

## A Micro-Level Study of the Trained and Untrained Farm Women of Andaman

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### ABSTRACT

*A study on the socio-psychological characteristics of 240 farmwomen both who had undergone three days training and untrained on the subjects namely Mushroom cultivation, Kitchen gardening, Layer farming and Fresh water pisciculture was carried out in South Andaman block, Port Blair of Andaman district. A total of 14 characteristics were selected based on the judges opinion and past research studies. It was found that among the various categories of characteristics of the farm women most of the farm women belonged to middle age group, had primary level of education, opting equally to have either agriculture as the main or subsidiary occupation. Possessed medium to low level of farm experience, with medium level of annual income followed by medium to low level of contact with extension agency, social participation, mass media exposure, economic motivation, scientific orientation, innovativeness, perceived effectiveness towards the training and operated small size holding. This study was undertaken to assess the socio-psychological characteristics of the farm women of Andaman and Nicobar Islands (India) which will help in giving appropriate policy implication based on the derived conclusions to uplift the socio-economic status of the farmwomen.*

**Key words:** *Layer farming; Fresh water pisciculture; Extension agency; Mass media exposure; Economic motivation; Scientific orientation; Innovativeness; Perceived effectiveness;*

India's GDP growth has increased to 8% per annum in recent years; its farm sector growth has however not kept pace because the policy interventions designed in the past are failing to invigorate the sector calling new initiatives to come to the fore. There is an urgent need to bridge major deficit existing in agriculture sector, i.e. the knowledge deficit which is primarily responsible for the development deficit in the agrarian and rural economy. The extension service is the backbone of a sustainable agriculture system in the country and can go a long way to bridge knowledge deficit of the farming community. It is imperative to reorient the extension strategies to have an agriculture extension system which is more efficient, effective, farmer centric and compatible with the changing scenario of global agriculture (Pandey, 2006).

Despite tremendous contribution of rural women in the economy they continue to be overlooked, exploited and even further disadvantaged by many developmental processes. Women contribute a large share of what they earn to basic family maintenance than men. In India time use studies indicate that whether it is shifting

agriculture, subsistence and low input agriculture or high external input agriculture; women work harder and longer than men. Pandey (2001) opined that rural women in India worked for 14 to 16 hours per day, which included farming, livestock keeping, sericulture and housework. Increase in women's income translates more directly into better child health, nutrition, family well being and society as a whole. For this, it is inevitable to know about the background, psychology, socio-economic aspects of the farmer to formulate new strategies to combat the above cited scenario.

### METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in four cluster of villages namely Guptapara, Manpur, Manglutan and Wandoor adopted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra of Central Agricultural Research Institute (KVK-CARI), Port Blair in South Andaman block, Port Blair of Andaman district. The respondents in this study comprising of 240 farmwomen both who had undergone three days training and untrained on the subjects namely Mushroom cultivation, Kitchen gardening, Layer farming and Fresh

water pisciculture were selected. For this purpose, 14 variables were identified in consultation with the experts and perusal of the available literature. The mean, standard deviations and percentage were calculated for categorizing the farmers. Relevant data on the socio-psychological characteristics were collected through well structured interview schedule, observation technique thereafter analyzed and tabulated.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Relevant data on socio-psychological characteristics of the respondents in all the four category are discussed here under:

*Age:* It could be observed from the Table 1, that in the category of kitchen gardening enterprise exactly half (50.00%) of the farm women were of middle age followed by old (33.33%) and young (16.67%) in trained category, whereas in untrained category more than half of the farm women were of middle age group (56.67%) followed by old (33.33%) and young (10.00%).

In mushroom cultivation enterprise most of the trained farm women (40.00%) belonged to middle age group followed by old (36.67%) and young (23.33%), whereas more than half (56.67%) were of middle age group followed by young (36.67%) and old (6.66%) in untrained category of farm women.

