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Constraints and suggestions made by the farm-women in enhancing their role in decision making and participation in on-farm activities in Raipur district (C.G.)

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Abstract

Agriculture is impracticable without the involvement of women. Farm women dominate the work force in agriculture and participate in most of the farm operations. In addition to farm activities, women also involve in copious works at home. Farm women face many constraints in due process of bearing the dual responsibilities at farm and home. The present study was conducted in Raipur district of Chhattisgarh during the year 2024, namely two blocks (Arang and Abhanpur) were selected randomly for the study. Collected data were analysed using frequencies, percentages, means and standard deviation. The study revealed that majority of respondents faced problem of less availability of time because of household work, unavailability of agriculture labour and high labour cost, family restriction, health issues, lack of technical knowledge about use of farm-equipments and lack of freedom to take decision for farm practices were the major constraints expressed by the farm-women. The findings of the study suggest that, in order to enhance farm-women participation in on-farm activities and promote active participation in decision making process, by support service like skill oriented training programmes for farm-women about use of farm-equipments, decision making power should be given to farm-women, head of the family should encourage farm-women for various farm-practices, improving their confidence in farm activities can be address in a integrated manner.

Keywords: On-farm activities, constraints, farm- women, participation, decision-making, suggestions

Introduction

Woman plays a vital role in agricultural sector, as it is largely a household enterprise. They are the active participant in farm activities and processing farm products, in addition to their domestic and reproductive responsibilities. Women as farmers, agricultural labourer and entrepreneurs, constitute the backbone of India's agricultural and rural economy. But still their contributions are ignored since ages. As per the Annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Report 2022-23, agriculture had the highest estimated percentage distribution of female workers, i.e. 64.3 %, with 76.2 % in rural areas and 11.7 % in urban areas. With growing rural to urban migration by men, there is 'feminisation' of agriculture sector, with increasing number of women in multiple roles as cultivators, entrepreneurs, and labourers. Globally, there is empirical evidence that women have a decisive role in ensuring food security and preserving local agro-biodiversity. Farm-women are responsible for the integrated management and use of diverse natural resources to meet the daily household

needs. This requires that women farmers should have enhanced access to resources like land, water, credit, technology and training which warrants critical analysis in the context of India. In addition, the entitlements of women farmers will be the key to improve agriculture productivity. Farm women are the major contributors to agriculture and allied sectors. They are indispensable to agriculture likewise agriculture is to nation. Farm women contribute equally, also in some cases more than men to farming in addition to obligations they bear at home, such as domestic work and child rearing. Despite their varied tasks at home and on the farm, women face numerous challenges that affect their position and recognition in the house and society. Farm women's productivity is influenced by the constraints they confront on the farm. Providing a mechanism to minimise or reduce the limits which farm women experience will ensure higher prosperity to nation. Hence, this study was taken up to analyse the constraints faced by the farm women in different spheres of their life.

Methodology

The present study entitled "Participation of farm-women in on-farm activities in Raipur district of Chhattisgarh. The study was carried in Raipur district of chhattisgarh state. Two blocks namely Arang and Abhanpur were selected for the study on the basis of the simple random sampling method. From each selected block, four villages were selected randomly and 15 farm-women from each village and in this way 120 respondents were selected for the study with the help of structured interview schedule.

Results and Discussions

An attempt has been made in this study to identify the

constraints which were responsible for the participation of farm-women in on-farm activities.. The details about these constraints are given in below (Table1). Various constraints are presented in Table.1 which indicated that majority (70.83%) of respondents faced problem of less availability of time because of household work, followed by (62.50%) of respondents faced problem of unavailability of agriculture labour and high labour cost, about (58.33%) faced problem of family restriction, (53.33%) of respondents face problem of health issues, about (37.50%) faced problem of lack of technical knowledge about use of farm-equipments and lack of freedom to take decision for farm practices.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their constraints faced by farm-women

S. No.	Constraints	F	%	Rank
1	Lack of technical knowledge about use of farm-equipments	45	37.50	V
2	Less availability of time because of household work	85	70.83	I
3	Health issues	64	53.33	IV
4	Family restriction	70	58.33	III
5	Unavailability of agriculture labour and high labour cost	75	62.50	II
6	Lack of freedom to take decision for farm practices	45	37.50	V

Multiple responses were taken to ascertain the suggestions given by respondents to minimize the constraints. As regards to suggestions given by the respondents to overcome the constraints and for improving the participation of farm-women in on-farm activities the finding are presented in the (Table 2). The data reveals that the majority of the respondents (62.50%) suggested that, the head of the family should be encourage to farm-women, followed by

(58.33%) respondents were suggested that alternative technology should be develop for reducing labour cost, (53.33%) of the respondents suggested for skill oriented training programmes for farm-women about use of equipments, (41.67%) of the respondents were suggested awareness about latest agricultural technology and about (37.50%) were suggested that decision making power should be given to farm-women.

Table 2: Distribution of the respondents according to their suggestions for more participation in On-farm activities:

S. No.	Suggestions	F	%	Rank
1	Skill oriented training programmes for farm-women about use of equipments.	64	53.33	III
2	Head of the family should encourage farm-women for various farm practices.	75	62.50	I
3	Decision making power should be given to farm-women.	45	37.50	V
4	Awareness about latest agricultural technology	50	41.67	IV
5	Alternative technology should be develop for reducing labour cost	70	58.33	II

Conclusion

Women as farmers, agricultural labourer and entrepreneur, constitute the backbone of India's agricultural and rural economy. But still their contributions are ignored since ages. Approximately seventy percent of world poor are women and the major problems they face are peculiar social, cultural, educational, political and allied problems. It may be concluded that farm-women are actively involved in various on-farm activities but they may faced various constraints. The great majority of farm-women (70.83%) faced problem of less availability of time because of household work, followed by (62.50%) of respondents faced problem of unavailability of agriculture labour and high labour cost.

Majority of the respondents (62.50%) suggested that, the head of the family should be encourage to farm-women, followed by (58.33%) respondents were suggested that alternative technology should be develop for reducing labour cost, (53.33%) of the respondents suggested for skill oriented training programmes for farm-women about use of

equipment.

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