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## **Role of housewives and agricultural female farm labourers in agricultural operations**

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### **Abstract**

*A survey was conducted in month of June 2010 at village Sohaon, District-Ballia, Uttar Pradesh. Survey data was collected included information related to socio-economic status and different agricultural activities of housewives and agricultural labour. On the basis of survey result, hundred percent involvements of farm laborers were found in paddy cultivation, vegetable cultivation, sowing of seeds, threshing, where as housewives data showed their maximum involvement in the processing of fruits and vegetables. Both the group was recorded involved in the storage of seed, grain and grain processing as a housewives and agricultural farm labour. Small scale participation was shown by them in preparation of compost, farm yard manure and nutrition gardening with improper scientific knowledge in the activities done by them. Less involvement of housewives in agricultural activities was due to custom, tradition and social barrier.*

**Key words:** agricultural activities, agricultural farm labourers, custom, tradition, social barrier.

### **Introduction**

Women are back bone of agriculture in the developing countries as well as India also. Historians believe that, it was women who first started cultivation of crops and initiated the art and science of farming (Chaudhary and Singh, 2003). At present both the farm labourers and house wives are involved in different agricultural activities, but they are applying the traditional knowledge in their works. Village Sohaon is situated near the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Sohaon, Ballia. Female farm labourers mostly come from this village to work in KVK. farm so the study was conducted to know the involvement of both housewives and farm labourers in agriculture, difference in their work, cause of differences so that training should be organized to improve and use the scientific method in the activities.

### **Materials and Methods**

A survey study was conducted in village sohaon, District-Ballia, Uttar Pradesh. The subjects of the study comprised fifty housewives having land for cultivation and fifty farm labourers. The data was collected in

the month of June 2010 through personal interview schedule developed by the researcher. The data collected included information related to socio-economic status and different agricultural activities. The collected data were processed, tabulated and presented in the form of table after giving appropriate statistical treatments.

## Results and Discussion

It is clear from the table.1 that most of women were in the age group twenty eight to thirty six year old. Almost all the labourers were illiterate (90%) where as this was fourty per cent in house wives. Percentage of joint family was nil in labourers but it was eight per cent in house wives. Majority of women were Hindu. Among house wives most of the family (84%) had one earning members, in contrast to this labourers (76 %) had two earning members. and the earning members were both husband and wife.

**Table-1 Socio Economic Profile**

Socio Economic Characteristics		Farm Women		House wives	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1- Age-	19-27	08	16	10	20
	28-36	30	60	35	70
	37-45	12	24	05	10
2- Educational Status-	Illiterate	45	90	20	40
	Primary	05	10	13	26
	Middle	-	-	12	24
	High school	-	-	02	04
	Inter	-	-	02	04
	Graduation	-	-	01	02
	Above Graduation	-	-	-	-
3-Religion	Hindu	40	80	47	94
	Muslim	-	-	03	06
	Christion	10	20	-	-
	Other Religion	-	-	-	-
4- Type of Family-	Nuclear	50	100	46	92
	Joint	00	nil	04	08
5- Occupation of the master of the family					
Government services					
Business		-	-	02	04
Non government Services		05	10	10	20
Farming		07	14	07	14
Stonecutter/Agriculture		-	-	31	62
Laburers/Rickshaws					
Puller		38	76	-	-
6-Number of earning members in the family-	One	05	10	42	84
	Two	38	76	04	08
	Morethan two	07	14	04	08
7- Family income Rs/Annum					
Below 30000		35	70	10	20
30000-60000		15	30	28	56
60000-90000		-	-	12	24
90000 & above		-	-	-	-

Income was in the range of below thirty thousand to ninety thousand per annum and majority labourers (70 percent) earned below thirty thousand and house wife (56 per cent) age thirty thousand to sixty thousand. Both farm labourers and house wives were involved in various agricultural activities such as pre-sowing, intercultural operations, pre and post harvesting operations. It is

