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Participation of men and women farmers in production technology of little millet (*Panicum miliare*) in Haveri district of Karnataka

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Abstract

The study was conducted to identify the extent of participation as well as participation pattern of men and women farmers in production of little millet (*Panicum miliare*) in Haveri district of Karnataka during 2011-12. The stratified sampling technique was employed to select 120 respondents comprising equal number of men and women farmers from four villages in Haveri district of Karnataka. The primary data required for the study was obtained through personal interview method using pre-tested schedule prepared for the purpose. Study revealed that on an average total 26.34 man days were involved in production of little millet, of which 15.10 man days are contributed by men farmers and 11.24 man days by women farmers. Further, it was observed that on an average total man days involved in post harvest practices of little millet was 67.83 man days, of which 42.59 man days were contributed by women farmers and 25.24 man days by men farmers. The study revealed that men farmers were involved more in practices like land preparation, inter cultivation and FYM application. Women farmers' participation was higher in hand weeding and seed treatment. Both men and women farmers involved in practices like sowing and harvesting of the produce.

Keywords: Little millet (*Panicum miliare*), Extent of participation, Pattern of participation and Farm Yard Manure (FYM)

Introduction

Background and objectives

Men and women participation in little millet cultivation is broadly taken considered mainly to know-how best particularly involved in production practices. Women farmers in both the areas (rain fed and irrigated) participated regularly in activities like weeding, harvesting, winnowing and transplanting (Geetalaxmi *et al.* 2002)^[3].

Farm women from marginal land group spent 34.3 per cent of time in total farm activities followed by small (33.7%), medium (33.1%) and big (31.1%) land holding groups with significant difference between the farm groups regarding time utilization pattern in total farm activities (Kavita and Reddi 2002)^[4].

Millet crops requires less water than any other grain crop and provides assured harvests in arid, semi-arid and mountainous regions of tropics and sub-tropics where monsoon failure and droughts are frequent, soil fertility is poor and land terrain is difficult. Among millet group little millet is one of the staple for households in many countries. Considering the importance of millet cultivation in promoting agricultural development in the country in general, in the state of Karnataka in particular and Haveri district in specific, an attempt has been made in this study to estimate the extent of participation and participation pattern of men and women farmers in little millet cultivation.

Resources and methods

The study was conducted in four millet growing villages of Haveri district namely Manthrawadi, Jekinakatti, Timmapur and Tadasa. A well structured interview schedule was developed to understand the trends in millet production as well as factor influencing the cultivation of little millet. The primary data was collected by personal interview method. The sample was composed of 60 men and 60 women farmers selected by stratified random sampling procedure. Frequency and percentage were used to draw valuable inference from the research study.

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Observation and analysis

Participation pattern of men and women farmers in production practices of little millet

The results presented in the Table 1 and Fig. 1 revealed that, as per the men farmers men labor higher participation in activities like land preparation (96.67%) followed by inter cultivation (85.00%), seed treatment (70.00%) and farm yard manure application (66.67%). While, women participation was higher in hand weeding (76.67%) and seed treatment (3.33%). Further, it was observed that both men and women participation higher in harvesting (100.00%) followed by sowing (91.67%), fertilizers application (30.00%) and hand weeding (18.33%).

Similar observation were found in case of women farmers, according to them men participation higher in land preparation (96.67%) followed by inter cultivation (98.33%), seed treatment (53.33%), FYM application (1.67%), weeding (1.67%) and harvesting (1.67%). While, women participation was higher in hand weeding (90.00%) and seed treatment (8.33%). Further, it was observed that both men and women participation higher in sowing (100.00%) followed by equal percentage (98.33%) in harvesting, fertilizer application and FYM application. Slightly less participation observed in practices like weeding (8.33%), land preparation (3.33%) and inter cultivation (1.67%).

The results highlights that majority of men farmers and women farmers expressed that participation of only men in cultivation practices of little millet like land preparation followed by inter cultivation, seed treatment, farm yard manure application. As these practices required hard work and energy, men farmers have involved in these practices. While women participation is more in hand weeding and seed treatment. In case of both men and women participation, all

had participated in harvesting followed by sowing. Since these practices need both men and women farmers for their particular operating skill to perform better when they are together. As such practices were perform well when they do with equal participation of men and women farmers than single handedly.

Extent of participation of men and women farmer in little millet production practices (man days/acre)

The results presented in the Table 2 and Fig. 2 depicts that average number of man days of person participated in production practices. An average (5.42 man days) of men and 5.37 man days of women participation was found in harvesting followed by sowing (2 and 1.38 man days), land preparation (1.82 and 0.03 man days) and FYM application (1.37 and 1.15 man days), respectively.

Overall an average (10.79 man days) of participation was observed in harvesting followed by sowing (3.38 man days), inter cultivation (2.71 man days), FYM application (2.52 man days), weeding (2.38 man days), fertilizer application (2.08 man days), land preparation (1.85 man days) and seed treatment (1.85 man days).

An average (5.42 man days) of men and 5.37 man days of women participation was found in harvesting followed by sowing, land preparation and FYM application, respectively. It can be concluded that total of 26.34 man days involved in production of which 15.10 man days of men farmers and 11.24 man days of women farmers contributed to the operations.

