

Constraints Faced by the Tribal Farm Women in Agricultural and Animal Husbandry Activities

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ABSTRACT

The Integrated Tribal Development Project, Dahod (ITDP Dahod) came in to existence on 17th June 1976 as a consequence of a planning process and the evolution of a new strategy and approach of integrated development tribal areas and population in the country with the objectives to narrow the gap between the level of development of tribal and other areas of the State and to increase the income from agriculture and thereby improve the quality of life of the tribal farmers. In most part of the areas of ITDP Dahod the agricultural and animal husbandry related activities such as transplanting, sowing, weeding, harvesting, winnowing, threshing, grain storage, collection of wood for fuel purpose, fetching of water, watering to animals, milking, look after domestic animals, etc. are carried out by tribal farmwomen. Besides, these tribal farmwomen also perform many other operations, but contribution of their roles in this area is not recognized. 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 "Constraints faced by the tribal farmwomen in Agricultural and Animal husbandry activities." The result of the study revealed that Major constraints faced by the tribal farmwomen in the field of agriculture were illiteracy, lack of irrigation facilities, lack of educational facilities, uneven land, lack of financial resources, scattered and small size of land holding, lack of knowledge about improved agriculture technology, lack of transportation facility, unavailability of timely inputs, lack of appropriate technology, unfavorable climatic conditions, low selling price of farm produce, lack of regular and timely contact with VLW and experts, lack of marketing facility, lack of training, social handicaps and unemployment during off season. It is also observed that Lack of availability of cheaper fodder, lack of regular veterinary services, lack of latest know how, lack of timely vaccination, high cost of cross breed, lack of pasture land and lack of active dairy co-operatives were major constraints faced by tribal farmwomen in performing their roles better way in the area of animal husbandry.

Keywords: Constraints, Tribal farm women

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. Agricultural production in India is generally carried out on millions of tiny farms managed by individual farmer and his family as the farm and home are inseparable in India. 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 (Sandhya et al., 1998).

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OBJECTIVE

To know the constraints faced by the tribal farmwomen in Agricultural and Animal husbandry activities

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 of ITDP Dahod. From each village, 20 respondents were selected randomly, thus, total sample of 200 respondents were selected for the present study.

The data were collected with the help of interview schedule along with the suitable scale for measurement of dependent and independent variables. 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.

It was operationalised as the items of difficulties faced by the tribal farmwomen for their better involvement in agricultural and animal husbandry activities in ITDP Dahod. With a view to identify the constraints, a list of 24 specific constraint items was prepared initially based on literature available and from discussion with extension experts. Before finalizing the items of the constraint inclusion in final schedule, an informal interview with a group of about 20 tribal farmwomen other than the respondents of the study had been arranged.

Thereafter, the constraints were got rated by the respondents on a four points continuum by asking them to indicate the extent to which each constraint was perceived

as hindering their better involvement in the agricultural and animal husbandry in ITDP Dahod.

The four response categories provided against each constraints were 'very much', 'much', 'not much' and 'not at all' with scores 3, 2, 1 and 0 respectively. The total weighted score for each constraint was computed by summing up the frequencies of respondents in different response categories. The mean weighted score was calculated by dividing the total weighted score with the number of respondents. The constraints were ranked on the basis of mean weighted scores.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Constraints faced by the tribal farmwomen

Many improved agricultural technologies were available, though many tribal farmwomen did not perform them effectively. With a view to investigate some important constraints, which prevent the various roles performed by tribal farmwomen in agricultural development. The views were gathered from the respondents. Constraints faced by the tribal farmwomen for their better involvement in agricultural and animal husbandry activities have been presented in Table 1.

The data in Table 1 shows that constraints faced by the tribal farm women for their better involvement in agricultural development activities in descending order of rank were illiteracy (rank-I), lack of irrigation facilities (rank-II), lack of educational facilities(rank-III), uneven land(rank-VI), lack of knowledge about improved agricultural technology(rank-VII), lack of transportation facility(rank-VIII), unavailability of timely inputs(rank-IX), lack of appropriate technology (rank-X), unfavourable climatic conditions(rank-XI), low selling price of farm produce (rank-XII), lack of regular and timely contact with VI.W and experts(rank-XIII), lack of marketing facility(rank-XIV), lack of training(rank-XV), social handicaps(rank-XVI) and unemployment during off season(rank-XVII).

Besides these, tribal farmwomen were also faced some constraints in performing their role in various animal husbandry activities. Table 1 also reveal that constraints faced by tribal farmwomen in performing their role in the area of animal husbandry in descending order of rank were lack of availability of cheaper fodder (rank I), lack of regular

veterinary services (rank II), lack of latest know how (rank III), lack of timely vaccination (rank IV), high cost of cross breed (rank V), lack of pasture land (rank VI) and lack of active dairy co-operatives (rank VII).

