



## Research Article

# RURAL YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES

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**Abstract:** This study aimed at assessing the participation of rural youth in agriculture and livestock management activities. The study was conducted in 9 villages of Vaniyambadi Taluk, Alangayam block of Vellore district. A count of 10 respondents were selected from 9 villages to make a group of 90 respondents. From the analysis, the results revealed that highest participation was observed in harvesting (68.90%), irrigation management (52.20%), manure and fertilizer application (47.80%) and least participation was observed in marketing (93.30%) and seed processing (92.20%). The participation of rural youth in livestock management activities were classified as independent participation, joint participation and no participation. Independent participation was found to be high in watering the animals (90.00%) and disposal of cow dung (90.00%) followed by cleaning of animal shed (80.00%). Joint participation was found to be high in sale of milk and milk products (62.00%) followed by mixing green fodder with roughages (37.00%) and they did not have any participation in maintaining of dairy record (60.00%) followed by taking animals for artificial insemination (40.00%).

**Keywords:** Rural Youth, Participation, Agriculture, Livestock Activities

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## Introduction

India is an agricultural country of unlimited potential. The primary occupation of rural people is agriculture and allied sectors. The youth in India contributes about 35.36% of total population where 70% of youth resides in rural areas. But the demography of Indian agriculture is changing at rapid rate. There are signs of people moving apart from agriculture especially in the form of rural youth practicing agriculture part time. As per 2030, WHO reports 6/10 persons will be living in cities where the labour shortage will be at its worst stage. Youth are the most precious asset of our nation. They play a significant role in creating opportunities for national development. The need for the effective and progressive agricultural development is fundamental. To achieve this an active group of individuals constituting youth needs to be involved extensively. Youth are a blend of traditional and modern technologies and act as a formidable force in agricultural production. Youth are more productive, persevering and resourceful stakeholders in developmental process [1]. Further, compared to older population, youth are the ideal catalysts for agricultural developmental change [2]. This study was undertaken to assess the participation of rural youth in agriculture and livestock management activities with a view to make policy recommendations and other measures to attract rural youth towards agriculture.

## Material and Methods

The study was conducted in nine villages of Vaniyambadi Taluk, Alangayam block of Vellore district. The study population composed of 90 respondents, 10 respondents from each village. The similarity in physical and socio economic characteristics of respondents made these nine villages to be selected for the study. Random sampling method was used to select the respondents. Data was collected with the aid of interview schedule which was well structured. Frequency and percentage analysis were the statistical tools used for data analysis. The respondents were listed with possible agricultural and livestock management

activities and were asked to respond to the level of participation in those activities. The responses were recorded on a 3 continuum as high, medium, low in agricultural activities and independent participation, joint participation and no participation for livestock management activities. A score of 3, 2, 1 was given for high, medium, low in agricultural activities and a score of 3, 2, 1 was given for independent participation, joint participation and no participation respectively.

## Findings and Discussion

From the [Table-1], it is clear that highest participation was observed in harvesting (68.90%), irrigation management (52.20%), manure and fertilizer application (47.80%), medium participation was observed in Collection of harvested crops (20.00%) followed by Preparation of land (15.60%), manure and fertilizer application (15.60%) least participation was observed in marketing (93.30%) and seed processing (92.20%).

## Suggestions

*Based on the study following suggestions were given*

Extension should bring a change in the attitude of rural youth that agriculture can also provide respectable social status. The number of youth trained under ARYA (Attracting Rural Youth towards Agriculture) can be extended. Training of rural youth at panchayat level for taking agriculture-based income generating activities based on available resources and interest at low rate of interest and proper guidance from concerned bank. Needs of grass root level of the youth has to be identified and policies can be framed according to the needs. Interest of the rural youth can be sustained by forming Self Help Groups (SHG), Commodity Interest Groups (CIG) and giving low rate of interest for starting agricultural enterprise. Steps has to be taken to frame policies providing increased profit on continuous basis which would attract youth to a greater extent.

Table-1 Distribution of respondents based on extent of participation, (N = 90)

S	Activity	Extent of participation					
		Low		Medium		High	
		Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
1	Soil testing	78	86.7	6	6.7	6	6.67
2	Soil treatment	82	91.1	3	3.3	5	5.6
3	Preparation of land	68	75.6	14	15.6	8	8.9
4	Selection of seed variety	70	77.8	12	13.3	8	8.9
5	Seed treatment	14	56.6	13	14.4	63	17
6	Sowing	56	62.2	9	10	25	27.8
7	Manure and fertilizer application	32	35.6	14	15.6	43	47.8
8	Irrigation management	33	36.7	10	11.1	47	52.2
9	Weeding	81	90	6	6.7	3	3.3
10	Plant protection	70	77.8	6	6.7	14	15.6
11	Harvesting	15	16.7	13	14.4	62	68.9
12	Collection of harvested crops	47	52.2	18	20	25	27.8
13	Threshing process	74	82.2	4	4.4	12	13.3
14	Winnowing process	82	91.1	0	0	8	8.9
15	Grain storage	81	90	1	1.1	8	8
16	Seed processing	83	92.2	3	3.3	4	4.4
17	Seed storage	81	90	6	6.6	3	3.3
18	Marketing	84	93.3	3	3.3	3	3.3

Economically attractive policies should be framed by policy makers to sustain youth in agriculture. Rural youth should be made in contact with successful progressive farmers who will be a role model and encourages to adopt new technologies. Exposure visits, study tours, symposium, workshops focusing on the rural youth can be conducted. Successful young farmers can be encouraged by giving awards, prize money etc.

**Application of research:** Study of rural youth participation in agriculture activities

**Research Category:** Agricultural Extension & Rural Sociology

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**Study area / Sample Collection:** Alangayam block, Vellore district

**Cultivar / Variety / Breed name:**

**Conflict of Interest:** None declared

**Ethical approval:** This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

Ethical Committee Approval Number: Nil

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