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Participation of women in agriculture and food security in eastern Uttar Pradesh

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Abstract

She is doing all activities related to farming whether at home or in the field but she is not a farmer, she is only female farm worker. Female farm worker (women) play an important role in agriculture sector. We are not imagine agriculture achievement without her. According to IRRI (International Rice Research Institute) “farm house hold survey” female contribution in rice production is approx 74% in utter Pradesh. The present study was conducted in the village of Rudrapur and the sample of 60 rural female farm worker. The female farm worker are involve various type of agriculture activities and faced different type health problem. Samples were selected through simple random sampling for the data collection. We were use Interview schedule for find the basic information of respondents and filed observation to observe the farm activities. In addition we also highlight the role of women in food preservation and food storage is highly than male. Women who is responsible for food processing and preserving to increase it availability.

Traditional Knowledge system is can assist food in expensive, safe nutrition food throughout the whole year.

Keywords: Female farm worker, agricultural activity, Food security

Introduction

Agriculture sector plays a strategic role in the process of economic growth of country. Agriculture is the major sector of the state economy, in which the majority of people earn their livelihood. But the role of women integral part of this sector. In developing countries female farm workers participation is 2/3rd in the area of agriculture. Female farm workers are good companion in farming, and under taken different type management work along with men. Based on 2012 data “India is the home to the fourth largest agriculture sector in the world. “We find different of studies the role of women very crucial and important in the sector of agriculture. So we say that not only women are the backbone of agriculture also woman is the builder of the nation’s destiny. When we saw the percentage of women dependency on agriculture for their livelihoods is as high as 84%. Women participation rate in the agriculture sector is about 45.43% growing oil seeds, 39.13% in vegetable production, 46.84% in cotton cultivation and 47% in tea plantation. Women are significant employer in agriculture and also take care of animals. When we saw the women works we find that their work is both wide ranging and multitasked. Female farm worker are also main role in maintain food and nutrition security of their households. In India female farm workers has a vital role to play appropriate post-harvest processes and technology have great potential to increase present supply of food and they have best placed to ensure sustainable sustention supplies and hence achievement of household food security. In this paper rural women uses their local knowledge and skill known, in preservation and storage.

Objective

1. To study different type of activity performed by female farm worker in agriculture field.
2. To come out the knowledge about food grain storage and indigenous knowledge of food security.

Methodology

The present study was conducted in the village of Rudrapur and the sample of 60 rural female farm worker. The female farm worker are involve various type of agriculture activities and faced different type health problem. Samples were selected through simple random sampling for the data collection. We were use Interview schedule for find the basic information of respondents and filed observation to observe the farm activities.

Result and Discussion

Table 1 show that seedling and transplanting of paddy plants is an activity in which women participation is 96.6%. The participation of female farm worker was found to be more in activity cleaning of soil 95%. Cleaning of soil is essential for better seed germination and healthy seedling. In this study found that 86.5% female farm worker are involve in weeding process. Weed process is important to control and prevent losses yield and to preserve good grain quality. Only 10% female respondent are involve in ploughing of the field and same percentage are involve in plant protection measures activity (use of pesticide).

Table 1: women participation in different type agriculture activities

S. No.	Farm activity	Frequency	%	Posture
1.	Ploughing of filed	6	10	Standing
2.	Cleaning of soil	57	95	Bending
3.	Leveling of soil	20	33.3	Standing
4.	Apply organic matters	20	33.3	Standing
5.	Make trench	26	43.3	Standing
6.	Irrigation work	44	73	Standing
7.	Seedling	58	96.6	Sitting
8.	Transplanting	58	96.6	Bending
9.	Weeding	52	86.6	Sitting
10.	Plant protection measures: use of pesticide	06	10	Standing
11.	Harvesting	58	96.6	Sitting
12.	Load carry on head	26	43.3	Standing
13.	Threshing	20	33.3	Bending
14.	Drying of grains	49	81.6	Bending
15.	Cleaning of grains	53	88.3	Sitting
16.	Winnowing	56	93.3	Sitting
17.	Storing	50	83.3	Standing

In mostly family we find that the activity use of pesticide carried out by the men. Only 33.3% women are performing the work of threshing and winnowing is exclusively done by women as 93.3% are performing this activity in the study area.

In this study more than 88.3% and 81.6% respondents carrying out this important post-harvest activity drying and cleaning of grains. In this study area reveals that only 20% women are performing the task of load carry and this activity mainly done by male in the family. Majority of the women i.e., 33.3% are actively involved in the activity of apply organic matters. Female farm workers involve in this activity on which condition when no any male at home. More than 83.3% female farm workers are involve in the end of the cropping season storing the crop product in a proper way in grain storage containers and other traditional storage structures built for this purpose. This structure build by mud (Dehari), Rope (morai), Bamaoo (kangi) and Jute bags etc. Women play significant role in agriculture sector. She is involve main crop production, livestock production. In agriculture sector taken heavy work load and different type of posture for achieving farming goals, they suffered many problems.

Table 2: Female farm worker uses their traditional storage method.

SI. No.	Category	Respondent %
1.	Plastic Bag	92
2.	Gunny Bag	99
3.	Dehari	98%
4.	Matka / Gagri	98%
5.	Storage drum	86%
6.	Bhukari	58%
7.	Flate bottom metal bin	35%
8.	High moisture hollow bamboo bin	26%

Table 3. Clearly show that the majority of the respondent 99% were found to be use gunny bags for storage grains. We were also found to be Know about the use of plastic bag and Dehari followed by the respondent 92% and 98%. Majority of the rural women i.e. 58% are uses traditional Bhukhari and other 35% respondents were uses flate bottom metal bins.

Table 3: Rural women use indigenous knowledge for storage food grains.

SI. No.	Category	Respondents %
1	Sun drying	100
2	Ash mixing	58
3	Use of neem leaves	98%
4.	Salt Mixing	66%
5.	Putting onion bulbs	48%

Table 4: clearly show that 100% respondent were know that before storage of grain well drying is secure grain life and 58% respondents also use ash mixing before food storage. The majority of 98% respondent found to be know about the neem leaves 66% were use putting onion bulb for secure food security.

Conclusion

Men are not finding any agriculture achievements without women. Rural women give very important role in agriculture sector. SOME agriculture work is not possible without women like, seedling, transplanting, winnowing cleaning and storing but in so many major agriculture operation they suffer different type of management problem. Also this study argued that rural women in Rudrapur area stand for use available local resources to secure food grains in achieving household food security and this vital role of women securing household supplies.

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