Further it was observed that more man days were involved in harvesting of the little millet. There is need to enhance the efficiency of labour through popularization sickle and introduction of improved small equipments.

Table 1: Participation pattern of men and women farmers in production practices of little millet, (n = 120)

Sl No.	Operations	Men farmers (n ₁ =60)						Women farmers (n ₂ =60)					
		Only men		Only women		Both		Only men		Only women		Both	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Land preparation	58	96.67	0	0	2	3.33	58	96.67	0	0	2	3.33
2	Sowing	5	8.33	0	0	55	91.7	0	0	0	0	60	100
3	FYM application	48	80	0	0	12	20	1	1.67	0	0	59	98.33
4	Seed treatment	42	70	2	3.33	0	0	32	53.33	5	8.33	0	0
5	Fertilizer application	40	66.67	0	0	18	30	1	1.67	0	0	59	98.33
6	Inter cultivation	51	85	0	0	9	15	59	98.33	0	0	1	1.67
7	Weeding	3	5	46	76.7	11	18.3	1	1.67	54	90	5	8.33
8	Harvesting	0	0	0	0	60	100	1	1.67	0	0	59	98.33

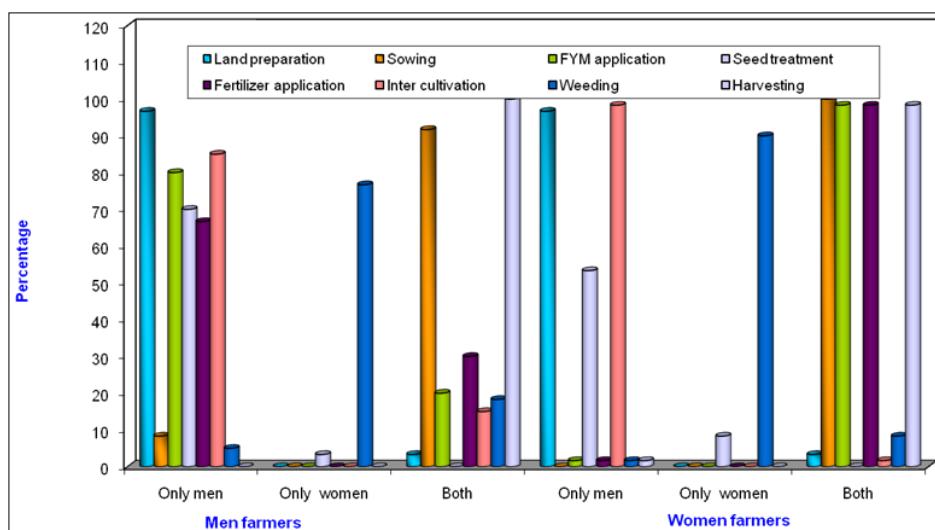
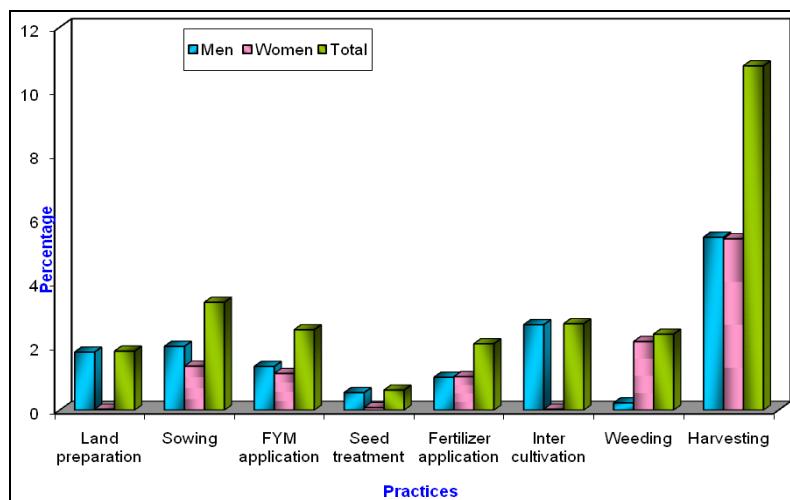


Fig 1: Participation pattern of men and women farmers in production practices of little millet.

Table 2: Extent of participation of men and women farmer in production of little millet (average man days/acre), (n=120).

Sl. No.	Practices	Men	Women	Total
1	Land preparation	1.82	0.03	2.18
2	Sowing	2	1.38	3.38
3	FYM application	1.37	1.15	2.32
4	Seed treatment	0.55	0.08	0.73
5	Fertilizer application	1.03	1.05	2.28
6	Inter cultivation	2.68	0.03	3.09
7	Weeding	0.23	2.15	2.1
8	Harvesting	5.42	5.37	10.87
9	Total	15.1	11.24	26.95

**Fig 2:** Extent of participation of men and women farmer in production of little millet (average man days/acre).

Conclusion

It can be concluded that low economic returns associated with little millet was the major reason for reduction in the area of little millet as perceived by the farmers. Mean while rain interrupts the entire harvesting period of the crop, it leads to severe losses of grains and fodder. Farmers growing cotton crop in place of little millet followed by maize, groundnut and soybean. The economic returns are better from these crops and market prices are quite consistently high and profitable compared with little millet.

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