In layer farming enterprise exactly half of the trained farm women (50.00%) were of middle age group followed by young (30.00%) and old (20.00%), whereas in untrained category a little less than half (43.33%) belonged to middle age group followed by young (36.67%) and old (20.00%).

In fresh water pisciculture a little more than half of the farm women (53.34%) were of middle age group followed by equal percentage of young (23.33%) and old (23.33%) in trained category, whereas the untrained farm women were found to be sharing equal percentage in middle (43.33%) and old age (43.33%) followed by young (13.34%). It is amounted to indicate that the farm women differ in their age group. The research findings of *Soundararajan (1985)*, *Murugesan (1996)*, *Premavathi (1997)* and *Sriram (2000)* supported this finding.

*Educational status :* The data reveals that in the trained category of kitchen gardening 53.33 per cent of farm women had high school level of education followed by middle (23.33%), collegiate (16.67%) and secondary education (6.67%), whereas in the case of untrained

*Indian Res. J. Ext. Edu. 10 (1), January, 2010* farm women near to half (43.33%) had primary level of education followed by middle (33.33%) and illiterate (23.34%).

Half (50.00%) of the trained farm women in mushroom cultivation enterprise possessed secondary level of education followed by primary (30.00%), high school (13.33%) and illiterate (6.67%), whereas little more than one-fourth (26.67%) of untrained farm women were illiterate, equal percentage in primary (23.33%), middle (23.33%) and secondary (10.00%), collegiate (10.00%) followed by 6.67 per cent educated upto high school.

In the trained category of layer farming enterprise, little less than one-third (30.00%) of the farm women had middle level of education, followed by equal percentage in primary (23.33%) and secondary (23.33%) followed by high school level (10.00%) of education, whereas in untrained category primary and middle level of education shared equal percentage (33.33%) followed by high school (23.34%) and illiterate (10.00%).

In fresh water pisciculture enterprise, little more than one-third (36.67%) of the trained farm women had middle level of education followed by illiterate (23.33%), collegiate (20.00%) and equal percentage had primary (10.00%) and secondary (10.00%) level of education.

A wide range of literacy among the farm women was due to the establishment of more number of educational institutions for the islanders in every nook and corner of the village which acted as an instinct for the villagers to send their ward to the school. This study support from the findings of *Sriram (2000)*.

*Occupational status:* The Table 1, portrayed that with regard to occupational status in the category of kitchen gardening, most of the trained farm women had agriculture as their main occupation (56.67%) followed by agriculture as a subsidiary (43.33%), whereas in the case of untrained farm women it was found to be reverse i.e., majority of the farm women had agriculture as their subsidiary occupation (53.33%) followed by 46.67 per cent having agriculture as their main occupation.

The trained farm women of mushroom cultivation enterprise had agriculture as their subsidiary occupation (56.67%) followed by agriculture as main (43.33%), whereas in untrained category equal percentage of the respondents had both agriculture as main (50.00%) and subsidiary occupation (50.00%).

In layer farming, more than half of the trained farm women (53.33%) had agriculture as their subsidiary occupation followed by agriculture as main (46.67%), whereas in untrained category most of the farm women (60.00%) had agriculture as their main followed by agriculture as their subsidiary occupation (40.00%).

In fresh water pisciculture enterprise, 56.67 per cent of the trained farm women had agriculture as their main occupation followed by agriculture as their subsidiary occupation (43.33%), whereas in untrained category more than half (60.00%) had agriculture as their subsidiary occupation followed by agriculture as their main occupation (40.00%).

Due to under employment on one side and higher price of daily essentials on the other side have motivated the farm women equally towards the agriculture as the main occupation and as well as subsidiary occupation, in order to meet and supplement themselves with fresh and nutritious produce besides generating self employment avenue. This observation was consistent with earlier findings of *Soundararajan (1985)*, *Premavathi (1997)* and *Sriram (2000)*.

*Farm experience:* About 46.67 per cent of the trained farm women of kitchen gardening enterprise had high level of farm experience followed by medium (36.66%) and low (16.67%), the same trend was reflected in the untrained category i.e., high farm experience (46.67%) followed by medium (43.33%) and low (10.00%).

