

Involvement of Tribal Farm Women in Agricultural Development in Tripura

¹Nath D, ²Shil S, ³Dey D, ⁴Chakraborty A and ⁵Biswas S. C

^{1,2,3,4,5} Krishi Vigyan Kendra, West Tripura, P. O. Chebri, Khowai, PIN 799207, Tripura, India

Corresponding author email id: pd020@yahoo.co.in

Received: February 25, 2017; Revised: March 7, 2017 Accepted: March 16, 2017, Published April, 2017

ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to identify the involvement of tribal women in agriculture development in Tripura. The study was conducted in West Tripura district of Tripura during April to Aug, 2016. Multistage purposive cum stratified random sampling design was used. 1500 rural women were included as sample of respondents for the study. The study reveals that more than 50% tribal farm women participated jointly with family members in harvesting, compost making, application of manure, storing of harvested crops, collection of seeds and cleaning of harvested crops for marketing, seed cleaning, intercultural operations, seed storage and grading of harvested crop for marketing. In addition to this, a large percentage of tribal farm women did not contributed labour at all in application of pesticides, marketing, land preparation, application of fertilizer, seed treatment and fencing. It was concluded from the study that majority of tribal women directly involved in agricultural activity but there was some gender differentiation activity was followed.

Key word: Tribal, women, Tripura, agriculture, development, gender

INTRODUCTION

Women are the molder and builder of any nation's destiny. They play a significant role in any economy. Women are regarded as the backbone of the rural scene. Most of the women perform various types of work for their livelihood and agriculture is considered as the biggest sector where large number of rural women takes part actively [1].

More specifically the tribal population of India constitutes about 67.6 million and woman in the tribal community constitutes half of the tribal population. It has been observed that rate of participation in farming is higher among the tribal population than the other castes of the state. More precisely the participation in the farming is higher in hill tribes than non-tribal societies. The women of hill areas take active part in every area of farming and in most of the tribal areas, the percentage of women worker is equal to men or even higher [2].

Although involvement of farm women with respect to farm related practices is vital for achieving greater success towards economically sustainable agriculture, it is most unfortunate to say that the role of farm women in farming has not been highlighted. Further scanty efforts have been made by the researcher to find out the extent of involvement of tribal farm women in farming and the relationship between the extent of involvement of tribal farm women and their socio economic condition. Keeping this in view present study has been planned to identify the role of tribal women in agricultural development in Tripura.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The involvement of tribal farm women is measured in terms of their participation in cultivation of crops and participation in homestead activities. The study was conducted in West Tripura district of Tripura during April to Aug, 2016. A multistage purposive cum stratified random sampling design was followed. Altogether 1500 rural women were included as sample of respondents for the study. To measure the participation in different activities of cultivation of different crops 20 different activities (pre harvest and post harvest activity) were selected and these were presented to the respondents to give their comment in three point continuum viz., independent participation, joint participation and no participation. Later frequency and percentage were calculated separately. Again, for measurement of participation in different homestead activities, 16 homestead activities (major homestead, livestock and allied homestead activity) were selected and respondents were asked to give their responses in three point continuum, viz, independent participation, joint participation and no participation. After that frequency and percentage were calculated separately for each activity.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data presented in Table 1 indicated that nearly 39%, 29% and 25.1% of rural women contributed labour independently in transplanting/ planting/ sowing of seeds, nursery raising and cleaning of harvested crops respectively. Furthermore, it appears that more than 50% rural women participated jointly with family members in harvesting (59%), compost making (57.8%), application of manure (57.0%), storing of harvested crops (56%), collection of seeds and cleaning of harvested crops for marketing (55.5%), seed cleaning (55.0%), intercultural operations (53.2%), seed storage (52.0%) and grading of harvested crop for marketing (51.6%). The findings are in line with the results reported by Anonymous [3]. In addition, it was found that a large percentage of rural women (73.1%) did not contributed labour at all in application of pesticides, 68.5% in marketing, 59.3% in land preparation, 59.0 % in application of fertilizer, 57.8% in seed treatment and 56.5% in fencing.

Again participation of respondents were categorized into three parts namely, major homestead activities, livestock activities and allied homestead activities. It is observed from the Table 2 that more than 50% rural tribal women contributed labour independently in cooking, and care of children and elderly persons and washing clothes. Further it was noted that more than 50% rural tribal women were jointly engaged in feeding and taking care of the animals. It is interesting to note that 68.7% rural tribal women independently engaged in weaving. From the findings it can be seen that most of the rural tribal women in the study area performed dual roles in their day to day life, which meant that they spent more time and effort than the men. Therefore, rural tribal women might not have the time to have regular contact with extension agents or to attend extension activities. From the Table-3 it is seen that in case of participation in livestock activities and cultivation of different crops joint participation got the 1st rank. Independent participation was prominent in the areas of major homestead and allied activities.

