

## ROLE OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN UTTAR PRADESH

Neelama Kunwar

Like other countries in India too, rural women actively participate in many agriculture and animal husbandry related activities besides their usual role of child bearing and home keeping. Rural households are the basic productive units in India and women play a very significant and crucial role in various agricultural operations. They are traditionally known for their skills in the selection and storage of seeds, collection of fuel and fodder, livestock management, organic recycling, etc. As compared to men, women of marginal and small farm families carry a very heavy load of work both in the farm and in the house, with very limited access to and control over the resources necessary for farming or home keeping. Having an important role in agriculture, their nature and extents of involvement in it vary greatly from region to region, farming system, caste, classes, socio-economic status of families, etc. Thus, keeping in view the above facts, this study has been undertaken to assess the extent of role of women of Western Uttar Pradesh in agricultural development.

### METHODOLOGY

The study has been conducted in the two districts of Uttar Pradesh, viz. Rampur and Bulandshahr. These districts selected purposively since they have higher cropping intensities among all the districts of Western region of the state. For selection of samples a multi-stage sampling procedure has been

adopted. According to this, at first stage, from the list of blocks of each district, two blocks per district have been selected randomly. At second stage, list of villages for each has been prepared and from each list five villages were selected. Thus, in all 20 villages have been selected randomly. At the third stage, list of households for each selected village has been prepared and from each list, 10 households have been selected randomly. From each household, one woman between age group 20-65 years was selected for the present study. The schedule was prepared and information was collected on the schedule by personally interviewing the respondents. The information was then tabulated and analysed statistically.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The socio-economic profile of women respondents shows that 69 per cent women of Rampur and 62 per cent women of Bulandshahr district were between age group of 36-50 years. About 38 per cent women of Rampur and 26 per cent women of Bulandshahr district were uneducated (Table 1). Caste-wise distribution shows that 70 per cent women belonged to upper castes, 83 per cent to OBC and 47 per cent to scheduled castes. The annual income of 34 per cent women were up to Rs. 1000, 61.50 per cent women between Rs. 1000-1500. The 41 per cent women belonged to households having marginal land holding and

36 per cent women have come from landless households.

Findings reveals that 61 per cent women respondents of Rampur district were having dominating role in intercultural operations whereas 49 per cent women respondents have dominated harvesting operations. Likewise, Table 3 reveals that 53 and 55 per cent women respondents of Bulandshahr district were having dominating role in intercultural and harvesting operations, respectively.

Regarding relation of role of women in farm operation and their family income indirect relation was observed in irrigation and threshing operations in Rampur district and direct relation was observed in fertilizers application in Bulandshahr district.

**Table 1. Socio-economic profile of respondents (Number)**

| Variable                  | Rampur<br>(n <sub>1</sub> =100) | Bulandshahr<br>(n <sub>2</sub> =100) | Pooled<br>(N=200) |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Age (Yrs)</b>          |                                 |                                      |                   |
| 20 – 35                   | 18                              | 12                                   | 30                |
| 36 – 50                   | 69                              | 62                                   | 131               |
| 51 – 65                   | 13                              | 26                                   | 39                |
| <b>Education</b>          |                                 |                                      |                   |
| Uneducated                | 38                              | 26                                   | 64                |
| Up to primary             | 37                              | 55                                   | 92                |
| Up to secondary           | 19                              | 17                                   | 36                |
| Above secondary           | 6                               | 2                                    | 8                 |
| <b>Caste</b>              |                                 |                                      |                   |
| S.C                       | 28                              | 19                                   | 47                |
| O.B.C.                    | 29                              | 44                                   | 83                |
| Upper caste               | 33                              | 37                                   | 70                |
| <b>Annual Income (Rs)</b> |                                 |                                      |                   |
| Below 1000                | 30                              | 38                                   | 68                |
| 1000 – 1500               | 64                              | 59                                   | 123               |
| Above 1500                | 6                               | 3                                    | 9                 |
| <b>Land holding</b>       |                                 |                                      |                   |
| Landless                  | 16                              | 20                                   | 36                |
| Marginal                  | 43                              | 39                                   | 82                |
| Small                     | 18                              | 24                                   | 42                |
| Large                     | 23                              | 17                                   | 40                |

**Table 2. Role of women of Bulandshahr district in farm operation (Horizontal percentage)**

| Operation               | Family income group (Rs.)             |    |    |  |    |    |   |   |    | (Horizontal percentage) |    |    |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|----|----|--|----|----|---|---|----|-------------------------|----|----|
|                         | Below 50,000<br>(n <sub>1</sub> = 48) |    |    | 50,000–1,00,000<br>(n <sub>2</sub> = 35) |    |    | Above 1,00,000<br>(n <sub>3</sub> = 17) |   |    | Total<br>(N=200)        |    |    |
|                         | D                                     | S  | N  | D  | S  | N  | D                                       | S | N  | D                       | S  | N  |
| Sowing/ transplanting   | 21                                    | 16 | 11 | 17                                       | 15 | 3  | 3                                       | 7 | 7  | 41                      | 38 | 21 |
| Nursery bed raising     | 6                                     | 13 | 29 | 10                                       | 7  | 18 | 1                                       | 1 | 15 | 17                      | 21 | 62 |
| Interculture            | 31                                    | 15 | 2  | 20                                       | 12 | 3  | 2                                       | 4 | 11 | 53                      | 31 | 16 |
| Fertilizers application | 5                                     | 13 | 30 | 12                                       | 21 | 2  | 2                                       | 4 | 11 | 19                      | 38 | 43 |
| Irrigation              | 6                                     | 11 | 31 | 4  | 8  | 23 | 1                                       | 2 | 14 | 11                      | 21 | 68 |
| Harvesting              | 29                                    | 14 | 5  | 17                                       | 12 | 6  | 9                                       | 5 | 3  | 55                      | 31 | 14 |
| Threshing               | 10                                    | 21 | 17 | 5  | 19 | 11 | 6                                       | 8 | 3  | 21                      | 48 | 31 |

D = Dominating role ; S = Supporting role; No = No role

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