Half of the trained farm women (50.00%) in mushroom cultivation enterprise had high level of farm experience followed by medium (40.00%) and low (10.00%), whereas the untrained farm women (50.00%) had medium level of experience followed by high (26.67%) and low (23.33%).

In layer farming enterprise, more than half of the trained farm women (56.67%) had medium level of farm experience followed by high (33.33%) and low (10.00%), whereas in untrained category little less than half (46.67%) had medium level of farm experience followed by high (30.00%) and low (23.33%).

Equal percentage of trained farm women of fresh water pisciculture had both medium (43.33%) and high level (43.33%) of farm experience followed by low (13.34%), whereas exactly half of the untrained farm women (50.00%) had medium level of farm experience followed by high (43.33%) and low (6.67%).

The fact, that majority of the farm women belonged to young and middle age groups with

agriculture as both main and subsidiary occupation got reflected in having medium level of experience. This finding is a re-emphasis of the results arrived by *Ahmed (1998)* and *Sriram (2000)*.

*Farm size :* A glance at the Table 1, pointed out that in kitchen gardening enterprise more than half of the trained farm women (66.67%) had small land holdings followed by medium (23.33%) and marginal land holdings (10.00%), whereas in untrained category half of the farm women had small size holdings (50.00%), followed by big (20.00%), marginal (16.67%) and medium size land holdings (13.33%).

In mushroom cultivation enterprise, 43.33 per cent of the trained farm women had small size land holdings followed by marginal (36.67%) and medium (20.00%), whereas in untrained category little more than one-third (36.67%) had small size holdings followed by equal percentage of marginal (23.33%) and medium (23.33%). Remaining 16.67 per cent had big size land holdings.

The equal percentage of trained farm women in layer farming enterprise had marginal (43.33%) and small size holdings (43.33%) followed by same with medium (6.67%) and big farm size holdings (6.67%), whereas in untrained category more than half of the farm women (56.67%) had marginal size holdings followed by small (23.33%) and equal percentage of medium (6.67%) and big size holdings (6.67%).

In fresh water pisciculture enterprise, the trained farm women (36.67%) had marginal size holdings followed by big size (33.33%), medium (23.33%) and small size holdings (6.67%), whereas in untrained category equal percentage of farm women had marginal (43.33%) and big (43.33%) followed by small size holdings (13.34%).

Due to manifold increase in the population and the trend of nuclear type of family living would have forced them to divide ancestral property from generation after generation resulting in fragmentation of holding into smaller sizes. This might be the reason for more number of farm women operating small sized farms. Similar findings was obtained by *Premavathi (1997)* and *Sriram (2000)*.

*Annual income :* The data in the Table 1, revealed that the annual income of 46.67 per cent of the trained respondents were medium followed by high (40.00%) and low (13.33%), whereas the untrained farm women (63.34%) had medium level of annual income followed

Table 1. Distribution of the Respondents According to Their Socio-Psychological Characteristics  
(Trained (n=30), Untrained (n=30))

