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### Constraints faced and suggestions given by the farm women of Marathwada Region

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#### Abstract

Rural women in India form a crucial part of the agricultural workforce, engaging in a wide range of farm and household activities. Despite their significant contributions, they often lack access to education, resources, and skill development opportunities. This highlights the need to enhance their knowledge, skills, and economic status through targeted training and capacity-building efforts. The present study aims to identify the constraints faced by farm women of Marathwada region in attending agricultural training programmes and to document the suggestions provided by them to improve the accessibility, relevance, and effectiveness of such training initiatives. The study was conducted in Parbhani and Manwath tehsils of Parbhani district, located in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra. An ex-post-facto research design was adopted. From the nine tehsils in the district, Parbhani and Manwath were purposively selected based on their agricultural engagement. A list of villages with high female participation in agriculture were selected using simple random sampling, resulting in a total sample size of 120 respondents. Data were collected through structured interviews using a pre-tested questionnaire. The major constraint faced by farm women in attending training was lack of time during peak agricultural seasons (80.83%), followed by family responsibilities limiting long-duration participation (75.83%). Illiteracy and lack of knowledge (75.00%) also emerged as significant barriers. Additionally, inadequate publicity of training programmes (65.00%) and limited outreach by extension workers (56.67%) were notable constraints. Suggestions given by farm women emphasize organizing training sessions locally (85%), using audiovisual aids (83.33%), and keeping trainings short in duration (81.67%) to address time constraints. They also recommend raising awareness about government programs, scheduling training before the agricultural season (80%), and increasing visits by extension workers (75%) to enhance support and accessibility. This study highlights key barriers faced by farm women in accessing training, including time constraints, family duties, illiteracy, and limited outreach. To address these, they advocate for locally held, brief, and audiovisual-supported sessions, improved awareness of government schemes, and greater extension worker involvement, particularly before peak agricultural seasons.

**Keywords:** Farm women, agricultural training, training accessibility, constraints, illiteracy, women in agriculture

#### Introduction

In India, agriculture is the primary occupation for rural populations and a vital source of livelihood. Women represent nearly (50.00%) of the population, with (84.00%) of rural women depending on agriculture, comprising (33.00%) of cultivators and (47.00%) of agricultural laborers. Despite legal provisions for equal status, women often assume a subordinate role while bearing substantial family responsibilities both on farms and in households. Rural women influence family socio-economic activities, providing care services and overseeing welfare while engaging in field operations from land preparation to storage. Though they make critical decisions in the family head's absence, their contributions often go unrecognized. Rural women participate extensively in agricultural

operations including manure application, land preparation, sowing, planting, weeding, irrigation, harvesting, storing grains, and managing livestock. They spend 10-12 hours daily on household chores and agricultural work, yet their economic labor remains undervalued. In rural India, the farm and home are inseparable, with women directly involved in agricultural production and decision-making processes related to farm management. Recognizing women's importance in development, the Government of India has prioritized projects to encourage their participation. However, rural women often show limited response to advanced techniques due to restricted exposure. Therefore, providing agricultural training is essential to enhance their knowledge of innovations, build confidence, and improve efficiency.

Training involves acquiring specific skills to enhance job performance. It systematically improves knowledge and abilities, enabling trainees to work more effectively and efficiently after completing the training (Shyam *et al.*, 2016). The primary objectives of training are to enhance an individual's capability, capacity, productivity, and performance. Any training program begins with identifying training needs, and assessing these needs is crucial in organizing any training initiative. A training needs assessment involves identifying performance requirements and the gap between the desired and current performance levels. If there is a discrepancy between these levels, the assessment investigates the causes of the gap and methods to bridge it (Deka *et al.*, 2020). Conducting training needs assessments helps determine the significance of changes in knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors that will most significantly impact achieving organizational or individual goals. Therefore, the present study was conducted to identify the perceived training needs assessment of farm women working in the agriculture sector in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra.

### Methodology

The research was conducted in the Parbhani and Manwath tehsils within the Parbhani district, part of the Marathwada

region in Maharashtra shown in the fig 1. Parbhani tehsil is centrally located, while Manwath is situated in the central-eastern part of the district. A list of villages with the highest female participation in agriculture from the selected tehsils was compiled, and twelve villages from Parbhani and Manwath tehsils were randomly chosen, focusing on those with significant involvement of farm women in agricultural activities. From each selected village, ten farm women actively participating in agricultural work were randomly selected, totaling 120 farm women for the study.

The structured interview schedule was developed based on study objectives, incorporating questions to gather information on variables. Questions were posed in Marathi to ensure accurate responses, with training needs included. The schedule underwent pretesting by interviewing farm women outside the sample to verify information collection feasibility. The researcher conducted personal interviews with respondents, explaining the study's purpose and ensuring confidentiality. Interviews were informal and friendly to establish rapport. The collected information was organized into primary and secondary tables. Data were quantified into frequencies and percentages where needed, scoring was applied and correlation coefficients were calculated to draw inferences.

