

## Involvement Behaviour of Farm Women in Farm Enterprises

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### ABSTRACT

*The role of farm women is of great significance in Indian agriculture. A study on involvement behaviour of farm women in agriculture enterprises was conducted in district Jaunpur of Uttar Pradesh. The 200 farm women belonging to large and small categories were included in the study. The findings lead to conclude that involvement behaviour of big and small farm women were positively correlated with socio economic variables towards most of the commodities/enterprises and activities. Similarly small and marginal farm women had positive correlation towards most of the field and household related activities.*

**Key words :** Farm women; Involvement behaviour; Agriculture enterprises;

While rural women have been equal partners in agricultural development, their role and participation have been more pronounced in the lower socio-economic strata of the rural society. Paradoxically the contributions of the women have not been quantified, recorded and recognized, with the result they have been neglected from the main stream of development, may it be research, education or extension.

Since 1970s, global concern for the emancipation of women in general and farm/rural women in particular has grown. The picture of a farm woman is that of a submissive, illiterate, ignorant, assetless female who has been trapped in webs of traditions and customs. Women feature more as agricultural labourers with a large proportion being marginal workers, playing secondary role. Women in agriculture may be physically "visible" but conceptually and culturally they are "invisible" even to those who actually need them day after day. The role of women in agriculture has changed dramatically in developed nations after the advent of the advances of science and technology in farming practices.

In India, as high as 76 per cent of rural population is engaged in agricultural production and rural women comprise about 50 per cent of agricultural labour force. There are more than 30 million women working in rural sector; 20 million as agricultural labourers and approximately 10 million employed in animal husbandry, handicraft and related activities. In the hill regions of North-Eastern India and Assam, female labourers outnumber male labourers. This is also true in many

parts of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. In family farm labour, rural women play an important role in all states in all stages of crop raising, starting from land preparation to harvest and post harvest processing.

With this background information, the research investigation "Impact of Agril. Modernization on Socio-economic conditions of farm women" was planned to explore the area of involvement of various categories of farm women in agricultural operations.

### METHDOLOGY

District Jaunpur of Uttar Pradesh was selected for this study. Four blocks namely Karanjakala, Khutahan, Kerakhat and Dobhi were randomly selected for the purpose of drawing sample. From each block, a set of two villages were randomly selected. The 200 respondents were selected for the study.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

*Education and farm women involvement :* Education has greatly influenced the level of involvement of farm women in comparison to other socio-economic variables (Table 1). The big farm women have been involved towards all the crops/enterprises/activities. Small farm women and marginal farm women's participation have also been highly influenced with the possession of farm implements with them. However, level of significance has been found low towards sugarcane crop. The overall picture indicates that education has highly influenced the involvement level of farm women irrespective of their categories. However, the extent of correlation is

highly significant in case of small and marginal farm women than big farm women.

Table 1. Influence of education on involvement of farm women in farm activities

S. No.	Crops/Enterprises/Activities	Big farm women	Small farm women	Marginal farm women
1	Wheat cultivation	2.7869*	5.0989**	4.8020**
2	Paddy cultivation	3.2177**	5.7476**	6.0027**
3	Maize cultivation	2.2547*	3.3068**	3.5998**
4	Sugarcane cultivation	-0.2577NS	2.4156*	2.9252*
5	Potato cultivation	2.4508*	3.7752**	3.7325**
6	Livestock rearing	2.3735*	5.0736**	13.3175**
7	Home Activities	5.692**	10.0586**	7.8940**

*Relationship between occupation and level of involvement of farm women* : The findings (Table 2) indicate that the occupation plays significant role in involvement of marginal farm women in activities related to all the crops and other activities. In case of small farm women, the significant relationship is exhibited towards wheat, paddy, maize, livestock and home activities, whereas in case of big farm women, it was found only towards home activities. Mostly relationship was found non-significant in nature between these two variables towards all the activities related to big farm women except towards home activities. Based on the findings, it can be said that the occupation does not affect the participation of big farm women towards various activities but it affects quite significantly and positively in case of small and marginal farm women.

