

Extent of Adoption about Improved Food Processing Practices Among Rural Women in Alwar District of Rajasthan

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ABSTRACT

The improved food processing word is highly fragmented as it widely comprises of the sub segment like fruit and vegetables, milk & milk products, grain processing, meat & poultry, alcoholic beverages, packaged or convenience food and packaged drinks. Alwar district has potential to become a leading player in the production of rapeseed & mustard, pearl millet, cluster bean, all types of vegetables & fruits (Aonla, lime, papaya, ber, beal, lasoda, karonda etc.) and milk are available in surplus quantity for processing and value addition. The present study is an attempt to find out the extent of adoption of food processing and preservation techniques are being followed by the rural women. The present study was conducted in two villages namely Sunhera and Mansirpur of Ramgarh panchayat Samity of Alwar District, which is adopted by KVK under Integrated village livelihood development programme (IVLDP) of Rajasthan Mission on Livelihood (RMOL). A total of 100 The study has revealed that the extent of adoption of improved food processing & preservation practices among the respondents were full. Whereas the full adoption was observed to maximum in category "Milk processing", whereas on the other hand non adoption was also observed to be highest in category "Milk processing". The overall findings of the study make a strong case for developing capacity building through training programmes about milk processing and ensuring accessibility to technology for promoting adoption of improved food processing & preservation practices among the rural women.

Key words : Integrated village livelihood development programme; Rajasthan Mission on Livelihood;

The improved food processing word is highly fragmented as it widely comprises of the sub segment like fruit and vegetables, milk & milk products, grain processing, meat & poultry, alcoholic beverages, packaged or convenience food and packaged drinks. Alwar district has potential to become a leading player in the production of rapeseed & mustard, pearl millet, cluster bean, all types of vegetables & fruits (Aonla, lime, papaya, ber, beal, lasoda, karonda etc.) and milk are available in surplus quantity for processing and value addition. In our daily life, the diet should include all food groups to keep the body fit and maintain immunity. The grains, oil seed, fruit, vegetables and milk are being produced in different climate. In order to ensure availability of food throughout the year, they should be processed & preserved and kept for a longer period. In this matter, role of farm women in household food security is vital and unique. Women alone are responsible for the methods adopted for nutritional security of house

hold particularly food processing and preservation. The nutritional status of family members are influenced by the specific knowledge, attitude, beliefs & values possessed by them.

The present study is an attempt to find out the extent of adoption of food processing and preservation techniques are being followed by the rural women. The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To find out the extent of adoption of improved food processing & preservation techniques among the respondents.
2. To study the constraints faced by the respondents in adoption of improved food processing & preservation techniques.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in two villages namely Sunhera and Mansirpur of Ramgarh panchayat

Samity of Alwar District, which is adopted by KVK under Integrated village livelihood development programme (IVLDP) of Rajasthan Mission on Livelihood (RMOL). A total of 100 farm women were selected through random sampling technique for the study. The data were collected from the respondents with the help of a structured interview developed for the purpose. The adoption of improved food processing practices was estimated in terms of acceptance of technology by the respondents. the extent of adoption was categorized in to three levels viz. Full, Partial and Nil. The statistical tools like Percentage, mean and standard deviation were used to analyze and interpret the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Extent of adoption of improved food processing & preservation practices among the respondents

| Adoption of technology | Extent of Adoption (%) | | |
|---|------------------------|---------|-------|
| | Full | Partial | Nil |
| <i>Storage food grains</i> | 66 | 18 | 16 |
| <i>Category Mean score</i> | 66 | 18 | 16 |
| <i>Fruit & Vegetable Processing</i> | | | |
| Pickles | 55 | 27 | 18 |
| Murabha | 40 | 30 | 30 |
| Chuteney | 35 | 20 | 45 |
| Sauce & Puree | 20 | 15 | 65 |
| Candy | 50 | 30 | 20 |
| Squash & Syrup | 50 | 20 | 30 |
| Dehydration | 70 | 25 | 05 |
| <i>Category Mean score</i> | 45.71 | 23.86 | 30.43 |
| <i>Milk Processing</i> | | | |
| Ghee/Butter | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Paneer | 60 | 30 | 10 |
| Khoa | 70 | 30 | 0 |
| Sweets | 40 | 20 | 40 |
| <i>Category Mean score</i> | 67.50 | 20.00 | 12.50 |
| <i>Oerall Mean Score</i> | 54.66 | 22.08 | 23.25 |

The relevant data pertaining to extent of adoption of improved food processing & preservation practices among the respondents are depicted in Table-1. The data in Table 1. reveal that the extent of adoption of improved food processing & preservation practices among the respondents was “full” (54.66%) in respect of all the three categories taken together. The full adoption was observed to be maximum in category “milk processing” (67.50%), followed in category “Storage food grain” (66.0%) and least in category

“Fruit & vegetable processing” (45.71%). Under category “Fruit & vegetable processing”, full adoption was observed in “dehydration” (70.00%) and under Category “milk processing” full adoption was observed in “Ghee/Butter” (100%), on the other hand the non adoption was also observed to be highest in case of “milk processing” category (12.50%). It might be due to lack of knowledge and unavailability of raw material and costliness.

CONCLUSION

The study has revealed that the extent of adoption of improved food processing & preservation practices among the respondents were full. Whereas the full adoption was observed to maximum in category “Milk processing”, whereas on the other hand non adoption was also observed to be highest in category “Milk processing”.

The overall findings of the study make a strong case for developing capacity building through training programmes about milk processing and ensuring accessibility to technology for promoting adoption of improved food processing & preservation practices among the rural women. Adequate training should be provided to rural women to equip them with knowledge and skill in improved food processing. Capacity building of farm women through distribution of literature and demonstration on latest technologies about food processing.

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