

# A Study on Role of Rural Women Farmers in Agricultural Development

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## Abstract

Agriculture is the essential pillar of Indian economy. Women's role in agricultural sector is immemorial. Women play a vital role in the overall progress of the family. Women act as a driving force of the family by maintaining balance in the work life and economic assistance in the family irrespective of her educational background. However, the present study has been undertaken to analyze the role of rural women farmers in agricultural development, to study the challenges faced by rural women farmers, to study the level of rural women farmers' participation in implementation of agricultural practices. The data for the present study is collected by meeting rural women farmers with the help of structured questionnaire.

**Keywords: Rural women, agriculture, development, farming etc.**

## I INTRODUCTION

Women play a vital role in the overall progress of the family. Women act as a driving force of the family by maintaining balance in the work life and economic assistance in the family irrespective of her educational background. Women contribution in agriculture is equivalent to men. Most of the women in rural areas are earning their bread and butter by working as labour in farms equivalent to men. Women perform numerous labour intensive jobs such as weeding, hoeing, grass cutting, picking, cotton stick collection, separation of seeds etc. However, the present study has been undertaken to analyze the role of rural women farmers in agricultural development, to study the challenges faced by rural women farmers, to study the level of rural women farmers' participation in implementation of agricultural practices.

## II LITERATURE REVIEW

- **Mr. Subhadip pal and sourav Halder [2016].** Conducted "A study on participation and role of rural women in decision making related to farm activities; A study in Burdwan district of west Bengal" in the present study it has been analyzed that women's participation & decision making process in farming activities in katwa block- in of Burdwan district India the decision making score was higher among the male farmers

most decisions were taken jointly by both female and male participants indicating the development of social status of the farming women

- **Roja. M (August 2018):-** conducted “**A study on information needs of the rural women farmers**”. The main purpose of the study agricultural information needs of the women farmers in Garani village Tumkur District, Karnataka. The data for the present study has been collected from rural women farmers. Rural women are using mobile phones for getting their agricultural information. It is also found that the first preferred sources of the information of women farmers is newspapers following by other farmers or colleague & television
- **Md. ShajahanKabir. sadikashaha. Gauranga Chandra Shaha. [2019-21];-** conducted, ” **A study on rural women role in agricultural development activities at JinaigatiUpazila of Sherpurdistrict**”. The main purposes of the study were to assess the extent of participation of rural women in agricultural activities at Jinaigati Upazila under Sherpur district & to explore the roles of the selected variables of the rural women and their extent of participation in different agricultural production.
- **Mr. Umar. Abdulmumini, Mr. Norsida. Man, Mr. Nur. BahiahMohdHaris, Mr. Nitty. Hirawaty kamarul zaman,(26-1-2022)** conducted “**A study on rural women farmers participation in planning and implementation of agricultural practices in north eastern Nigeria**”. The study investigated participation of women farmers in planning and implementation of agricultural practices in north eastern Nigeria. The need for extension programme that would ensure effective motivation by extension workers for meaningful participation of women farmers in planning and implementation of agricultural practices become necessary to increase productivity.

### III OBJECTIVES

1. To study the role of rural women farmers in agricultural development
2. To study the challenges faced by rural women farmers
3. To study the level of rural women farmers participation in implementation of agricultural practices

### IV SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present studies focus towards the role of rural women farmers in agricultural development. The study area is limited to Hassan district only. The study focus only on rural women farmers by excluding others. The number of respondents was limited to 100 rural women farmers only.

## V RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The data for the present study have been collected from both primary and secondary sources.

**Primary data:** Primary data has been collected from rural women farmers with the help of structured questionnaire through interview method. Numbers of respondents were limited to 100 only. The study area is limited to Hassan district only.

**Secondary data:** Secondary data has been collected by referring secondary sources like articles, journals, website's, books and other internet sources etc.

## VI RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Table No-1: Occupation of a rural women farmer**

SL.No	Particulars	No of respondents	Percentage %
1	Livestock(cattle) Farming	13	13
2	Poultry farming	17	17
3	Sheep farming	07	07
4	Growing agricultural	24	29
5	Others activities	34	34
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

(Source: Field survey)

From the above table it can be analyzed that out of 100 respondents, 13% women farmers have chosen their occupation as livestock farming, 17% are engaged in poultry farming, 07% in sheep farming, 29% in growing agricultural ingredients, 34% with other activities.