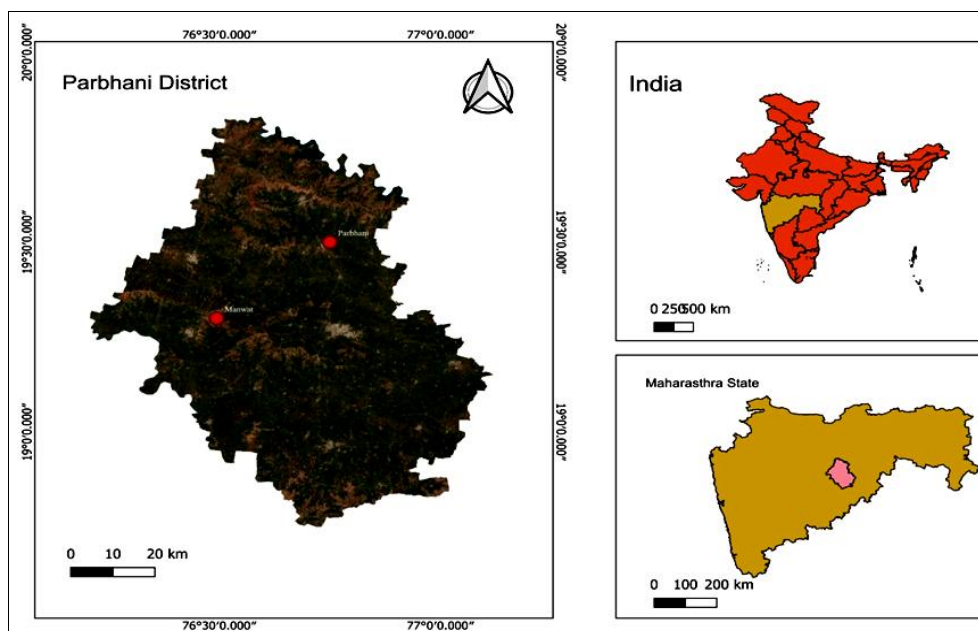


Fig 1: Map showing selected area for research study

### Results and Discussion

#### Constraints

Table 3: Constraints experienced by the farm women

| Sr. No | Constraints  | Yes         | Rank |
|--------|--|-------------|------|
| 1.     | Lack of time to attend the training programme at peak agricultural season  | 97 (80.83%) | I    |
| 2.     | Unable to attend training programme for long period due to family problems | 91 (75.83%) | II   |
| 3.     | Lack of wide publicity of training programme                               | 78 (65.00%) | IV   |
| 4.     | Lack of visits of extension workers  | 68 (56.67%) | V    |
| 5.     | Lack of knowledge and illiteracy   | 90 (75.00%) | III  |
| 6.     | Inconvenient training organization   | 63 (52.50%) | VI   |
| 7.     | Lack of teaching learning environment particularly as per women need based | 52 (43.33%) | VII  |
| 8.     | Lack of confidence   | 63 (52.50%) | VI   |
| 9.     | Any others   | 7 (5.83%)   | VIII |

Based on the provided data, the primary constraints preventing farm women from attending training programs are time-related and personal. The most significant constraint is the lack of time to attend training during the peak agricultural season, cited by a majority of respondents (80.83%). This is followed closely by the inability to attend training for long periods due to family problems, which ranked second (75.83%). The third major constraint is the lack of knowledge and illiteracy (75.00%), which is a

critical barrier to accessing and benefiting from training. Other significant constraints include the lack of wide publicity of training programs (65.00%) and the absence of visits from extension workers (56.67%). 70 Inconvenient organization and lack of confidence were also noted as constraints by over half of the respondents (52.50%).

### Suggestions

**Table 4:** Suggestions given by farm women

| Sr. No | Suggestions   | Yes          | Rank |
|--------|---|--------------|------|
| 1.     | Training should be conducted before commencement of season  | 96 (80.00%)  | IV   |
| 2.     | Training should be conducted for short duration   | 98 (81.67%)  | III  |
| 3.     | Use of audiovisual aids in training programme is must for effective of the programme                            | 100 (83.33%) | II   |
| 4.     | Training information should be published through newspaper or any media   | 76 (63.33%)  | VI   |
| 5.     | Visit should be organized by the extension workers  | 90 (75.00%)  | V    |
| 6.     | Training should be organized at farmer's locality   | 102 (85.00%) | I    |
| 7.     | The training organizers should create awareness among the trainees about the government policies and programmes | 98 (81.67%)  | III  |
| 8.     | Training should be well organized as per the subject matter, strength of trainees and as regard with facilities | 67 (55.83%)  | VII  |
| 9.     | Any others  | 3 (2.50%)    | VIII |

The top-ranked suggestion is that training should be organized at the farmer's locality, with an overwhelming (85.00%) agreement. This is a clear demand for greater accessibility and convenience. Following this, the second highest priority (83.33%) is the use of audiovisual aids, indicating a strong need for more effective and accessible teaching methods. A high priority (81.67%) is that training should be of a short duration, which directly addresses time constraints related to family and agricultural work. Equally important is the suggestion that organizers should create awareness about government policies and programs, highlighting a desire for training that is relevant to their economic well-being. Other key suggestions include conducting training before the agricultural season (80.00%) to avoid schedule conflicts, and organizing visits from extension workers (75.00%) to improve direct support. The data shows that the women have clear, actionable recommendations for making training programs more effective and responsive to their needs.

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