TIME DEVOTION BY FARMERS AND THEIRE FAMILIES IN CROP PRODUCTION

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ABSTRACT

Women s role in agriculture is a multiple one in which she is an integral part of a Cropping and livestock production system on the small farm but generally a more laborer on larger farms or in agro-industry. Women have played and continue to play a key role in the conservation of basis life support systems such as land, water, flora and fauna. They have protected the health of the soil through organic recycling and promoted crop security through the maintained varietal diversity and genetic resistance. The women produce about half the world food, their work remains for the most part invisible. This is a especially true in the livestock sector. As small animal and poultry production for family use or for the market is usually women work. The major responsibility for the care and feeding of larger animals generally rests with women. Sericulture is mainly the work of women. Yet they are mostly uncounted in production and employment statistics.

Key words: Cropping and Livestock Production System, Conservation, Crop Security, Sericulture

INTRODUCTION:

Women's participation in agriculture began when Mesopotamian first domesticated animals and planted food near the home, and it is thought that women were the first to do this. In subsistence food production women's role has always been a central one and this includes the raising of domestic animals and poultry or their products for family consumption and use. Women's milked the cow and made butter and cheese in Europe, ghee and yoghurt in Asia as well as much popular business in India. Later as mechanization was introduced, women continued their association with the industry as workers in dairy laboratories, research centers and in some countries, in the farm extension services Suman, (1996). In cold countries such as the Himalayan mountain areas of Bhutan, India Nepal and Pakistan or in the northern climes of China. Korea and Mongolia the hair or wool from large and medium sized animals is the major fibre for the warm clothing so essential to survival. This is an area of production and processing almost entirely in the dexterous hands of women. Old women spin as they watch the world go by, and most women knit, felt or weave the cloth they will latich into garments shoes and blankets. Young women tend the herds, cut and fetch fodder. Cut and pluck the hair and wool. Wash, comb and tease it ready for spinning. Women of all ages' dye it and use, sell or exchange it for things they need (Adrino, M. 1989).

The role of forage crops is more important in the agriculture economy of India a they are grown in varied climates and soils in all the states covering about 5 percent of the total cultivated area of the Country. About 8.32 million hectares land (on individual crop basis) is reported under cultivation of fodder crops with major area from the states of Rajasthan, Gujrat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh , Maharashtra, Punjab and Haryana. The rapid decline in the area of grazing lands due to diversion for arable crop production, indiscriminate use of natural vegetation and decrease in area under population have widened the gap between the demand and supply of green and dry fodder which need to be bridge. The milk production registered a quantum jump from 22.5million tones in 1970-71 to 76.87 million tones in 1998-99 thus making , India the largest producer of milk in the world . The per capita availability of milk has also increased to 214 gms per person in 1998-99 from 127 gms in 1979-80. This increase in per capita availability of milk is a big achievement keeping in view of nutrient supply to farmers , farm women and overall urban population. Thus increase in population of our countries is a big problem in day to day supply of agricultural Commodities. The India has milk yield of cattle per year 1o15 kg./animal/year in 1997 (All India DAIRY Business Directory, Dairy Year Book 2001). This production of milk, is the out come of forages besides the other by products of live stocks.

The specific objective of this study was to initiated in the Jhansi District of Bulndelkhand in Central India to know the time devotion pattern of farmers and their families in agricultural activities i.e. Crop Production to know the percent share of women in cultivation of fodder, Pulses and grass etc.

METHODOLOGY:

A random selection of 50 house holds from three groups of farming families i.e. large, medium, and small farmers in the selected villages of Lakara -Karari watershed project area. A special scheduled was prepared to observe the time devotion by the farmers and farm women in crop production. Thus 150 families were individually contact for personnel interview. Although most women in the Bulndelkhand are shy in nature due to various social obligations. But due to introduction of various development programs, the farmers and their Counter parts came forward to answer the question and help us in the investigation.

RESULT & DISCUSSION:

The results revealed that Sorghum (Jowar) and groundnut in the rainy (monsoon) season and Wheat, wheat+ Gram. Gram, mustard and Berseem in Rabbi (winter) season s (Fig.1). Jowar being raring rainy season crops did not require much care, thus less then 10% farmers in all three categories, large medium and small size holder devote their time in its

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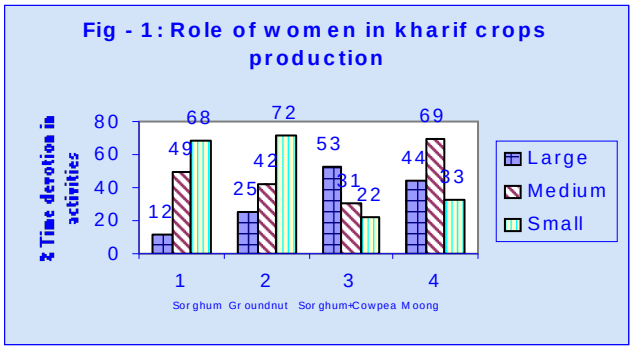
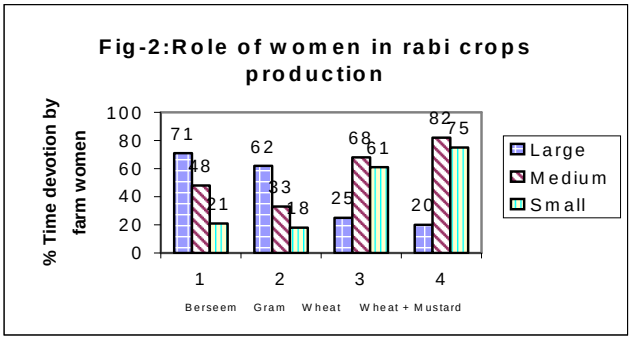
cultivation. While groundnut being labor intensive crop in which 48% time of large holders, 41% medium and 20% small holding families devote their time in groundnut cultivations. Reddy and Rao, 1998 reported that the Cotton, Castor, Paddy, Sorghum and Maize crops production technologies were adopted by majority of the farmers and farm women, these families were also involve in crop production and intercropping. These also include the time devotion by women in the processing of nuts after digging to the packing for market. Similarly trend in the devotion of time by different categories of farmers/farm women was observed in gram and mustered cultivation in winter season (Fig-1). However the time devotion in case of berseem of cultivation by the different categories of farm families was 64% big farm holders, 40% farm medium categories and only 5% of small size holding farmers and farm women devoting their time in berseem cultivation.

A remarkable trend in the cultivation of Gram + wheat was observed in time devotion pattern by the farmers and their families. This indicate that 87% farm families of big holding, 64% small holder farmers and 55 % medium categories of farm families devoting their in Gram+ wheat cultivation (Fig. -2).

CONCLUSION:

The farmers and farm women of Bulndelkhand are growing moderator less water consuming crops which include pulses and oilseeds. Berseem in predominant crop grown among forages in winter about 40 % farmers of Bulndelkhand are growing berseem i.e. 64% big, 40% medium and 5% small farmers season. However sorghum grown in the belt which duel purpose viz. fodder as well as grain Gram+ wheat is predominant rotation that followed by 69% farm families.





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