



## FARM WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE OPERATION

Nandita Kumari<sup>1</sup>, P.K. Singh<sup>2\*</sup> and Manish Kumar<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kishanganj, Bihar

<sup>2</sup>Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur Bihar

\*Corresponding author (P.K. Singh) Email : [kumar\\_pancham38@yahoo.com](mailto:kumar_pancham38@yahoo.com)

### ABSTRACT

Historians believe that it was women who first started cultivation of crop and initiated the art and science of farming. In the recent times also the women is playing a pivotal role in agricultural occupation as a manager, decision maker and skilled farm worker. Every women is an entrepreneur as she organizes and assure responsibility for managing her house. It has been increasingly realized that women possess talent that can be harnessed for the productive purposes. It is estimated that women are responsible for 70 percent of actual farm work and constitute upto 60 percent of the farming population. It is therefore, not an exaggeration, that women in developing countries are the backbone of food security. It is most unfortunate that the role of women in agriculture has not been highlighted. What so ever she does documented poorly. Further scanty efforts have been done by me and my colleague to find out the relationship of personal variables of women with their participation in agricultural operations with this view, a study was planned which focused on these crucial issues at Dankhora block under Katihar district of Bihar. The finding of the study suggested that the women participated in agriculture and supported the activities at different level. However, their participation was maximum in hoeing, weeding, transplanting, harvesting the crop and protecting the standing crop by scaring away bird where the ploughing, pesticide and weedicide application activities were the areas in which participation was minimum and negligible. The aim of the study was: To find out the extent of participation of farm women in agriculture.

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study was under taken in Dankhora block of Katihar district which has been identified as a potential area for agricultural work in eastern BIHAR. Three villages namely Belrahi, Raipur and Paharpur were selected randomly among these villages of block who were having maximum number women work in agricultural operation. Further, a comprehensive list of women from each villages were prepared and 30 women from each villages were selected as a sample by using proportionate probability principles. Thus the total women participated in the study were 90. The data were collected from the respondents with the help of structured interview schedule prepared for the purpose followed by extensive personal enquiry in order to supplement their responses.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It is evident from the data in Table-I that women played considerable role in various activities such as pre-sowing, sowing operations and transplanting. Women's role was also reported in the preparation of compost and farm yard manure as more involvement i.e. 72.22 percent of the selected farm women. On the other hand the role of women in ploughing, application

of manure and fertilizer and green manuring was found to be much less i.e. 7.7 percent and 13.33 percent

With regards to inter-cultural operation women's role was reported maximum in hoeing and weeding practices i.e., 90 percent. The women were reported contributing much towards scaring animals and protection the crop from rodents i.e., 50 percent. Harvesting and collecting harvest crops, operations were reportedly more suited to the women i.e., 94.44 percent and 82.22 percent.

The agricultural operations like harvesting of crops, storage of food grains and arrangement of fodder for cattles were reported to be mostly done by women.

It is not worthy that kitchen gardening, cooking food for farm labour and supervision of farm work were the preferred areas of women's contribution i.e., 76.66 percent, 93.33 percent and 87.77 percent.

The result so arrived at, make it clear that women have contributed more in the light agricultural operations for which they are accustomed to. The simple reason behind this may be the less physical strength of women than men but they have contributed significantly in the agricultural operations.

**Table-1** : Participation of farm work in agricultural operation.

| S. No.    | Operations                                     | Frequency | Percentage | Ranking |
|-----------|--|-----------|------------|---------|
| <b>1.</b> | <b>Pre sowing and sowing operation</b>         |           |            |         |
| (i)       | Preparation of compost and FYM                 | 65        | 72.22      | i       |
| (ii)      | Land preparation                               | 17        | 18.88      | v       |
| (iii)     | Green Mannuring                                | 45        | 50         | iv      |
| (iv)      | Ploughing                                      | 7         | 7.70       | vii     |
| (v)       | Application of manure and fertilizer           | 12        | 13.33      | vi      |
| (vi)      | Dibbling & sowing of seeds                     | 49        | 54.44      | iii     |
| (vii)     | Seed Treatment                                 | 50        | 55.55      | ii      |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>Interculture operation</b>                  |           |            |         |
| (i)       | Irrigation                                     | 39        | 43.33      | iv      |
| (ii)      | Gap Filling                                    | 79        | 87.77      | ii      |
| (iii)     | Hoeing and Weeding                             | 81        | 90.00      | i       |
| (iv)      | Fertilizer Application                         | 25        | 27.77      | v       |
| (v)       | Pesticides and weedicide application           | 23        | 25.55      | vi      |
| (vi)      | Scaring of birds, rodents and animals          | 45        | 50.00      | iii     |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>Harvesting and post harvested operation</b> |           |            |         |
| (i)       | Harvesting                                     | 85        | 94.44      | i       |
| (ii)      | Collecting harvested crop                      | 74        | 82.22      | iii     |
| (iii)     | Threshing                                      | 32        | 35.55      | vi      |
| (iv)      | Winnowing                                      | 69        | 76.66      | iv      |
| (v)       | Drying and cleaning of grains                  | 81        | 90.00      | ii      |
| (vi)      | Grains storage                                 | 65        | 72.22      | v       |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>Supporting operation</b>                    |           |            |         |
| (i)       | Helping in construction of field channel       | 35        | 38.88      | vi      |
| (ii)      | Kitchen gardening                              | 69        | 76.66      | v       |
| (iii)     | Cooking food for farm labour                   | 84        | 93.33      | i       |
| (iv)      | Supervision of farm work                       | 81        | 90.00      | iii     |
| (v)       | Storage of food grains                         | 82        | 91.11      | ii      |
| (vi)      | Arrangement of fodder for cattles              | 79        | 87.77      | iv      |

## CONCLUSIONS

The present study concludes that the women participated in agriculture and supported activities were different. However their participation maximum in hoeing, weeding, transplanting, harvesting the crop and protecting the standing crop by scaring away birds. Whereas the ploughing, pesticides and weedicide application activities were the areas in which the participation was minimum or negligible.

## REFERENCES

1. Nirmala (1998) in their study revealed the existence of wages differentials on the basis of both the statutory minimum and gender. The estimation of wage functions for the male ,female and total respondents revealed that health and sex dummies contributed significantly to higher wage rates, arise in annual days worked significantly reduced it.
2. Subhramanyam (1999) in his study found that state has highest female work participation rate while male work participation rate declined due to mechanization introduced along with HYVs. Godavari Krishna zone has concentration of paddy and there is employment for female. The share of female labour in rice cultivation increased from 30 percent to 47 percent.
3. Padmanabhan (2001) argued that women are engaged in agriculture and allied activities and their role are manager to landless labour. Migration male labour leaving women in rural areas and they are the income earner in agriculture in rural areas .To empower rural women in agriculture through effective training and extension service and welfare schemes to improve the working condition of agriculture women.
4. Bimla (2003) examined womens participation in agricultural activities in Kaithal district of Hariyana. They observed that involvement of rural women in agricultural activities was to extent Of 73 percent and also drudgery was involved in activities like transplanting, crushing etc, women particularly rural women who participate equally with men should be trained in the modern technique of agriculture.
5. Hresia (2004) "Women workers in Agriculture : Gender discrimination working conditions and health status" Discussion paper no-85 kerela Reasearch programme on local level development centre development studies ISBN:81-87 621-88-5.