S. No.	Variables /Category	ENTERPRISES															
		Kitchen gardening				Mushroom cultivation				Layer farming				Freshwater pisciculture			
		T		UT		T		UT		T		UT		T		UT	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1.	<i>Age</i>																
	Young (upto 34 years)	05	16.67	03	10.00	07	23.33	11	36.67	09	30.00	11	36.67	07	23.33	04	13.34
	Middle (35 to 45 years)	15	50.00	17	56.67	12	40.00	17	56.67	15	50.00	13	43.33	16	53.34	13	43.33
	Old (above 45 years)	10	33.33	10	33.33	11	36.67	02	6.66	06	20.00	06	20.00	07	23.33	13	43.33
2.	<i>Educational status</i>																
	Illiterate	-	-	07	23.34	02	6.67	08	26.67	04	13.34	03	10.00	07	23.33	10	33.33
	Primary	-	-	13	43.33	09	30.00	07	23.33	07	23.33	10	33.33	03	10.00	04	13.34
	Middle	07	23.33	10	33.33	-	-	07	23.33	09	30.00	10	33.33	11	36.67	06	20.00
	High school	16	53.33	-	-	04	13.33	02	6.67	03	10.00	07	23.34	-	-	-	-
	Secondary	02	6.67	-	-	15	50.00	03	10.00	07	23.33	-	-	03	10.00	10	33.33
	Collegiate	05	16.67	-	-	-	-	03	10.00	-	-	-	-	06	20.00	-	-
3.	<i>Occupational status</i>																
	Agriculture (Main)	17	56.67	14	46.67	13	43.33	15	50.00	14	46.67	18	60.00	17	56.67	12	40.00
	Agriculture (Subsidiary)	13	43.33	16	53.33	17	56.67	15	50.00	16	53.33	12	40.00	13	43.33	18	60.00
4.	<i>Farm Experience</i>																
	Low	05	16.67	03	10.00	03	10.00	07	23.33	03	10.00	07	23.33	04	13.34	02	6.67
	Medium	11	36.66	13	43.33	12	40.00	15	50.00	17	56.67	14	46.67	13	43.33	15	50.00
	High	14	46.67	14	46.67	15	50.00	08	26.67	10	33.33	09	30.00	13	43.33	13	43.33
5.	<i>Farm size</i>																
	Marginal (upto 2.50 ac)	03	10.00	05	16.67	11	36.67	07	23.33	13	43.33	17	56.67	11	36.67	13	43.33
	Small (2.51 to 5.0 ac)	20	66.67	15	50.00	13	43.33	11	36.67	13	43.33	07	23.33	02	6.67	04	13.34
	Medium (5.01 to 10.00 ac)	07	23.33	04	13.33	06	20.00	07	23.33	02	6.67	03	10.00	07	23.33	-	-
	Big (Above 10.00)	-	-	06	20.00	-	-	05	16.67	02	6.67	03	10.00	10	33.33	13	43.33
6.	<i>Annual income</i>																
	Low (upto Rs.5,000/-)	04	13.33	07	23.33	09	30.00	03	10.00	07	23.33	03	10.00	04	13.33	03	10.00
	Medium (Rs.5,001 – 10,000/-)	14	46.67	19	63.34	15	50.00	20	66.67	17	56.67	25	83.33	19	63.34	23	76.67
	High (above 10,000/-)	12	40.00	04	13.33	06	20.00	07	23.33	06	20.00	02	6.67	07	23.33	04	13.33
7.	<i>Contact with extension agency</i>																
	Low	07	23.33	13	43.33	10	33.33	02	6.67	05	16.67	04	13.33	04	13.33	02	6.67
	Medium	19	63.34	15	50.00	14	46.67	20	66.66	15	50.00	17	56.67	22	73.34	24	80.00
	High	04	13.33	02	6.67	06	20.00	08	26.67	10	33.33	09	30.00	04	13.33	04	13.33

