

## Participation of Rural Women in Crophusbandry

K. R. Paralikar<sup>1</sup> and S. R. Mahanty<sup>2</sup>

### INTRODUCTION

Women, as cultivators, agricultural labourers, artisans and or housewives constitute a sizeable section of the rural workforce. A situational analysis on the participation of women in farming would reflect that women in cleaning and softening of the earth while men, involved in ploughing. Sowing of seeds need womens' co-operation. Transplanting the paddy sapling is totally a womens' job. Weeding is only done by women whether it is ragi, jawar or paddy field. Their hands are specially made for planting chilli, and tomato spalings. Not only in sowing, women are also involved in harvesting activities, such as piiking of tomatoes, beans, brinjals, knolkhols, patatoes etc. They are also involved in harvesting plants, tying them into bundles and bringing them into threshing grounds, threshing, cleaning and winnowing are also done by women. Past studies also reflected the role of women in agriculture. Chaudhry and sharma (1961) reported that rural women participated in agricultural operations like manuring, weeding, land preparation, hoeing, sowing and taking care of standing crops, applying manure and fertilizers, harvesting, threshing

storage, carrying the produce from farm to home and animal care. similar findings have also been reported by Mitra, Lahiri and Mohapatre (1988). Sardamoni (1987), Saraswati, Padma and Perumal (1988) However, the review supports the necessity for conducting the present study. The present study was an attempt to explore the participation of rural women from the farmhouseholds of west bengal in crophusbandry.

### OBJECTIVES

1. To know the participation of rural women from farmhouseholds of West Bengal in crophusbandry.
2. To know the difference in the participation of rural women from the farmhouseholds of West Bengal in crophusbandry in relation to selected variables, such as
  - marital status - age
  - Education - Land holding
  - occupation of the householdhead
  - Size of the family

### METHODOLOGY

The present investigation was carried out in the PURULIA district of West Bengal. Sample of the of the study consisted of rural

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1. Reader, Department of Education Extension, Faculty of Homescience, M.S.U., Baroda.  
2. Fromer M. phil (Homescience) student, Department of Education, faculty of Homescience, M.S.U., Baroad.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS (272)**

Large Farmers	Small Farmers	Marginal Farmers	Agricultural Labourers.
(N <sub>1</sub> =35)	(N <sub>2</sub> =43)	(N <sub>3</sub> =91)	(N <sub>4</sub> =103)
30	30	30	30

**FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION.**

**Personal & Socioeconomic Characteristics of The Respondents.**

**Table 1 : Distribution of the respondents according to their socioeconomic characteristics. (N = 120)**

Sr. No.	Characters Groups	Respondents (%)				
		Large Farmer N = 30	Small Farmer N = 30	Marginal Farmer N = 30	Agricultural Labourers N = 30	Total N = 120
1. Marital Status	Married	43.33	50.00	30.00	33.33	39.17
	Widow	36.67	33.33	30.00	26.67	29.17
	Abando	20.00	16.67	40.00	40.00	31.66
2. Age	20to30 Yrs.	23.33	16.67	30.00	23.33	23.33
	31to40 Yrs.	36.67	46.67	43.33	50.00	44.17
	41Yrs.&above	40.00	36.66	26.67	26.67	32.50
3. Occupation of the husehold head	Farming	50.00	56.67	50.00	60.00	54.17
	Govt.service	20.00	20.00	23.33	13.33	19.17
	Farming &Business	30.00	23.33	26.67	26.67	26.66
4. Education of the house hold head	Illeterate upto class five	20.00	6.66	23.33	80.00	32.50
	Up to class ten& above	30.00	46.67	40.00	20.00	34.17
	Up to class ten& above	50.00	46.67	36.67	-	33.33
5. Education	Illeterate	43.33	50.00	73.22	70.00	59.17
	Upto class Five	30.00	30.00	13.34	20.00	23.33
	Up to class ten & above	26.67	20.00	13.34	10.00	17.50
6. Size of the Family	Large	63.00	66.67	70.00	43.33	61.67
	Small	36.67	33.33	30.00	56.67	38.33

of sample selected from each stratum ( i.e. 30 from each) to compare the difference among the data. The following flow chart shows the sampling procedure followed in the present investigation.

