we can say that majority of the farm women had medium level of participation in decision making process in various agriculture practices with highest contribution in sowing practices as its include selection of crop, area of crops to be sown, selection of varieties and transplanting various areas where women are always dominant. However, least participation in decision making in

case of irrigation was observed. Similar investigation regarding participation of tribal farm women in crop management was carried by Chauhan (2011).

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