8.	<i>Social participation</i>																
	Low	06	20.00	04	13.33	10	33.33	08	26.67	11	36.67	15	50.00	03	10.00	08	26.67
	Medium	15	50.00	17	56.67	13	43.33	15	50.00	13	43.33	12	40.00	10	33.33	13	43.33
	High	09	30.00	09	30.00	07	23.34	07	23.33	06	20.00	03	10.00	17	56.67	09	30.00
9.	<i>Mass media exposure</i>																
	Low	09	30.00	12	40.00	11	36.67	09	30.00	15	50.00	07	23.34	10	33.33	10	33.33
	Medium	19	63.33	15	50.00	11	36.67	17	56.67	12	40.00	13	43.33	16	53.34	18	60.00
	High	02	6.67	03	10.00	08	26.66	04	13.33	03	10.00	10	33.33	04	13.33	02	6.67
10.	<i>Economic motivation</i>																
	Low	10	33.33	17	56.67	08	26.67	02	6.67	03	10.00	05	15.67	13	43.33	15	50.00
	Medium	07	23.34	11	36.67	13	43.33	21	70.00	15	50.00	15	50.00	15	50.00	09	30.00
	High	13	43.33	02	6.67	09	30.00	07	23.33	12	40.00	10	33.33	02	6.67	06	20.00
11.	<i>Risk orientation</i>																
	Low	05	16.67	15	50.00	10	33.33	10	33.33	11	36.67	04	13.33	03	10.00	11	36.67
	Medium	15	50.00	05	16.67	15	50.00	17	56.67	17	56.67	16	53.34	17	56.67	15	50.00
	High	10	33.33	10	33.33	05	16.67	03	10.00	02	6.67	10	33.33	10	33.33	04	13.33
12.	<i>Scientific orientation</i>																
	Low	13	43.33	11	36.67	07	23.33	13	43.33	11	36.67	10	33.33	15	50.00	08	26.66
	Medium	13	43.33	15	50.00	11	36.67	15	50.00	17	56.67	19	63.34	14	46.67	17	56.67
	High	04	13.34	04	13.33	12	40.00	02	6.67	02	6.67	01	3.33	01	3.33	05	16.67
13.	<i>Innovativeness</i>																
	Low	05	16.67	15	50.00	07	23.34	11	36.67	05	16.67	12	40.00	03	10.00	09	30.00
	Medium	17	56.66	11	36.67	13	43.33	15	50.00	17	56.66	13	43.33	19	63.33	15	50.00
	High	08	26.67	04	13.33	10	33.33	04	13.33	08	26.67	05	16.67	08	26.67	06	20.00
14.	<i>Perceived effectiveness of the training</i>																
	Low	03	10.00	10	33.33	02	6.67	05	16.67	07	23.33	05	16.67	13	43.33	03	10.00
	Medium	21	70.00	17	56.67	09	30.00	20	66.66	19	63.34	21	70.00	15	50.00	19	63.33
	High	06	20.00	03	10.00	19	63.33	05	16.67	04	13.33	04	13.33	02	6.67	08	26.67

by low (23.33%) and high (13.33%), in the kitchen gardening enterprise.

In mushroom cultivation enterprise half of the trained farm women (50.00%) had medium level of annual income followed by low (30.00%) and high (20.00%), whereas in untrained category more than half of the farm women (66.67%) had medium level of annual income followed by high (23.33%) and low (10.00%).

More than half of the trained farm women (56.67%) of layer farming enterprise had medium level of income followed by low (23.33%) and high (20.00%), whereas in untrained category more than three fourth of the farm women (83.33%) had medium level of income followed by low (10.00%) and high (6.67%).

In fresh water pisciculture more than half (63.34%)

of the trained farm women had medium level of income followed by high (23.33%) and low (13.33%), whereas in untrained category also, a little above than three-fourth (76.67%) had medium level of income followed by high (13.33%) and low (10.00%).

This might be due to the practice of undertaking more than one enterprise of agriculture and allied fields in an integrated manner, so as to increase the production and productivity per unit for sustainable revenue to the farm women. This finding is supported by the findings of *Murugesan (1996)* and *Sriram (2000)*.

*Contact with extension agency* : In kitchen gardening enterprise, as evident from the Table 1, that in the category of trained farm women medium level of contact with the extension agency was exhibited by more than half (63.34%) followed by low (23.33%) and high

(13.33%), whereas in untrained category half of the farm women (50.00%) reported to have medium level of contact with extension agency followed by low (43.33%) and high (6.67%).

A little less than half (46.67%) of the trained farm women showed medium level of contact with extension agency followed by low (33.33%) and high (20.00%), whereas in the untrained category more than half (66.66%) had medium level of contact with extension agency followed by high (26.67%) and low (6.67%) in the mushroom cultivation enterprise.

