

Participation of Farm Women in Decision Making Process in Relation to Different Agriculture Practices

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Participation of farm women in decision making about different agriculture activities is different from practice to practice. Women were more participated in decision making regarding intercropping and marketing. As participation of farm women in decision making certainly effect by their various constraints prevailing in their residence among them social/cultural norms, lack of self confidence in decision are major constraints, to encounter such constraints major suggestions were offered by farm women are more technical guidance regarding scientific farming should be given to farm women, training should be imparted at village level. The farm women have a lot of potential for the development but they are unable to identify their own strength. All that required is to motivate them to participate in economic activities needed for their development.

Key words: Farm women, Decision making, Relationship, Agriculture practices.

Decision 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 pre-sowing, post-sowing, harvesting and post-harvesting operations 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 without being part of the decision process, especially when the decisions fail to recognize their other peculiar

household responsibilities. Women's participation in decision making is varies among the different practices coupled with 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.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

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 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.

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Participation index of farm women in decision making about various agriculture activities is shown in Table-1. Result revealed that farm women had major contribution in decision making about intercultural activities (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). It is obvious from the above table that participation index of farm women in relation to sowing practices is at par with fertilizer management. While, all other practices are critically different from each other. The table further indicated that the extent of participation of farm women in decision making was significantly differed from one practice to another practice.

Major constraints faced by farm women were ranked and arranged on the basis of result in descending order according to the rank in table-2.

Table 1. Mean participation index of farmwomen in decision making in relation to different agriculture practices

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
S.Em+	0.72	
CD (P=0.05)	2.01	

Table 2. Constraints faced by farm women while participation in decision making process: n=120

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

Social/cultural norms (79.17 per cent), lack of self confidence in decision (75.00 per cent), dominance 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). Same result shown by Kumari and Singh (2003) and Bellurkar *et al.* (2003).

On the basis of descending order of frequency percentage of suggestions offered by the farm women, it is clear shown that farm women suggested that more technical guidance regarding scientific farming should be given to farm women (81.67 per cent), training should be imparted at village level (66.67 per cent), more women exposure visit should be arranged (62.50 per cent), policy decision should be made for women empowerment (51.67 per cent), more women extension workers should be recruited (30.83 per cent) and Government should initiate policies to motivate farm women (29.17 per cent) (Table-3).

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 nutrient 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 dominance 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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