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Constraints experienced by farm women in agricultural activities in Tikamgarh district (M.P.)

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Abstract

Women are vital human resource and play a significant role in agricultural and allied sectors undertaking both on-farm and off-farm activities. Yet their contribution has not been recognized and they are considered as 'invisible farmers'. Considering this, the present study has been conducted to analyze the constraints faced by farm women in agriculture and allied sectors. A total number of 120 farm women were selected as respondents through random sampling. The selected respondents were interviewed personally using pre-tested well structured interview schedule. The finding showed that the major constraints that farm women faced Lack of confidence, Higher time consumption for Households work, Lack of family support, Lack of proper guidance, Lack of credit and capital, Lack of marketing facilities, Lack of awareness, High cost of farm material and Lack of knowledge about improved Technology, Lack of education.

Keywords: Farm women, constraints, agricultural, activities

Introduction

Some historians believe that woman was the first agriculturist; means domesticated crop plants and thereby initiated the art and science of farming. Women started gathering seeds from the native flora and began cultivating those of interest from the point of view of food, feed, fodder, fibre and fuel. While men went out of hunting in search of food.

In today's society, the role of women extends much beyond the home upbringing of children. They have to perform dual roles of house wife as well as wage earner and play a vital role in agricultural operations. A large number of farm women are not only engaged in farm operations as cultivators assistant but also playing vital role in kitchen gardening, poultry keeping, goat rearing, preserving seeds, marketing of milk, vegetables and fruits etc. Whenever they are not having employment on their own farm, they get engaged in off farm activities. In agriculture women are actively involved in some selected pre-sowing and post-sowing operations, harvesting and post harvesting operations as well as allied activities. During the peak of agricultural operations, especially at harvesting time, women of farm families work on an average 7-8 hours a day in the field besides their routine duties such as cooking, child rearing, cleaning etc. Now a day, it is accepted fact that, women play a significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields including in the main crop production, livestock production, horticulture, post harvest operations, agro/ social forestry, fisheries, etc. Hence, it is necessary to know the constraints faced by them in participation in agricultural activities.

Methodology

The study was conducted in the Tikamgarh district of (M.P.). The selection of the block was made purposively on account of the maximum number of rural women. Out of 6 blocks one block was selected for this study. Tikamgarh block comprises of 171 villages. A list of villages which contain large farm women was prepared with the help of RAEO of the block. out of which 6 villages, namely, Manjra, Manakpura, Mahrajpura, Pahari, Nayakhera and Khusipura were selected randomly. 120 farm women as respondents were selected. The data were collected with the help of a pre-tested interview schedule. The selected respondents were interviewed personally with the help of a well structured and pre-tested interview schedule in order to get relevant information.

Result and discussion

Constraints faced by respondents: The constraints faced by women Since women are considered as secondary workers in the area of agriculture hence they were not found to be actively involved in the dissemination of knowledge about new technology given by extension

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workers. it is clear from the data that the farm women reported Lack of confidence, Higher time consumption for Households work, Lack of family support, Lack of proper

guidance, Lack of credit and capital, Lack of marketing facilities etc.

Table 1: Constraints experienced by farm women in participating in agricultural activities.

S no.	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1	Lack of confidence	69	57.50	I
2	Lack of proper guidance	58	48.33	IV
3	Lack of family support	60	50.00	III
4	Higher time consumption for Households work.	65	54.17	II
5	Lack of education	45	37.50	VIII
6	Lack of awareness	50	41.67	VI
7	Lack of marketing facilities	54	45.00	V
9	Lack of knowledge about improved Technology	45	37.50	VIII
10	High cost of farm material	47	39.17	VII
11	Lack of credit and capital	54	45.00	V

Conclusion

The Indian economy is dependent on agriculture and more than 70 percent of our population living in rural areas is engaged in agriculture. Among the rural population, women are associated directly or indirectly with agriculture. Hence farm women must be recognized as an important unit contributing to the economic growth of the country. They must be supplied with opportunities for self development and self employment. This is the best way to make Analysis of Constraints Faced by Farm Women in Agriculture.

The result of the study showed that the farm women Lack of confidence (57.50), Higher time consumption for Households work (54.17), Lack of family support(50.00), Lack of proper guidance(48.33), Lack of credit and capital, Lack of marketing facilities(45.00), Lack of awareness(41.67), High cost of farm material(39.17) and Lack of knowledge about improved Technology, Lack of education (37.50).

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