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## Research Article

# ANALYSIS OF CONSTRAINTS FACED BY FARM WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE IN GHAZIPUR DISTRICT OF UTTAR PRADESH

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### ABSTRACT

The role of rural women's in agricultural activities is substantial in India in general and in the Uttar Pradesh State in particular. Their contribution in the agriculture and livestock is underestimated. In this milieu, this study was planned with the objective to determine the problems faced by rural women during agricultural activities. The results revealed that that majority of the rural women were participating in diverse agricultural activities including sowing, harvesting and picking. Majority of the rural women were doing work to increase their family income but they were facing many problems in looking after their children and household chores. Negative attitude of the family is found to be one of the main problems. It is suggested that negative stereotype image of rural women in rural areas should be changed with the help of mass media.

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### INTRODUCTION

Some historians believe that woman was the first agriculturists; means domesticated crop plants and thereby initiated the art and science of farming. Women started gathering seeds from the native flora and began cultivating those of interest from the point of view of food, feed, fodder, fiber and fuel while men went out of hunting in search of food. In today's society, the role of women extends much beyond the home upbringing of children. They have to perform dual roles of house wife as well as wage earner and play a vital role in agricultural operations. A large number of farm women are not only engaged in farm operations as cultivators assistant but also playing vital role in kitchen gardening, poultry keeping, goat rearing, preserving seeds, marketing of milk, vegetables and fruits etc. Whenever they are not having employment on their own farm, they get engaged in off farm activities. In agriculture women are actively involved in some selected pre-sowing and post-sowing operations, harvesting and post harvesting operations as well as allied activities(Seager, 2008).

During the peak of agricultural operations, especially at harvesting time, women of farm families work on an average 7-8 hours a day in the field besides their routine duties such as

cooking, child rearing, cleaning etc. The per cent contribution of women in agriculture is higher than the men. About 82.20 per cent of women in the rural sector are employed in the primary production as family helpers on the farm. Women are responsible for at least 50.00 per cent of all food production. Their Participation in home and farm activities is depending upon social, cultural and economic conditions of the area. Now a day, it is accepted fact that, women play a significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields including in the main crop production, livestock production, horticulture, post harvest operations, agro/ social forestry, fisheries, etc. Hence, it is necessary to know the farm women and constraints faced by them in participation of farm and allied activities with the following objective.

- To identify the constraints faced by rural women in performing activities related to farm operation.

### METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in purposively selected district of Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh. One block namely Saidpur was selected for the selection of respondents. 36 village panchayat were selected from Saidpur block. From each village,

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approximately 10 farm women were selected proportionately making the total size of 360 rural women.

**Findings**

The constraint reported by the rural women in respect of participation and decision making process indicated that the constraints are of varied type and in various intensity also. The details of constraints were listed in table given below.

**Table 1** Constraints perceived by rural women in participation and decision making process

| S.No. | Constraints  | Frequency | Percentage | Rank |
|-------|--|-----------|------------|------|
| 1.    | Lack of confidence                                   | 221       | 61.38      | III  |
| 2.    | Lack of proper guidance                              | 186       | 51.67      | IV   |
| 3.    | Biasness of family                                   | 151       | 41.94      | V    |
| 4.    | Family norms   | 298       | 82.77      | I    |
| 5.    | Lack of family support and guidance                  | 151       | 41.94      | V    |
| 6.    | Maximum time devotion in household work              | 256       | 71.11      | II   |
| 7.    | Lack of cooperation in between family members        | 147       | 40.83      | VI   |
| 8.    | Family pressure in decision process                  | 151       | 41.94      | V    |
| 9.    | Lack of adequate information about work and problems | 151       | 41.94      | V    |
| 10.   | Afraid of inability                                  | 221       | 61.38      | III  |
| 11.   | In capable to taking risk                            | 151       | 41.94      | V    |

Table indicates the constraints perceived by the rural women in participation and decision making process in agricultural activities. The constraints analysis was reported based on the opinion survey of the sample respondent. Thus, the generalizations of the results are the feedback through farmers engaged in medicinal plant production in the study area. The table revealed the major constraints as perceived by the respondent.

The item wise constraints are presented as per the seriousness of the item and they are; family norms found most important constraints in participation and decision making process of rural women (rank I<sup>st</sup>) followed by maximum time devotion in household work (rank II<sup>nd</sup>), lack of confidence and afraid of inability (rank III<sup>rd</sup> each), lack of proper guidance (rank IV<sup>th</sup>), biasness of family, lack of family support and guidance, family pressure in decision process, lack of adequate information about work and problems and in capable to taking risk (rank V<sup>th</sup> each) and lack of cooperation in between family members (rank VI<sup>th</sup>) respectively. This finding is corroborated with the findings of Chayal and Dhaka (2010), Oladejo et al. (2011), Rathod et al. (2011).

**Suggestions**

Suggestions confronted by rural women in respect of improving their position for further development may be considered as feedback to overcome the constraints. The detail of suggestions confronted by rural women in improving the level of participation and decision making process in agricultural activities was presented in table given below.

In previous table indicates the constraints perceived by the rural women in participation and decisions making process in agricultural activities. Taking into consideration of these constraints confronted by them, the suggestions also confronted to overcome the problems.

**Table 2** Suggestion expressed by rural women regarding participation and decision making process

| S. No. | Suggestion   | Frequency | Percentage | Rank |
|--------|--|-----------|------------|------|
| 1.     | There should be family support and guidance.                               | 176       | 48.89      | IV   |
| 2.     | There should be normal behaviour in family during decision making process. | 145       | 40.28      | VI   |
| 3.     | There should be cooperation in between family members.                     | 176       | 48.89      | IV   |
| 4.     | There should equity between family members.                                | 221       | 61.39      | I    |
| 5.     | Work preference should be given to rural women.                            | 176       | 48.89      | IV   |
| 6.     | Proper works' training should be given                                     | 210       | 58.33      | II   |
| 7.     | Should stop maximum time devotion in household work.                       | 151       | 41.94      | V    |
| 8.     | There should be no family pressure in decision process.                    | 133       | 36.94      | VII  |
| 9.     | There should be proper inspiration for work.                               | 176       | 48.89      | IV   |
| 10.    | Partial teaching facilities should be available after the work.            | 195       | 54.17      | III  |

As per the frequency level of the suggestion expressed by the rural women was; there should equity between family members (rank Ist) followed by proper works' training should be given (rank II<sup>nd</sup>), partial teaching facilities should be available after the work (rank III<sup>rd</sup>), there should be family support and guidance, there should be cooperation in between family members, work preference should be given to rural women and there should be proper inspiration for work (rank IV<sup>th</sup>), should stop maximum time devotion in household work (rank V<sup>th</sup>), there should be normal behaviour in family during decision making process (rank VI<sup>th</sup>) and there should be no family pressure in decision process (rank VII<sup>th</sup>) respectively. This finding is corroborated with the findings of Chayal and Dhaka (2010), Oladejo et al. (2011), Rathod et al. (2011).

**CONCLUSION**

Thus, it may be concluded that women in the study area faced various constraints while participating in farm and allied activities which need to solved on priority to improve their participation in farm and allied activities. It is necessary that farm women should be encouraged to attend Krishi mela, agricultural exhibitions, educational tours, crop demonstrations and other agricultural programmes. It is also suggested that they should be given agricultural information and training in agricultural technology through women extension workers to improve their participation in farm and allied activities.

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