

PARTICIPATION OF TRIBAL WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION

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ABSTRACT

The present investigation was carried out with a view to knowing practice wise participation of tribal women in agriculture production in chhotaudepur district of Gujarat state. The proposed investigation was carried out in Pavi-Jetpur and Bodeli taluka of chhotaudepur district, from each of which, three villages were selected. From each selected villages, 15 farm women involved in agriculture were selected, making a total sample of 90 farm women. The personal interview technique was used for collecting information form respondents. The results revealed that tribal women participated in agriculture practices about intercultural operation with score 1.61 ranked first, followed by harvesting and post harvest activities (1.44), land and its preparation (1.00) and sowing practices (0.98) with ranked II, III and IV respectively. Tribal women (55.56 percent) were fell under medium level of participation group, while 21.11 percent and 23.33 percent of the tribal women were categorized under low and high category of the participation in agriculture practices, respectively.

Keywords: agriculture practices, farmwomen, participation, tribal women

INTRODUCTION

Women play a significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields. The nature and extent of women's involvement in agriculture varies greatly from region to region. But regardless of these variations, women are actively involved in various agricultural activities.

Agriculture is the first culture that man learnt to practice as a means of living and a way of life. It is the primary sector of any economy either it is developed or developing. Agriculture is considered as the backbone of the Indian rural economy and is a family enterprise. It is an important engine of growth and poverty reduction. India's economic security is heavily dependent on agriculture. In terms of employment, it is the most important source of income, especially for rural women.

Rural women perform numerous labour intensive jobs such as weeding, hoeing, grass cutting, picking, cotton stick collection, separation of seeds from fibre, keeping of livestock and its other associated activities like tending animals, milking, milk processing, preparation of ghee, etc. and caring for family members and maintaining their homes. Despite such a huge involvement, her role and dignity has yet not been recognized. Women's status is low by all social, economic, and political indicators. Keeping in view, present study was undertaken.

OBJECTIVE

To measure the extent of overall participation of the tribal women in agriculture production

METHODOLOGY

The proposed investigation was carried out in Pavi-Jetpur and Bodeli taluka of chhotaudepur district, from each of which, three villages were selected. Thus total six villages were selected for the study and from each selected villages, 15 farm women involved in agriculture were selected, making a total sample of 90 farm women. To assess the participation of farm women, a well structured interview schedule was prepared in consultation with agriculture, veterinary and extension experts and was pre tested. Each respondent was asked to mention her response against the participation on three point's continuum viz. 'fully participated, 'moderately participated' and 'Not participated' for which a score of 2, 1 and 0 was assigned, respectively. Frequencies, percentage, mean and mean score were worked out for meaningful interpretation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Practice wise participation of tribal women in agriculture practices

An attempt was made to ascertain in aspect wise

participation in agriculture practices for the tribal women. This included areas pertaining to land and its preparation, sowing practices, nutrient management, crop protection,

irrigation, intercultural operations, harvesting and post harvest activities, marketing and policy decision.

Table 1: Distribution of the tribal women according to their practice wise participation in agriculture practices

(n=90)

Sr. No.	Agriculture activities	Fully participated	Participated	Not participated	Total Score	Mean Score	Rank
1	Land and its preparation	32 (35.56)	26 (28.89)	32 (35.55)	90	1.00	III
2	sowing practices	36 (40.00)	16 (17.78)	38 (42.22)	88	0.98	IV
3	Nutrient management	18 (20.00)	19 (21.11)	53 (58.89)	55	0.61	V
4	Crop protection	08 (08.89)	12 (13.33)	70 (77.78)	28	0.31	VIII
5	Irrigation	13 (14.44)	18 (20.00)	59 (65.56)	44	0.49	VII
6	Intercultural operations	59 (65.56)	27 (30.00)	04 (04.44)	145	1.61	I
7	Harvesting and post harvest activities	50 (55.56)	30 (33.33)	10 (11.11)	130	1.44	II
8	Marketing	15 (16.67)	18 (20.00)	57 (63.33)	48	0.53	VI
9	Policy decision	03 (03.33)	12 (13.33)	75 (83.34)	18	0.20	IX

(Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage)

Data presented in Table 1 indicate that tribal women participated in agriculture practices about intercultural operation with score 1.61 ranked first, followed by harvesting and post harvest activities (1.44), land and its preparation (1.00), sowing practices (0.98), nutrient management (0.61), marketing (0.53), irrigation (0.49), crop protection (0.31) and policy decision (0.20) secured with rank II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, respectively.

Overall participation of tribal women in agriculture practices

The tribal women were grouped according to their overall participation on the basis of their degree of participation in relation to all the aspect together. The tribal women were categorized into three groups i.e. high, medium and low on the basis of mean and standard deviation. The data in this regards are presented in Table 2.

It is clear from Table 2 majority of the tribal women (55.56 percent) were fell under medium level of participation group, while 21.11 percent and 23.33 percent of the tribal women were categorized under low and high category of the participation level, respectively.

Table 2: Distribution of the tribal women according to their overall participation with regard to agriculture practices

(n=90)

Sr. No.	Participation	Number	percent
1	Low (below 22.25 score)	21	23.33
2	Medium (In between 22.25 to 50.92)	50	55.56
3	High(Above 50.92)	19	21.11

\bar{X} = 36.58

S.D. = 14.33

CONCLUSION

From the above discussion, it can be epitomize that tribal farm women fully participated in intercultural operation, harvesting and post harvest activities, land and its preparation and sowing practices. Tribal women least participation in crop protection, policy decision, marketing and irrigation. Tribal farm women had medium level of participation toward agriculture production. To increase the production of agriculture and women become self reliance, dissemination of information related to agriculture and allied operations at grass root level. Impart training, group discussions, demonstrations, tours, field visits and awareness programme *etc.* for tribal women in chhotaudepur district.

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