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Extent of participation and decision making of man alone and jointly with women in different agricultural activities.

P. L. Srivastava and M.P. Singh

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ballia

**N.D.University of Agriculture and Technology, Kumarganj,
Faizabad-224 229 (UP), India**

Abstract

A survey based study was carried out in the month of July-August, 2013 in the district Ballia of Uttar Pradesh to know participation and decision making of man alone and jointly with female in different agricultural activities. A personal interview schedule was developed and used. One hundred farmers were selected. Data collected included the extent of participation and decision making of man alone and jointly with women in various agricultural activities. Study revealed that in agricultural activities various intervention points are addressable such as activities done by male alone include ploughing, farm yard manure application, formation of ridges and furrows, and plant treatment. The operations done by male jointly with female dominations are cleaning of land, hoeing and weeding, transplanting of nursery, storage of seed and processing of cereal pulse and vegetable. The work dominated by male is seed treatment, raising vegetable nursery, application of pesticide and weedicide and marketing. The activities in which both the groups showed their equal participation are sowing of seeds, scaring of birds, rodents and animals, nursery after care and harvesting. Non participation of women in various operations is due to high fatiqueness, requirement of more muscle power, and lack of knowledge and awareness. With respect to decision making it is also observed that prominent role was performed by male, woman played only supportive role. Less participation of women in decision making could be attributed to custom, tradition social barrier, their illiteracy ignorance and less participation in extension programmes. Women education, technical training and adequate extension facilities can create a positive impact leading to a better tomorrow.

Keywords-Agricultural activities, decision making, man, woman, illiteracy, ignorance, tradition

Introduction

Farming is main occupation in rural India from ancient time. Different crops are grown round the year for family need. Women have played major role for its productive activities for which they carryout substantial volume of work. They also perform parallel activities along with men for commercial production of crops. Agriculture in Ballia district has a vast potential of improving the economic status of farming community. It has been observed that in farm-family the participation of woman during decision making as well as in the implementation and management of farm planning is very poor, although their

contribution towards total land and labour is significant. It is realized on the national basis that being an equal stakeholder of society women's participation from planning to execution plays a significant role in sustainable development of any enterprises. Gender sensitizations will help to understand the gender role and gender need in different activities and the possible intervention required in specific situation (Krishana Srinath, 2011). Therefore study was carried out to determine the extent of male participation alone and jointly with woman in different activities and decision involved in agricultural operations, so that suitable intervention can be planned.

Materials and methods

The study was taken up in different villages of Ballia district. The subject of the study comprised hundred male farmers. The data was collected in the month July-August 2013 through personal interview schedule developed. The data collected included information related to different activities and decision making conducted by man alone and jointly with woman in different agricultural activities. The collected data was processed and presented in the form of Table-1 and 2.

Result and discussion

The present study focussed on the extent of participation of male alone and jointly with female in different agricultural activities. It varied from one activity to another. Table -1 shows that some activities are performed by male alone and some by jointly with female. The data indicated that the activities such as ploughing, farm yard manure application, forming ridges and furrows and plant treatment are done by male only. The operations done by male jointly with female dominations are cleaning of land, transplanting of nursery, hoeing and weeding, processing of cereal, pulse, vegetable and storage of seed. The works dominated by male are seed treatment, raising vegetable nursery, pesticide and weedicide application and marketing. The activities in which both the groups showed their equal participation are sowing of seeds, scaring of birds, rodents and animals, nursery after care and harvesting. These are in line of agreement with that reported by Baba, *et al.*, (2010) from their study in Jammu-Kashmir. Non participation of woman in ploughing, forming ridge and furrows, is due to hard labour and in plant treatment due to lack of awareness and knowledge. Similar case has been reported by Srivastava and Singh (2011) from their study in Ballia. Non participation in various agricultural activities due to drudgery faced in operations by farm woman has also been reported by Singh, *et al.*, (2005) in their study from Madhya Pradesh. With respect to decision making (Table-2) shows that important decisions are taken by male domination. Female showed their domination in storage of seed and processing. In the sale of produce both the group have equally shared in decision making. The studies focus that woman play only supportive role, while dominant role was performed by male. Less involvement of woman in decision making could be attributed to custom, tradition, social barrier and illiteracy, ignorance and less participation in extension programme. Study is in conformation of Baba, *et al.*, (2010) in their study in Jammu- Kashmir.

Table-1 Participation of man alone and jointly with woman in different agricultural activities in percent (N=100)

SN	Activities	Mode of activities	
		Alone	Joint
1	Land preparation		
	Ploughing	100	00
	Cleaning of field	10	90
	FYM application	100	00
	Making ridges and furrows	100	00
2	Pre sowing and sowing operations		
	Seed treatment	98	2
	Sowing of seed	50	50
	Plant treatment	100	00
	Raising nursery	90	10
	Nursery after care	50	50
	Transplanting of nursery	25	75
3	Intercultural operations		
	Irrigation	90	10
	Hoeing and weeding	40	60
	Fertilizer application	75	25
	Pesticide and weedicide application	95	5
	Scaring of birds rodents and animals	50	50
4	Harvesting and post harvesting operations		
	Harvesting	50	50
	Storage of seed	20	80
	Marketing	80	20
	Processing	10	90

Table-2 Decision making of man alone and jointly with women in different agricultural activities in percentage (N=100)

Sl. No.	Operations	Male alone	Joint decision
1	Land selection	84	16
2	Selection of crops to be grown	83	17
3	Method of cultivation	82	18
4	Selection of farm machinery/ and its implementations	93	7
5	Varietal selection	87	13
6	Fertilizer selection and application	92	8
7	Choice of irrigation	88	12
8	Sale of produce	50	50
9	Storage of seed	35	65
10	Processing	10	90

Conclusion

Male participation was found more prominent although woman dominated in some operations also. With respect to decision making woman played only supportive role, while dominant role was performed by man. Woman education, technical training, adequate extension facilities for woman can create a positive impact leading to a better tomorrow.

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