Data presented in Table (1) shows that about 39.17 percent of the respondents were married and 29.17 percent of the respondents were widow. Majority of the respondents were of 31 to 40 years of age and 23.33 percent of the respondents were of 20 to 30 years of age. Majority (59.17 percent) of them were illiterate. Only 17.50 percent of the respondents had up to class ten and above education. Maximum 61.67 percent of the respondents belonged to the large family.

### Participation of Rural Women in Crop Husbandry

**Table 2 : Crops grown by the respondents. (N=120)**

Sr. No.	Types of Crops	Respondents	
		F	%
1.	Vegetables (N=120)	120	100.00
2.	Paddy (N=120)	90	75.00
3.	Fruits (N=120)	60	50.00
4.	Pulses (N=120)	45	37.50
5.	Wheat (N=120)	36	30.00
6.	Oilseeds (N=120)	28	23.33
7.	Onions (N=120)	26	21.66
8.	Jute (N=120)	17	14.16

N.B. (A household may grow more than one type of crop).

**Table 3 : Distribution of labour in landpreparation stage (N=120)**

Sr. No.	Activities	Labour Groups							
		Women		Men		Hired Labour		Both (Men & Women)	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1.	Breaking the clods of earth. (N = 120)	7	5.83	22	18.33	74	61.67	17	14.17
2.	Irrigation (N=120)	0	0.00	89	74.17	20	16.67	11	9.16
3.	Carrying the manure (N =120)	22	18.33	12	10.00	67	55.83	19	15.84
4.	Applying the Manure (N= 120)	17	14.17	66	55.00	21	17.50	16	16.33
5.	Levelling of land (N = 120 )	10	8.33	37	30.83	65	54.16	8	6.68
6.	Selection of seeds (N = 120)	52	43.33	30	25.00	0	0.00	38	31.67
Mean		18	42.66	41.67		18.66			

Table 2 revealed that all the respondents participated in irrigation as compared to other groups. Majority ( 61.67 per-cent ) were engaged in raising vegetables. Maximum 75 percent respondents were engaged in paddy cultivation among the field crops. Maximum percentage 150 per cent of the respondents engaged in

participated in irrigation as compared to other groups. Majority ( 61.67 per-cent ) of the hired labour participated in breaking the clods of earth where as a maximum of 43.33 percent of women participated in selection of seeds.

**Table 4 : Distribution of labour in seedbed preparation stage.**

(N=120)

Sr. No.	Activities	Labour Groups							
		Men		Women		Hired Labour		Both (Men & Women)	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1.	Watering in seedbed N = 120	17	14.17	55	45.83	0	00.00	48	40.00
2.	Applying the manure N=120	21	17.50	60	50.00	0	00.00	9	7.50
3.	Weeding N=120	62	51.67	4	3.33	27	22.50	27	22.50
4.	Sowing of seeds N=120	54	45.00	3	2.50	33	27.50	30	25.00
5.	Caring of seedling N=120	36	30.00	40	33.33	0	0.00	44	36.67
Mean		38		32.4		12		31.6	

growing fruits. Among the cash crops like oilseeds, onions and jute, minimum percentage 114.16 percent of the respondents were in jute cultivation.

Table 3 revealed that the landpreparation stage, the mean frequency indicated that participation of men was more when compared to the other groups and the participation of women was less. The table further revealed that a high majority (74.17 percent ) of the men

Table 4 revealed that in the seedbed preparation stage the mean frequency indicated that the participation was more as compared to the other groups. And the participation of hired labour was less.

The data in Table 4 further revealed that a little above fifty percent of the women participation in weeding where as 50 percent of the men participated in applying manure and fertilizer and no single women reported their participation

**Table 5 : Distribution of labour in harvesting stage.****(N=120)**

Sr. No.	Activities	Labour Groups							
		Women		Men		Hired Labour		Both Men & Women	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1.	Up rooting N=120	50	41.67	15	12.50	9	7.50	46	38.33
2.	Transplanting N=120	56	46.66	2	1.67	29	24.17	33	27.50
3.	Weeding N=120	56	46.66	2	1.67	34	28.33	28	23.33
4.	Fertilizer Application N=120	0	0.00	111	92.50	4	3.33	5	4.17
5.	Pesticides and insecticides application N=120	0	0.00	99	88.50	21	17.50	0	0.00
6.	Care of crops till matured N=120	9	7.50	55	45.83	0	0.00	56	46.67
7.	Harvesting N=120	20	16.67	24	20.00	34	35.00	42	28.33
Mean		28.14		44		18.71		28.85	

in it. Only 27.50 percent of the hired labour participated in sowing of seeds where as only 36.67 percent of both men and women participated in caring seedlings.