Table 1 : Distribution of respondents according to the constraints faced by the tribal farmwomen for their better involvement in agricultural and animal husbandry activities

Sr. No.	Constraints	Mean Score	Rank
(A) Agriculture			
1	Lack of educational facilities	2.69	III
2	Social handicaps	1.97	XVI
3	Lack of knowledge about improved agricultural technology	2.61	VII
4	Lack of regular and timely contact with VI W and experts	2.09	XIII
5	Lack of financial resources	2.66	V
6	Lack of appropriate technology	2.35	X
7	Unemployment during off season	1.89	XVII
8	Scattered and small size of land holding	2.64	VI
9	Illiteracy	2.72	I
10	Lack of irrigation facilities	2.70	II
11	Unavailability of timely inputs	2.43	IX
12	Lack of transportation facility	2.44	VIII
13	Uneven land	2.68	IV
14	Lack of marketing facility	2.04	XIV
15	Lack of training	1.96	XV
16	Low selling price of farm produce	2.13	XII
17	Unfavourable climatic conditions	2.31	XI
(B) Animal Husbandry			
1	Lack of timely vaccination	2.26	IV
2	Lack of pasture land	2.16	VI
3	High cost of cross breed	2.21	V
4	Lack of regular veterinary services	2.39	II
5	Lack of Latest know how	2.33	III
6	Lack of active dairy co-operatives	2.07	VII
7	Lack of availability of cheaper fodder	2.45	I

It can be concluded from the foregoing discussion that, major constraints faced by the tribal farmwomen in the field of agriculture were illiteracy, lack of irrigation facilities, lack of educational facilities, uneven land, lack of financial resources, scattered and small size of land holding, lack of knowledge about improved agricultural technology, lack of transportation facility, unavailability of timely inputs, lack of appropriate technology, unfavourable climatic conditions, low selling price of farm produce, lack of regular and timely

contact with VLW and experts, lack of marketing facility, lack of training, social handicaps and unemployment during off season whereas lack of availability of cheaper fodder, lack of regular veterinary services, lack of latest know how, lack of timely vaccination, high cost of cross breed, lack of pasture land and lack of active dairy co-operatives were major constraints faced by tribal farmwomen in performing their roles better way in the area of animal husbandry. This finding is in conformity with those of Shah (1997), Patel (1998), Diwan (2000), Atchuta Raju et al. (2001), Sarah Kamala and Atchuta Raju (2003) and Thangamani Umarani (2005).

The suggestion of tribal farm women to overcome the constraints

For effective role of respondents in agricultural development activities, some suggestive points were mentioned in the interview schedule to overcome the constraints. The respondents were asked accordingly to the points suggested as well as an attempt was made to take their suggestions also on their own accord. Almost all the respondents stated following suggestions to over come the constraints faced by them for their better involvement in agricultural development activities.

- (i) Voluntary organizations should come forward to promote tribal farmwomen’s literacy and improvement of educational opportunities in ITDP Dahod.
- (ii) There should be proper source of credit in ITDP Dahod.
- (iii) There should be technical assistance and training related to agriculture in ITDP Dahod.
- (iv) Establishing training centres in locations that can be reached easily by the tribal farmwomen in ITDP Dahod.
- (v) There should be provision of irrigation and remission in loans during loss of crops due to natural calamities in ITDP Dahod.
- (vi) There should be development of co-operatives for the tribal farmwomen in ITDP Dahod.
- (vii) There should be easy availability of cattle of better breed in ITDP Dahod.
- (viii) There should be easy availability of agricultural inputs in ITDP Dahod.
- (ix) There should be proper transport facilities in ITDP Dahod.

- (x) There should be proper marketing facilities in ITDP Dahod.
- (xi) There should be policies to raise procurement price of crop in ITDP Dahod.

This finding is in line with findings of Minz (1985) and Lepcha (1987).

CONCLUSION

Major constraints faced by the tribal farmwomen in the field of agriculture were illiteracy, lack of irrigation facilities, lack of educational facilities, uneven land, lack of financial resources, scattered and small size of land holding, lack of knowledge about improved agriculture technology, lack of transportation facility, unavailability of timely inputs, lack of appropriate technology, unfavourable climatic conditions, low selling price of farm produce, lack of regular and timely contact with VLW and experts, lack of marketing facility, lack of training, social handicaps and unemployment during off season.

Lack of availability of cheaper fodder, lack of regular veterinary services, lack of latest know how, lack of timely vaccination, high cost of cross breed, lack of pasture land and lack of active dairy co-operatives were major constraints faced by tribal farmwomen in performing their roles better way in the area of animal husbandry.

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