In layer farming enterprise, half of the trained farm women (50.00%) had medium level of contact with extension agency followed by high (33.33%) and low (16.67%), whereas in untrained category of farm women, a little more than half (56.67%) had medium level of contact with extension agency followed by high (30.00%) and low (13.33%).

In the fresh water pisciculture enterprise, in the category of trained farm women a little less than three-fourth (73.34%) had medium level of contact with extension agency followed by equal percentage in low (13.33%) and high (13.33%), whereas in the category of untrained farm women eighty per cent showed medium level of contact with extension agency followed by high (13.33%) and low (6.67%).

The extension activities are extended by the scientists and specialists of KVK and CARI in collaboration with line departments of Andaman and Nicobar administration, among the farming community. This resulted in maintenance of medium level of contact with extension agency.

This finding derived support from the studies carried out by *Premavathi (1997)* and *Sriram (2000)*.

*Social participation* : The Table 1, apparently reveals that in kitchen gardening enterprise, half of the trained farm women (50.00%) exhibited medium level of social participation followed by high (30.00%) and low (20.00%), whereas in untrained category more than half of the farm women (56.67%) showed medium level of social participation followed by high (30.00%) and low (13.33%).

In mushroom enterprise, the trained farm women (43.33%) had medium level of social participation followed by low (33.33%) and high (23.34%), whereas exactly half of the untrained farm women (50.00%) reported to have maximum level of social participation followed by low (26.67%) and high (23.33%).

The trained farm women (43.33%) of layer farming

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enterprise could show medium level of social participation followed by low (36.67%) and high (20.00%), whereas fifty per cent of the untrained farm women showed low level of social participation followed by medium (40.00%) and low (10.00%).

In the fresh water pisciculture enterprise, more than half of the trained farm women (56.67%) exhibited high level of social participation followed by medium (33.33%) and one-third low (10.00%), whereas in untrained category of farm women, medium level of social participation was exhibited by 43.33 per cent farm women followed by high (30.00%) and low (26.67%).

The reason for the above substantiated results would have been due to existence of social stratification among the big, small farmers and other minor communities of the villages. In addition, more work in the farm coupled with lack of time and interest might be the other valid reasons for facilitating the result.

The result is in line with the findings of *Kumar and Subramanian (1995)* and *Sriram (2000)*.

*Mass media exposure*: By glancing at the Table 1, it can be inferred that in kitchen gardening enterprise, more than half (63.33%) of the trained farm women had medium level of exposure to mass media followed by low (30.00%) and high (6.67%), whereas in untrained category exactly half (50.00%) of the farm women showed medium level of exposure to mass media followed by forty per cent low and ten per cent high.

In mushroom cultivation enterprise, the trained farm women exhibited medium (36.67%) and low (36.67%) levels of mass media exposure followed by high (26.66%), whereas in untrained category, more than half (56.67%) showed medium level of mass media exposure followed by low (30.00%) and high (13.33%).

Exactly half (50.00%) of the trained farm women showed low level of exposure to mass media followed by medium (40.00%) and high (10.00%), whereas in untrained category less than half (43.33%) of the farm women exhibited medium level of mass media exposure followed by high (33.33%) and low (23.34%) in the layer farming enterprise.

In fresh water pisciculture, more than half (53.34%) of the trained farm women showed medium level of mass media exposure followed by low (33.33%) and high (13.33%), whereas sixty per cent of the untrained farm women showed medium level of mass media exposure followed by low (33.33%) and high (6.67%).

The probable reason might be due to the fact that all the respondents either possessed their own radio /

television or utilised the community radio / television sets in the study area. This finding corroborated with the findings of *Premavathi (1997)*.

*Economic motivation*; It is noticed from the data of the Table 1, that in kitchen gardening enterprise, the trained farm women (43.33%) showed high level of economic motivation followed by low (33.33%) and medium (23.34%), whereas in untrained category more than half (56.67%) of the farm women exhibited low level of economic motivation followed by medium (36.67%) and high (6.67%).