Table 2. Relationship between occupation and level of involvement of farm women in different practices

S. No.	Crops/Enterprises/Activities	Big farm women	Small farm women	Marginal farm women
1	Wheat cultivation	1.9461NS	3.3523**	3.9647**
2	Paddy cultivation	1.9108 NS	3.5881**	4.8962**
3	Maize cultivation	1.5901 NS	2.3882*	2.9839**
4	Sugarcane cultivation	-0.4282 NS	1.0912NS	2.3630*
5	Potato cultivation	1.2077 NS	2.0115NS	3.0215**
6	Livestock rearing	1.4345 NS	2.9298*	8.8313**
7	Home Activities	3.5861**	5.2503**	6.2608**

*Relationship between income and level of involvement of farm women* : In case of big farm women, two variables viz. income and involvement level had non significant relationship towards all the crops/enterprises except sugarcane cultivation and home making activities (Table 3). These two variables were significantly correlated in case of small farm women towards wheat, paddy, livestock rearing and home activities, whereas non significant relationship was found towards maize, potato and sugarcane crops. Marginal farm women showed similar kind of interaction among two variables

as revealed in case of small farm women but the intensity of significance in case of marginal farm women was higher towards the activities related to paddy and livestock rearing. Maize, sugarcane and potato showed non significant relationship in case of two categories of the farm women viz., small and marginal.

Table 3. Relationship between income and level of involvement of farm women in different management practices of crops, enterprises and activities

S. No.	Crops/Enterprises/Activities	Big farm women	Small farm women	Marginal farm women
1	Wheat cultivation	1.0298NS	2.2841*	2.4135*
2	Paddy cultivation	0.9461NS	2.5845*	3.0957**
3	Maize cultivation	0.7236NS	1.3936NS	1.7129NS
4	Sugarcane cultivation	-2.2526*	-0.0705NS	1.1999NS
5	Potato cultivation	0.211NS	1.0565NS	1.6958NS
6	Livestock rearing	0.6276NS	2.1108*	6.6008**
7	Home Activities	2.6482*	4.7748**	4.1839**

*Relationship between social participation and level of involvement* : Social participation does seem to influence the participation level of farm women into various activities. Relationship trend is similar as in case of other crops and enterprises. But the significant relationship was also reflected towards potato crop in case of small farm women which was not obtained when involvement level was analysed with other variables like caste and income. This may be because of higher knowledge gain due to social participation leading to more involvement in various crop/enterprise related operations. Relationship is more prominently and positively exhibited between social participation involvement level as compared to other socio-economic variables, noticeably in case of home activities for small and marginal farm women, livestock rearing in case of marginal farm women, and paddy cultivation in case of marginal farm women (Table 4).

Table 4. Relationship between social participation and level of involvement of farm women in different management practices of crops, enterprises and activities.

S. No.	Crops/Enterprises/Activities	Big farm women	Small farm women	Marginal farm women
1	Wheat cultivation	1.0779NS	2.4642*	2.3588*
2	Paddy cultivation	1.0402NS	2.8475*	2.9975*
3	Maize cultivation	0.7514NS	1.4511NS	1.6859NS
4	Sugarcane cultivation	-3.3116*	-0.835NS	1.1773NS
5	Potato cultivation	0.2553NS	1.2199*	1.6531NS
6	Livestock rearing	0.6821NS	2.3960*	5.6910**
7	Home Activities	2.8978*	5.7909**	3.9759*

## CONCLUSION

The findings indicate that the involvement behaviour of small and big farm women towards various

operations related to management of wheat crop, was positively correlated as both the categories of the farm women did not vary much on socio-economic and technological levels in the rural settings of eastern U.P. The big and marginal farm women had significant relationship in terms of their involvement in operations related to wheat crop. In case of paddy, the positive and significant relationship had been obtained between small and big, but non-significant relationship between big and marginal and small and marginal farm women.

In case of maize, the relationship was significant positive between big and small, big and marginal and small and marginal. Small and marginal farm women were positively and significantly correlated in relation to their involvement in sugarcane management practices. In case of potato, big and small farm women were significantly correlated whereas positive correlation between big and small and small and marginal were reflected in positive correlation between big and small and between big and marginal were obtained in case of home activities.

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