CONCLUSION

There is some evidence that despite the contribution made by rural tribal women in food security they are not being well served by the existing extension system in developing countries. They are in urgent need of understanding and acquiring new knowledge and skills on cultivation of different crops, so that they could contribute more effectively to the production process. So, the findings of this research will help in understanding of the rural tribal women for smooth running of the agricultural system for sustainable agricultural development.

REFERENCES

[1] Reddy, P., 2003. Visiting Scholar in Women's Studies Programme at GWU. Presented at "Women Working to Make a difference" IWPR's Seventh International, Women's Policy Research Conference, June 2003

[2] Das, P., 1992. A study on decision making of tribal farm women regarding recommended practices of rice cultivation in Jorhat district of Assam, M.Sc. thesis, AAU Jorhat

[3] Kaur, R and Mahajan, N., 1993. Performance of agricultural related roles by farm women, *Agricultural Extension Revie.* 5 (1)

LIST OF TABLES

Table-1: Distribution of tribal farm women according to their participation in different activities of cultivation of different crops **N= 1500**

Sl. No.	Participation Activity	Independent Participation		Joint Participation		No Participation	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
A	Pre harvest activity						
1.	Land preparation (selection/ cleaning of lands)	126	8.4	484	32.3	890	59.3
2.	Layout of plots	188	12.5	635	42.3	677	45.2
3.	Compost pit making	331	22.1	867	57.8	302	20.1
4.	Fencing	120	8.0	532	35.5	848	56.5
5.	Buying of seeds	176	11.7	495	33.0	829	55.3
6.	Seed treatment	138	9.2	495	33.0	867	57.8
7.	Nursery raising of seedlings	435	29.0	478	31.9	587	39.1
8.	Transplanting/ planting/ sowing of seeds	583	39.0	518	35.0	399	26.0
9.	Intercultural operation (weeding, earthing up, thinning, irrigation, pruning/ training etc.)	273	18.2	798	53.2	429	28.6
10.	Application of fertilizer	177	11.8	438	29.2	885	59.0
11.	Application of manures	274	18.0	850	57.0	376	25.0
12.	Application of pesticides	200	13.3	204	13.6	1096	73.1
B	Post harvest activity						
13.	Harvesting	321	21.0	886	59.0	293	20.0
14.	Cleaning of harvested crops	376	25.1	832	55.5	292	19.4

15.	Grading of harvested crops for marketing	309	20.6	773	51.6	418	27.8
16.	Storing of harvested crops	308	21.0	842	56.0	350	23.0
17.	Marketing	169	11.3	303	20.2	1028	68.5
18.	Seed collection	253	16.8	832	55.5	415	27.7
19.	Seed cleaning	314	21.0	824	55.0	362	24.0
20.	Seed storage	342	23.0	777	52.0	381	25.0

Table-2: Distribution of tribal farm women according to their participation in different homestead activities **N= 1500**

Sl. No.	Participation Activity	Independent Participation		Joint Participation		No Participation	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
A. Major homestead activities							
1.	Cooking	850	56.7	488	32.5	162	10.8
2.	Collection of Fuel wood	493	32.9	597	39.8	410	27.3
3.	Fetching water	480	32.00	562	37.5	458	30.5
4.	Maintenance of house	534	35.6	651	43.4	315	21.0
5.	Washing cloths	767	51.1	578	38.5	155	10.4
6.	Care of children/ elderly person	832	55.5	366	24.4	302	20.1
B. Livestock activities							
7.	Collection of fodder	260	17.3	686	45.7	554	37.0
8.	Feeding of animal	424	28.3	772	51.5	304	20.2
9.	Care of animal	374	24.9	787	52.4	339	22.6
10.	Cleaning animal shed	336	22.0	689	46.0	475	32.0
11.	Milking of animal	227	15.1	699	46.6	574	38.3
C. Allied homestead activities							
12.	Processing food	404	26.9	516	34.4	580	38.7
13.	Preservation of fruit/ vegetable	618	41.0	325	22.0	557	37.0
14.	Festival/special occasions	325	21.7	749	49.9	426	28.4
15.	Weaving	1030	68.7	220	14.7	250	16.6
16.	Tailoring	268	17.9	481	32.1	751	50.0

Table-3: Average participation score of tribal farm women

Sl. No.	Participation category	Horticultural crops		Major homestead Activities		Livestock activities		Allied homestead activities	
		Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank
1.	Independent participation	19.00	III	43.75	I	13.5	III	38.08	I
2.	Joint participation	45.19	I	35.81	II	49.9	I	27.78	III
3.	No participation	41.06	II	20.41	III	36.5	II	34.18	II