In mushroom cultivation enterprise, 43.33 per cent of trained farm women exhibited medium level of economic motivation followed by high (30.00%) and low (26.67%), whereas in untrained category seventy per cent of the farm women showed medium level of economic motivation followed by high (23.33%) and low (6.67%).

Exactly half (50.00%) of the trained farm women showed medium level of economic motivation followed by forty per cent as high and ten per cent low, whereas in untrained category fifty per cent exhibited medium level of economic motivation followed by high (33.33%) and low (15.67%) in layer farming enterprise.

In fresh water pisciculture exactly half (50.00%) of the trained farm women exhibited medium level of economic motivation followed by low (43.33%) and high (6.67%), whereas in untrained category fifty per cent of the farm women showed low level of economic motivation followed by medium (30.00%) and high (20.00%).

The assured regular and sustained income derived from main and subsidiary enterprises paved way to increase more income from their farms. Also the desire to compete with each other in terms of standard of living might be another possible reason. All these factors would have contributed for exhibiting medium level of economic motivation. This result is in consistent with that of *Kumar and Subramanian (1995)* and *Murugesan (1996)*.

*Risk orientation* : Regarding risk orientation, it could be discerned from the Table 1, that in kitchen gardening enterprise exactly half (50.00%) of the trained farm women exhibited medium level of risk orientation followed by high (33.33%) and low (16.67%), whereas low level of risk orientation was shown by the fifty per cent of untrained farm women followed by high (33.33%) and medium (16.67%).

In mushroom cultivation enterprise, exactly half (50.00%) in the trained farm women category showed medium level of risk orientation followed by low

(33.33%) and high (16.67%), whereas in untrained category more than half (56.67%) showed medium level of risk orientation followed by low (33.33%) and high (10.00%).

In layer farming enterprise, 56.67 per cent of the trained farm women showed medium level of risk orientation followed by low (36.67%) and high (6.67%), whereas a little more than half (53.34%) of the untrained farm women exhibited medium level of risk orientation followed by high (33.33%) and low (13.33%).

More than half of the trained farm women (56.67%) exhibited medium level of risk orientation followed by high (33.33%) and low (10.00%), whereas in untrained category of the farm women exactly half (50.00%) showed medium level of risk orientation followed by low (36.67%) and high (13.33%) in the fresh water pisciculture enterprise.

The reason might be due to the fact that the farmers who were found to be economically motivated had the sternness and determination to bear risk in taking up any other enterprises which would facilitate or generate additional income. This finding is in line with the findings of *Ahmed (1998)*.

*Scientific orientation* : It is clear from the Table 1, that in the kitchen gardening enterprise the trained farm women showed equal distribution (43.33%) in exhibiting both medium and low level of scientific orientation followed by high (13.34%), whereas in the category of the untrained farm women exactly half (50.00%) exhibited medium level of scientific orientation followed by low (36.67%) and high (13.33%).

In mushroom cultivation enterprise forty per cent of the trained farm women had high level of scientific orientation followed by medium (36.67%) and low (23.33%), whereas in untrained category half of the farm women (50.00%) showed medium level of scientific orientation followed by low (43.33%) and high (6.67%). In layer farming enterprise, more than half (56.67%) of the trained farm women exhibited medium level of scientific orientation followed by low (36.67%) and high (6.67%), whereas in the untrained category 63.34 per cent of the farm women showed medium level of scientific orientation followed by low (33.33%) and high (3.33%).

In fresh water pisciculture enterprise, fifty per cent of the trained farm women reported for low level of scientific orientation followed by medium (46.67%) and high (3.33%), whereas more than half (56.67%) of the untrained farm women expressed medium level of

scientific orientation followed by low (26.66%) and high (16.67%).

The close association between the scientists of KVK – CARI and the enterprising farm women motivated them to venture into any innovative technology extended to them, so as to hasten their remuneration. This reason would have inclined them to have medium level of scientific orientation. This finding is in agreement with the findings of *Premavathi (1997)* and *Ahmed (1998)*.

