

Women participation in vegetable production on commercial basis in Rural Ballia

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■ **ABSTRACT** : A survey based study was carried out in the month of July-August, 2012 in the rural Ballia of Uttar Pradesh to ascertain women participation in vegetable production on commercial basis. A personal interview schedule developed was used. One hundred house having land for vegetable cultivation on commercial scale were selected. Female respondents from each house were interviewed. 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 were 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 was due to high fatigueness, requirement of more muscle power, and 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.

■ **KEY WORDS** : Women, Vegetable production, Commercial level

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Kitchen gardening is very much common in rural area in India from ancient time. Different vegetables are grown round the year for family need and women have played major role for its productive activities for which they carryout substantial volume of work. They also perform activities for commercial production of vegetable. Vegetable cultivation in Ballia district has a vast potential of improving the economic status of farming community. It has been observed that in farm-family, the participation of woman during decision making as well as in the implementation and management of farm planning was very poor, although their contribution towards total land and labour was significant. It is realized on the national basis that being an equal stakeholder of society women's participation from planning to execution plays a significant role in sustainable development of 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.

The study was taken up in different villages of Ballia district. The subject of the study comprised hundred farmer families which were having land for vegetable cultivation on commercial scale. The data were collected in the month July-August 2012 through personal interview schedule developed by researcher from one female respondent of each house hold. The data collected included information related to different activities and decision making conducted by women in vegetable production. The collected data were processed, tabulated and presented in the form of tables.

The present study focussed on the extent of women participation in vegetable production on commercial level. It varied from one activity to another. Table 1 shows that

activities performed by female were cleaning of land, sowing of seeds, transplanting of vegetable nursery, scaring of birds, rodents and animals, and vegetable harvesting. In vegetable processing hundred 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. Non-participation of women in ploughing, forming ridge and furrows, was 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. With respect to decision making, Table

Table 1 : Participation of women in various activities of vegetable production (n=100)		
Sr.No.	Activities	%
1.	Land preparation	
	Ploughing	00
	Cleaning of field	100
	FYM application	0.0
	Forming ridges and furrows	0.0
2.	Pre-sowing and sowing operations	
	Seed treatment	2
	Sowing of seed	100
	Plant treatment	0.0
	Raising vegetable nursery	10
	Nursery after care	50
	Transplanting of vegetable nursery	100
3.	Intercultural operations	
	Irrigation	10
	Hoeing and weeding	100
	Fertilizer application	50
	Pesticide and weedicide application	5
	Scaring of birds rodents and animals	100
4.	Harvesting and post harvesting operations	
	Vegetable harvesting	100
	Storage of seed	2.0
	Marketing	20
	Vegetable processing	100

2 shows that it was highest (85%) in vegetable processing and lowest (2%) in fertilizer selection and application. The study focussed that women have 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.

Table 2 : Decision making of women in different operations of vegetable production (n=100)		
Sr. No.	Operations	%
1.	Land selection	13
2.	Selection of crops to be grown	14
3.	Method of cultivation	5
4.	Selection of farm machinery/ and its implementations	5
5.	Varietal selection	13
6.	Fertilizer selection and application	2
7.	Choice of irrigation	21
8.	Sale of vegetable produce	25
9.	Storage of seed	50
10.	Vegetable processing	85

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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