Table 5 revealed that in the harvesting stage, the mean frequency of different labour groups indicated that the participation of men were more as compared to the other groups and the participation of hired labour was less.

The data in table 5 further revealed that a maximum of 46.66 percent of the women participated in weeding and transplanting as compared to the other

groups. A high majority ( 92.50 percent) of the men participated in the fertilizer application as compared to the other groups. Where as, a maximum of 35 percent of the hired labour participated in harvesting and only 38.33 percent of the both men and women participated in uprooting in the harvesting stage.

Table 6 revealed that in the post harvesting stage, the mean frequency of the different labour groups indicated that the participation of women was more in as compared to the other groups where as participation of both men and women was less.

**Table 6 : Distribution of labour in harvesting stage. (N=120)**

Sr. No.	Activities	Labour Groups							
		Women		Men		Hired Labour		Both Men & Women	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1.	Carring the crops N=120	29	24.17	14	14.17	55	45.83	19	15.83
2.	Transplating N=120	19	15.83	38	31.67	45	37.50	18	15.00
3.	Clearing N=120	75	62.50	9	7.50	-	-	36	30.00
4.	Preserving N=120	106	88.33	-	-	-	-	14	11.67
5.	Proboiling of dry paddy N=120	101	86.67	-	-	16	13.33	-	-
6.	Husking paddy byhand N=120	93	77.50	-	-	27	22.50	-	-
7.	Husking paddy by mill N=120	11	19.17	54	41.17	19	15.83	31	25.83
8.	Processing N=120	120	100.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mean		69.63		15.38		17.81		14.75	

**Table-7 : Participation of the respondents in crop husbandry.**

Participation	Crop Husbandry (N = 120)	
	F	%
Low	37	30.83
Moderate	51	42.50
High	32	26.67
Total	120	100.00

The data in table 6 further revealed that all the women participated in processing whereas a maximum of 41.17 percent of the men participated in husking the paddy by mill as compared to the other groups. Whereas, a maximum of 45.17 percent of the hired labour participated in carrying the crops and only 30 percent of the both men and women participated in clearing activities in post harvesting stage.

Table 7 revealed that high 42.50 percent of the respondents participated moderately in crop husbandry. And only 26.67 percent of the respondents reported high participation in crop husbandry.

Table 8 revealed that a significant difference was found in the participation of women in crop husbandry according to their age, occupation of the household head, education & landholding.

### IMPLICATIONS

The present study clearly indicated that some of the activities were slowly done by women while in many others they play active supportive roles. The role of rural women in Indian rural society is a multifaceted issue. Participation of women in farming is increasing mainly due to economical needs, population pressure on land, rapid change in climatic condition.

**Table 8 : Differences in the participation of the respondents in crop-husbandry in relation to the selected variables.**

Sr. No.	Selected Variables	Chi-Square Value Crop Husbandry		
1.	Marital Status	5.419		
2.	Age	14.414*		
3.	Occupation of the household head	13.25*		
4.	Education	13.215*		
5.	Size of the family.	4.16		
after correction				
6.	Land-holding		Large- Small- marginal	Large- marginal
	Yate	Large-Mode rate	3.97**	4.49**
		Moderate	4.32**	8.75**
		High		9.50**
		Low-High	N.S.	23.47**
				26.51**

\* Significant with 4 degrees of freedom.

N.S. Not Significant

\*\* Significant with 1 degrees of freedom at 05 level.

N.B. (for landholding variable Yates' correction is used)

The findings of the present study points towards in the programmes of economic development in agricultural, strategy to promote dignity of labour, improvement in condition of work and increasing opportunities for social operation mobility. Lates information regarding farming and farm practtices should be stressed through education programme for women.

#### REFERENCES

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