*Innovativeness* : The Table 1, revealed that in kitchen gardening enterprise, more than half (56.66%) of the trained farm women was observed to have medium level of innovativeness followed by high (26.67%) and low (16.67%), whereas fifty per cent of the untrained farm women exhibited low level of innovativeness followed by medium (36.67%) and high (13.33%).

In mushroom cultivation enterprise, 43.33 per cent of the trained farm women exhibited medium level of innovativeness followed by high (33.33%) and low (23.34%), whereas in untrained farm women category half (50.00%) of them showed medium level of innovativeness followed by low (36.67%) and high (13.33%).

In layer farming enterprise, more than half (56.66%) of the trained farm women showed medium level of innovativeness followed by high (26.67%) and low (16.67%), whereas in untrained farm women category 43.33 per cent showed medium level of innovativeness followed by low (40.00%) and high (3.316.673%).

In fresh water pisciculture enterprise, in the trained farm women category (63.33%) expressed medium level of innovativeness followed by high (26.67%) and low (10.00%), whereas in untrained category half of the farm women (50.00%) showed medium level of innovativeness followed by low (30.00%) and high (20.00%).

Most of the farm women being energetic, enterprising, enthusiastic and venturesome having medium level of message exposure and annual income, paved way to grasp more of latest technologies from the experts of KVK and CARI for early act on and thereby resulting in medium level of innovativeness.

This finding corroborates with that of *Ahmed (1998)* and *Sriram (2000)*.

*Perceived effectiveness of the training*: It is vivid from the Table 1, that in kitchen gardening seventy per cent of the trained farm women had medium level of

perceived effectiveness of the training followed by high (20.00%) and low (10.00%), whereas in untrained farm women category more than half (56.67%) expressed medium level of perceived effectiveness of the training followed by low (33.33%) and high (10.00%).

The trained farm women (63.33%) of mushroom cultivation enterprise showed high level of perceived effectiveness towards training followed by medium (30.00%) and low (6.67%), whereas in the untrained category of farm women more than half (66.66%) expressed medium level of perceived effectiveness towards training followed by same level of distribution while exhibiting low (16.67%) and high (16.67%) levels.

In layer farming enterprise more than half (63.34%) of the trained farm women showed medium level of perceived effectiveness towards training followed by low (23.33%) and high (13.33%), whereas in the untrained category of farm women seventy per cent showed medium level of perceived effectiveness of the training followed by low (16.67%) and high (13.33%).

In the fresh water pisciculture enterprise, the trained farm women exactly half (50.00%) expressed medium level of perceived effectiveness towards training followed by low (43.33%) and high (6.67%), whereas in untrained farm women category 63.33 per cent showed medium level of perceived effectiveness towards training followed by high (26.67%) and low (10.00%).

The socio-psychological traits of the farm women and the delivery of the technology in the right form, place and time by the experts has given them a better understanding for capacity and confidence building. This may have routed to have a medium level of perceived effectiveness of training among the farm women.

This finding is in accordance with the findings of *Murugesan (1996)*, *Ahmed (1998)* and *Sriram (2000)*.

## CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that, among the various categories of characteristics of the farm women (both trained and untrained) most of the farm women belonged to middle age group, had primary level of education, opting equally to have either agriculture as the main or subsidiary occupation. Possessed medium to low level of farm experience, with medium level of annual income followed by medium to low level of contact with extension agency, social participation,



mass media exposure, economic motivation, scientific orientation, innovativeness, perceived effectiveness towards the training and operated small size holding.

The study brought out the actual happenings on personal, economic, situational, communication and psychological characteristics of both trained and untrained category adopting four different enterprises to the forefront. On this basis, certain implication could

be brought out which might be useful in formulating strategies and organising quality and effective training programmes for bridging the knowledge deficit, change in attitude and finally adoption of the technological interventions by farm women to a desirable extent and thus in turn would result in improving socio-economic status of the farm women leading to overall development of the family and the nation as the whole.

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