From the above analysis it can be interpreted that majority of the women farmers in rural areas have chosen their career with other activities in farming.

**Table No-2: Benefit from government**

SI No	Particulars	Yes		No	
		Total	%	Total	%
1	Agricultural loan facility	79	79	21	21
2	Crop insurance facility	76	76	24	24
3	Agricultural machineries facility	46	46	54	54
4	Subsidies for fertilizers and seeds facility.	87	87	13	13

5	Other facilities	87	87	13	13
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(Source: Field survey)

From the above table it can be analyzed that out of 100 respondents, 79% have availed agricultural loan facility, 76% have availed crop insurance facility, 46% have availed agricultural machineries facility, and 87% have availed subsidies for fertilizers and seeds facility from the government.

From the above analysis it can be interpreted that majority of the rural women’s have availed subsidies for fertilizers and seeds facility, crop insurance facility and agricultural loan facility and very few have availed agricultural machineries facilities offered by the government.

**Table No-3: Problems faced as rural women in agricultural development**

Particulars	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Financial problem	36	53	05	04	02
Lack of family support	20	47	18	10	05
Improper yield	22	45	22	06	05
Improper price for output	30	40	16	01	13
Transportation	30	36	16	09	09
<b>Natural calamities</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>09</b>

(Source: Field survey)

From the above table it can be analyzed that out of 100 respondents, 53% agree that they have come across financial problems as rural women farmers, 47% agreed with lack of family support, 45% agreed that they have come across an issue of improper yield, 40% agreed that they have faced an issue of improper price for output, and 36% agreed that transportation is also a problem faced by rural women farmers.

From the above analysis it can be interpreted that most of the rural women farmers have faced various problems like lack of financial support, family support, improper yield, improper price for output, and transportation.



**Table No-4: Rural women farmers were inspired by**

SI No	Particulars	No of respondents	Percentage
1	Self motivation	38	38%
2	Financial problem made me inspired	29	29%
3	By family	20	20%
4	Others	13	13%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

(Source: Field survey)

From the above table it can be analyzed that out of 100 respondents, 38% were self motivated to start their career as farmer, 29% said financial problem inspired them, 20% said they got inspired by family, and 13% said others.

From the above analysis it can be interpreted that majority of the rural women farmers got inspired by self to start their career as rural women farmer.

## VII FINDINGS

- In terms of marital status, out of 100 respondents 78% are married.
- In terms of age, out of 100 respondents, 40% respondents come under the age group of 30-40 years.
- In terms of educational qualification, out of 100 respondents, 37% respondents are having no formal education.
- Majority of the respondent's i.e, 46% women farmers' monthly income is Rs 50,000.
- Majority of the respondent's i.e, 35% respondents annual savings is between 1,00,000- 1,50,000.
- Most of the respondents i.e, 68% have availed loan facility from bank for agricultural purpose.
- Majority of the respondent's i.e, 62% are aware of various credit facilities related to agriculture
- Majority of 69% respondents answered yes we have availed loan facility from government to rural area.
- Most of the respondents i.e, 45% respondents have been working as rural women farmers for more than 3 years
- 73% of respondents answered that they have taken loan from bank for agricultural development.
- Majority of the rural women farmers' i.e, 36% are growing other crops grown in the region.
- Majority of the respondent's i.e, 85% respondents availed crop insurance.
- Majority of the respondent's i.e, 63% respondents are attended agricultural program.
- Majority of the respondent's i.e, 53% have come across financial problems.
- Majority of the respondent's i.e, 38% are self motivated to start their career as rural women farmer.

## VIII SUGGESTIONS

- Skills and knowledge among rural women farmers for agricultural development activities has to be enhanced.
- Various schemes must be implemented to stretch supportive hands for the progress of rural women farmers.
- Proper training practices need to be implemented to increase work standards of women farmers.
- Women farmers need to be encouraged with financial assistance and technical knowledge need to be provided for rural women farmers.
- Distribution of subsidized fertilizer and seeds for agricultural produce to women farmers
- Encouraging farmers by providing machinery for agricultural work by the government
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## IX CONCLUSION

From the above study it can be concluded that rural women's have come across various challenges like lack of financial assistance, lack of family support, lack of awareness about various agricultural practices, lack of respect and support from the society. Thus government must stretch supportive hands for the wellbeing of women by supporting in all aspects through organizing various programs and schemes for improving the financial assistance and knowledge of the women farmers.

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