**Table-2 Role of farm laboures and house wives in agriculture operations**

Pre-sowing and sowing operations		Percentage of Women involved	
		Farm Women	House Wives
01	Ploughing	Nil	Nil
02	Land preparation	10	02
03	Green mannuring	Nil	Nil
04	Application of mannure and fertilizer	100%	10
05	Seed treatment	100	50
06	Sowing of seed (grain & pulses)	100	Nil
07	Sowing of seed (vegetables)	100	25
08	Plant treatment	Nil	Nil
09	Raising vegetable nursery	100	00
10	Transplanting of vege- nursery	100	100
11	Raising paddy nursery	100	Nil
12	Transplanting	100	Nil
13	Preparation of composet and FYM manure	05	05
<b>2</b>	<b>Inter Culture Operation</b>		
i	Irrigation	30	10
ii	Hoeing and weeding	100	10
iii	Fertilizer application	100	20
iv	Pesticide and weedicide application	100	05
v	Scaring of birds, rodents, animals	100	40
<b>3</b>	<b>Harvesting and post harvesting operation</b>		
i	collecting harvested crop	100	Nil
ii	Reaping the fruits and vegetables	100	50
iii	Threshing	100	25
iv	Winnowing	100	20
v	Storage of seed	100	100
vi	Storage of grain	100	100
vii	Grain processing	100	100
viii	Vegetable processing	10	90
ix	Fruit processing	Nil	50
x	Nutrition gardening	10	20

evident from this table that their role in ploughing, green manuring and plant treatment is nil but in the preparation of compost and farmyard manure in five per cent. This in line of agreement with that reported by Chaudhary and Singh (2003). The cause for non participation in ploughing and green manuring are due to involvement of hard labour in these activities, but in plant treatment due to the lack of knowledge and awareness. Both the group also showed small scale participation (10% in labourers and 2% in housewives) in preparation of land for cultivation due to need of hard labour. Their land preparation was limited to land preparation for vegetable nursery and transplanting. Non participation in various agricultural activities due to drudgery faced in operations by farm women has also been reported by Singh

*et al.* (2005) in their study from Madhya Pradesh. Role of farm labourers is hundred per cent in raising vegetable nursery where as 40% percent in house wives, but in the transplanting of vegetable nursery both the groups had showed their hundred per cent involvement Gogoi and Bhowmick (2003) also reported that in all vegetable crops major operation carried out by women was sowing/transplanting. Less involvement of house wives in raising vegetable nursery was due to lack of awareness, whereas percent participation in transplantation of vegetable nursery was due to no need of much skill. The cause for hundred percent involvements of farm labourers in above mention activities was due to their occupation. When compared with activities of farm labourers than house wives it was also evident from table .2 that in most of the agricultural activities the involvement of farm labourers were hundred per cent because that was linked with their occupation, low involvement of house wives were due to custom, tradition and social barrier. With respect to irrigation, farm labourers used pipe for this purpose where as house wives done both pipe, bucket and mug related works. Machine was used by farm labourers for insecticide and weedicide application but not by house wives. With regard to threshing agricultural labourers does that work as a profession where as house wives only on a small scale in courtyard for pulse and oil seeds. In fruit processing, the role of farm labourers were negligible due to lack of knowledge, money, skill and time, where as in house wives involvement is fifty per cent. They were seen steamily involved in the preparation of murabba and papaya jam. Similar case had been showed in vegetable processing also. House wives were observed involved in the preparation of pickles, chatni and drying of vegetable in the traditional manner. So, that woman from both groups were involved in the storage of seed, grain and grain processing without proper scientific knowledge (Pandey 2004).

## Conclusion

Both the agricultural female farm labourers and house wives was showed their involvement in the storage of seed, grain and grain processing. Small scale participation was shown by them in preparation of compost, FYM and nutrition gardening. A hundred per cent farm labours were involved in the cultivation of paddy and vegetable, sowing of seeds, threshing, whereas house wives showed their maximum involvement in the processing of fruits and vegetables only. There was lack of proper scientific knowledge in the activities done by them. The study suggests that strategies should be planned to provide the scientific knowledge regarding the activities done by both labourers.

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