

RESEARCH NOTE

Involvement of Farm Women in Agriculture

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INTRODUCTION

Rural women, besides, performing household activities, have been traditionally and predominantly engaged in crop husbandry and animal husbandry activities. The importance of farm women can be appreciated by the activities carried out by them related to farming and dairying such as sowing, transplanting, weeding, harvesting, storage of farm produce, cutting fodder, feeding to animals, milking to animals and maintenance of cattle shed.

Though, women take shares half of the work burden on the field, their contribution to the farm sector has largely been ignored and inadequately understood in our economy. Keeping this view in mind, the study was undertaken.

METHODOLOGY

The present investigation was carried out to know the involvement of farm women in agriculture. Two villages were selected purposively from each talukas (i.e. Anand and Borsad) of Kheda district of Gujarat State. Twenty farm women were selected by simple random sampling from each village. Thus, the study was confined to 80 farm women. The data were collected through personal interview by using structured interview schedule.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The farm women were found engaged in various farming and animal husbandry activities. A perusal of data presented in Table 1 reveal that, they were mainly engaged in storage of foodgrains, sun

Table 1. Distribution of farm women according to their involvement in crop husbandry activities

N = 80			
Sr.	Activities	Frequency	Per cent
1	Nursery raising	34	42.50
2	Sowing	38	47.50
3	Transplanting	28	35.00
4	Fertilizer application	04	05.00
5	Irrigation	05	06.25
6	Weeding	41	51.25
7	Harvesting	36	45.00
8	Sun drying of produce	69	86.25
9	Storage of produce	73	91.25
10	Supervision of farm	21	26.25

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Table 2. Distribution of farm women according to their involvement in animal husbandry activities

N = 80

Sr.	Activities	Frequency	Per cent
1	Collection/cutting of fodder	36	45.00
2	Taking animals for grazing	08	10.00
3	Feeding to animals	70	87.50
4	Watering to animals	68	85.00
5	Cleaning the cattleshed	54	67.50
6	Milking	77	96.25
7	Health care of animals	26	32.50

Table 3. Constraints faced by farm women

N = 80

Sr.	Constraints	Frequency	Per cent
1	Lack of education	38	47.50
2	Family norms	72	90.00
3	Lack of knowledge	69	86.25
4	Lack of marketing facilities	12	15.00
5	Unability to have contact with extension worker	32	40.00
6	Unavailability of inputs at proper time	18	22.50

drying of produce and weeding. Nearly half of the respondents were found engaged in sowing, transplanting, harvesting and nursery raising.

Data presented in Table 2 show that, almost all the respondents (96.25 per cent) were found engaged in milking to animals followed by feeding to animals and watering to animals. They were also performed other laborious activities such as cleaning the cattleshed, cutting of fodder, health care of animals and taking animals for grazing.

It can be seen from Table 3 that, majority of the farm women expressed that family norms and lack of knowledge were the prominent constraints. Lack of educa-

tion was felt as constraints by nearly half of the respondents. Inability to have contact with village level worker and unavailability of inputs at proper time were the major constraints reported by 40.00 and 22.50 per cent of the respondents respectively.

IMPLICATIONS

1. The training programme for farm women should be organised specially in the field of crop husbandry and animal husbandry.
2. The extension workers should concentrate their efforts on farm women and make them aware of latest technological know-how.