

## Sources of Information Used by Tribal Farm Women and Relationship with Their Contribution in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry

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### ABSTRACT

*Agricultural production plays a significant role in the Indian economy. In India, women and agriculture seem synonymous terms. One can not think of agriculture without women. There is hardly any activity in agriculture except ploughing, where women are not involved. The tribal farmwoman shares with her husband the arduous burden of farm work in addition to her major responsibility as home maker, by helping in all other agricultural and animal husbandry activities. Keeping this fact in mind, the present study was carried out to find out sources of Information used by tribal farm women and relationship with their contribution in agriculture and animal husbandry. The result of the study revealed that among different sources of information, majority of the respondents used neighbour and relatives as sources of information. Sources of information utilized by the respondents had positive and significant relationship with their overall extent of contribution in agricultural operations.*

**Keywords:** Sources of Information, Tribal farmwomen

### INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the largest industry in India contributing to the source of livelihood for over 70 per cent of population. Agricultural production plays a significant role in the Indian economy. In India, women and agriculture seem synonymous terms. One can not think of agriculture without women. There is hardly any activity in agriculture except ploughing, where women are not involved. In some of the activities, she is relatively more efficient than man. Dahod is one of the ITDP areas of Gujarat State, where various administrative measures have been adopted through large number of tribal development and welfare programmes under Tribal Area Sub Plan (TASP). Since, independence huge fund have been diverted by the Central and State Government through different agencies with a view to uplift their living standard and bringing them into the main stream of nation. Even after lapses of more than 50 years of independence the progress of tribal farmwoman is not yet upto the level of expectation in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry as she is continued to be in a state of neglect. Being illiterate and ignorant, she is over exploited. A victim of man made system, she is hardly considered equal to man in wage and social status. Keeping in view the above said facts and

information about the tribal farmwoman's situation and her multiple roles in agriculture and animal husbandry a study on "sources of Information used by tribal farm women and relationship with their contribution in agriculture and animal husbandry" was undertaken.

### METHODOLOGY

The present study was undertaken in Integrated Tribal Development Project areas of Dahod district of Gujarat in 2006. Out of seven talukas of the district, five talukas namely (1) Dahod (2) Zalod (3) Limkheda (4) Garbada and (5) Dhanpur were selected purposively for this study. Out of total villages of each selected taluka, two villages were randomly selected comprising total ten villages from five selected talukas kof ITDP Dahod. From each village, 20 respondents were selected randomly, thus, total sample of 200 respondents were selected for the present study.

The interview schedule was prepared keeping in view the objectives of the study. The interview schedule was translated in to Gujarati language and pre-tested in the field on a separate 20 non-sampled respondents. On the basis of pre-testing, necessary modifications were made in the final draft and used as the instrument for data collection.

Sources of information play a major role in the diffusion and adoption of innovations or technologies. Communication sources are conceptualized as the sources through which tribal farmwomen get information about improved method of farming and animal husbandry. Use of sources was measured by taking into consideration all the possible sources available to the tribal farmwomen. Each respondent was asked to indicate from which source she got information for the use of technologies. Number and percentages of the tribal farmwomen for the each source were calculated.

Coefficient of correlation was computed to find out the relationship between each of the independent variable and the dependent variable by employing following formula.

$$r = \frac{\sum X - \frac{\sum X \sum Y}{n}}{\sqrt{\left[ \sum X^2 - \frac{(\sum X)^2}{n} \right] \left[ \sum Y^2 - \frac{(\sum Y)^2}{n} \right]}}$$

Where,  
 r = Coefficient of correlation  
 X = independent variable  
 Y = dependent variable  
 n = number of observations

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Sources of information

Sources of information play a major role in the diffusion and adoption of innovation. The respondents were asked to indicate from which sources they got information for the use of technologies. The information regarding sources of information used by the respondents is presented in Table 1.

**Table 1 : Distribution of respondents according to their sources of information** n = 200

Sr. No.	Source of information	Number	Per cent
1	Neighbour	167	83.50
2	Relative	107	53.50
3	Progressive farmers	75	37.50
4	VLW	33	16.50
5	Staff of ITDP	18	09.00
6	Staff of KVK / FTC	06	03.00

The data presented in Table 1 indicated that the tribal farmwomen mainly utilized neighbours (83.50 per cent) as a source of information followed by relatives (53.50 per

cent) and progressive farmers (37.50 per cent) for obtaining information regarding use of new agricultural technologies. Village level worker and staff of the ITDP were use as a source of information by 16.50 and 9.00 per cent of tribal farmwomen, respectively. Whereas 3.00 per cent of the tribal farmwomen used staff of KVK/FTC as source of information. It can be concluded that majority of the tribal farmwomen had used neighbours (83.50 per cent) and relatives (53.50 per cent) as source of information about use of technologies. The probable reason might be that these sources are accessible easily by majority of the tribal farmwomen. Also due to their poor economic condition and high illiteracy do not permit them to utilize other sources of information.

The finding is in conformity with those of Thakor and Waghmare (1992) and Patel (1995).

### Sources of information and contribution in agricultural operations

The calculated correlation coefficient value of r = 0.47917 was significant at 0.01 level. It can be concluded that the source of information used by the tribal farmwomen had positive and significant relationship with their overall extent of contribution in agricultural operations. It implies that as the source of information increases, the overall contribution of tribal farmwomen in agricultural operations increases.

This might be due to the fact that tribal farmwomen who utilized more information sources have gained useful information for their effective participation in agricultural operations.

This finding is in concurrence with findings reported by Saxena et al. (1990), Patel and Sangle (1992) and Patel (1998).

### Sources of information and contribution in animal husbandry activities

The calculated correlation coefficient value (r = 0.01904) was non-significant at 0.05 level. It can be concluded that the source of information used by the tribal farmwomen had no relationship with their overall extent of contribution in animal husbandry activities

## CONCLUSION

It is concluded from the study that Majority of the tribal farmwomen had used neighbours (83.50 per cent) and relatives (53.50 per cent) as source of information about use of technologies. There was positive and highly significant

relationship between the sources of information utilized by tribal farmwomen and their overall extent of contribution in agricultural operations. There was non-significant relationship between the sources of information utilized by tribal farmwomen and their overall extent of contribution in animal husbandry activities.

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*Received : September 2015 : Accepted : December 2015*