



Research Article

PARTICIPATION OF RURAL WOMEN IN AGRO-BASED ENTERPRISES IN SOUTH GUJARAT

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Abstract: Women's role in agricultural operations, animal husbandry and other economically productive activities is very significant. They work as labourers, cultivators doing labour on their own land, as manager of certain aspects of agricultural production by way of labour supervision and participation in postharvest operation. Total five districts of South Gujarat namely Navsari, Surat, The Dang, Tapi and Narmada were selected randomly for the study. Major four enterprises viz. Dairying, Vermicomposting, Value addition/food processing and beekeeping were selected for the study. Looking to these restrictions of selected agro-based enterprise handled by rural women under the study area, the size of respondents in South Gujarat were consider as total and made randomization by lottery method to get 40 sample size for each selected agro-based enterprises. In case of beekeeping 54 name of women enterprise owner were obtain from KVK, NGO, ATMA and Horticulture Department of GoG. As it is known that beekeeping is very sensitive enterprise, hence only 30 active women beekeepers were found in study area of South Gujarat. In a view of this fact the investigator has took all the owners for the present study. So total 150 respondents were selected for the study. Majority of rural women had medium level of participation in agro-based enterprises.

Keywords: Rural women, Participation, Dairying, Vermicomposting, Value addition, Beekeeping

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Introduction

Agriculture is the mainstay of the rural Indian economy is governing by the female workforce. Women are the invisible lifeline of the agrarians. Women is dominating as agricultural labour, works manually while men are involved with machinery. Besides their role in agriculture, they sustain the family by engaging in domestic remunerative activities. Women are an integral part of today's society. They have an active social life. They participate in various social and cultural functions. Involvement of women in working force as well as in personal and social decision-making process becomes a vital issue in present arena. Considering the Agro Based Industry (ABI) is an enterprise that processes agricultural raw material and it facilitate effective and efficient utilization of raw material. This includes dairying, Vermi-composting, Value addition/Food processing, and Beekeeping. In modernization, urbanization, globalization, liberalization and privatization of agricultural sector, the sustainable development and empowerment of farmwomen is to be considered as a key factor in developing countries. Hence, their gainful participation in several fields are important.

Objectives:

To determine the extent of participation of rural women in different agro-based enterprises

Methodology

Rural women of South Gujarat sustain their livelihood by participating in agricultural activities and different agro-based enterprises. Total five districts of South Gujarat namely Navsari, Surat, The Dang, Tapi and Narmada were selected randomly for the study. Major four enterprises viz. Dairying, Vermicomposting, Value addition/food processing and beekeeping were selected for the study. Looking to these restrictions of selected agro-based enterprise handled by rural women under the study area. The size of respondents in South Gujarat were consider as total and made randomization by lottery method to get 40 sample size

for each selected agro-based enterprise. In case of beekeeping 54 name of women enterprise owner were obtain from KVK, NGO, ATMA and Horticulture Department of GoG. As it is known that beekeeping is very sensitive enterprise, hence only 30 active women beekeepers were found in study area of South Gujarat. In a view of this fact the investigator has took all the owners for the present study. So total 150 respondents were selected for the study.

Results and Discussion

Participation of rural women in agro-based enterprises was considered as low, medium and high on the basis of mean and SD. In line with Dairying, majority (72.50 percent) of the respondents were medium level of participation followed by 27.50 percent of respondents had high level of participation while no one had low level of participation in activities such as Milking, feeding, Cleaning of shed, Management, Marketing of milk of dairying. From the table 1 observed that three fourth (82.50 percent) of respondents of vermicomposting had low level of participation followed by 17.50 percent of respondents had medium level of participation while no one had high level of participation in activities carried out in vermicomposting such as procurement of earth worms and other raw material, preparation of vermicompost, preparation of vermicompost and management in vermicomposting. In case of Value addition/Food processing, majority (67.50 percent) of the respondents had high level of participation followed by 32.50 and 00.00 percent of respondents had medium and low level of participation in activities such as selection of raw material, preparation and preservation of food, packaging(bottling/canning), storage, management and marketing, respectively. In case of beekeeping, half (50.00 percent) of the respondents had medium level of participation followed by 43.33 and 06.67 percent of respondents had low and high level of participation in activities such as selection of species of honey bee, harvesting of honey, packaging, storage, management and marketing.

Table-1 Participation of rural women in agro-based enterprises

S	Category	Dairying (n=40)	Vermi-composting (n=40)	Value addition/Food processing(n=40)	Beekeeping (n=30)	Total (n=150)
1	Low	0 (00.00)	33 (82.50)	0 (00.00)	13 (43.33)	46 (30.67)
2	Medium	29 (72.50)	07 (17.50)	13 (32.50)	15 (50.00)	64 (42.67)
3	High	11 (27.50)	0 (00.00)	27 (67.50)	02 (06.67)	40 (26.66)
	Total	40 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	30 (100.00)	150 (100.00)
Mean=11.73						SD=3.14
(Figures in parentheses indicate percentage to total)						

The data presented in table 23 reveals that majority (42.67 percent) of the rural women had medium level of participation in different activities related with agro-based enterprises followed by 30.67 and 26.66 percent of respondents had high and low level of participation in, respectively. Thus, from the above results it can be concluded that majority (73.34 percent) of the respondents had to medium to high level of participation in agro-based enterprises. The probable reason of such finding may be that majority of the respondents were gaining income from agro-based enterprises, which helps them to contribute their family need, and it played significant role for economic development of rural women of South Gujarat.

Conclusion

In line with Dairying, majority of the respondents were medium level of participation, in case of vermicomposting, majority of rural women were having low level of participation. In line with value addition/food processing, majority of rural women having high level of participation while in beekeeping, half of rural women having medium level of participation. Rural women were received training on agro-based enterprises namely dairying, vermicomposting, value addition/food processing and beekeeping from KVKs, ATMA and NGOs working in South Gujarat. Thus, it can be concluded that majority of rural women had medium level of participation in agro-based enterprises. The probable reason of such finding may be that majority of the respondents were gaining income from agro-based enterprises which helps them to contribute their family need. This played important role in socio-cultural, Interpersonal, economic and psychological development of rural women.

Application of research: Results of the present study strongly reflected participation of rural women in agro-based enterprises.

Research Category: Agricultural Extension

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Study area / Sample Collection: Tapi, Navsari, The Dang, Surat, Narmada of South Gujarat

Cultivar / Variety / Breed name: Nil

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.

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