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PARTICIPATION LEVEL OF WOMEN IN PADDY CULTIVATION AND IN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

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Abstract

Women play a significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields. Keeping in mind the role of rural women in agriculture and animal husbandry, a study was conducted in kurukshetra district of Haryana with objective to analyze the participation level of women in paddy cultivation and in animal husbandry. Semi structured interview schedule was used to collect the data, using personal interview. The analysis of the results indicated that majority of the respondents (100%) participated in storage with mean value 1.00 followed by seed treatment with mean score 0.96, cleaning /grading (mean score 0.78), weeding (mean score 0.68) and winnowing /processing (mean score 0.50). Other major activities performed by the respondents were threshing, transplanting, intercultivation and watching birds. Fertilizer application, crop care and nurturing and marketing were not performed by even a single respondent. In animal husbandry the result indicated that the main activity performed by women was cleaning followed by top feeding, grooming, hygienic milking, feeding of animal, colostrums feeding, deworming of calves, milking within 4 hours of calving and fodder storage.

Key words: participation, paddy cultivation, animal husbandry, practices and mean score.

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Introduction

More than 70 percent of the people engaged in agriculture and it is the livelihood occupation for majority of the people. Women are a vital part of Indian economy through agriculture and its allied field. Swaminathan, the famous agricultural scientist describes that it was woman who first domesticated crop plants and thereby initiated the art and science of farming. They are the backbone of agricultural workforce. She does the most tedious and back-breaking tasks in agriculture, animal husbandry and homes. Besides sharing abundant responsibility in maintaining the household, they attend to various farm operations, leveling, sowing, transplanting weeding, watering, harvesting, threshing, winnowing, storage, feeding of cattle, fodder collection, milking etc.

Gender data analysis in the agricultural labour force suggests that women constitute over 32% of the total agricultural labor force in the world. The world wide food production contributed by women is 43.88% (FAOSTATS, 2010). They constitute about 55 percent to the total agriculture labour and 60 percent of the labour engaged in livestock.

In India women carry out as much as 80% of the work in paddy production (Singh et al., 2004; Singh and Tiwari, 2009; Chayal and Dhaka, 2010). They contributed an important role in both rice production and rice post harvest activities. Overall women's involvement in rice farming varies from region to region and even within the regions women's contribution to agriculture whether it be, subsistence farming or commercial agriculture when measured in terms of the number of tasks performed and time spent is greater than men. They engaged in cleaning of animal, sheds, watering and milking the animals. They are also responsible for collection, preparing dung cakes an activity that also brings additional income to poor families. Evidently, women are involved in almost all livestock related activities. It is evident that the women are playing a dominant role in the livestock production and management activities. Achieving self sufficiency of women in agriculture and allied field it is important to study the participation level which help to know the needy area which required more development.

Real strides in poverty alleviation cannot be achieved unless women are fully included in all the practices and get benefits from. This requires greater awareness of women's work in rice

cultivation and animal husbandry. Keeping the above facts in mind the present study was carried out to assess the participation level of farm women in integrated paddy cultivation and animal husbandry practices

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Kurukshetra district which had high productivity of rice of Haryana, selected purposively. Two blocks from Kurukshetra district were randomly selected i.e. Thanesar and Ladwa block. Two villages from each block were selected at random. The villages selected from Thanesar block were Jyotiser, Bhorsaida and villages Mehrabakali and Badarpur from Ladwa block. Purposive selection of 40 women farmers from small land holding categories from each village growing rice along with animal husbandry and thus a total of 160 farm women rice-growers were selected as the sample for the study. The data were collected with the help of a pre-tested and validated interview schedule. The data thus collected were analyzed with the help of a computer software i.e. Excel.weighted score, the frequencies were multiplied with the corresponding score value allotted to each category of the scale. Means was worked out and ranking was done on the basis of mean values.

Results and discussion

Participation of farm women in paddy cultivation practices

All over the world, rural women have contributed an important role in both rice production and rice post harvest activities. Tasks related to rice planting, weeding, harvesting, and processing are the main domain of women.

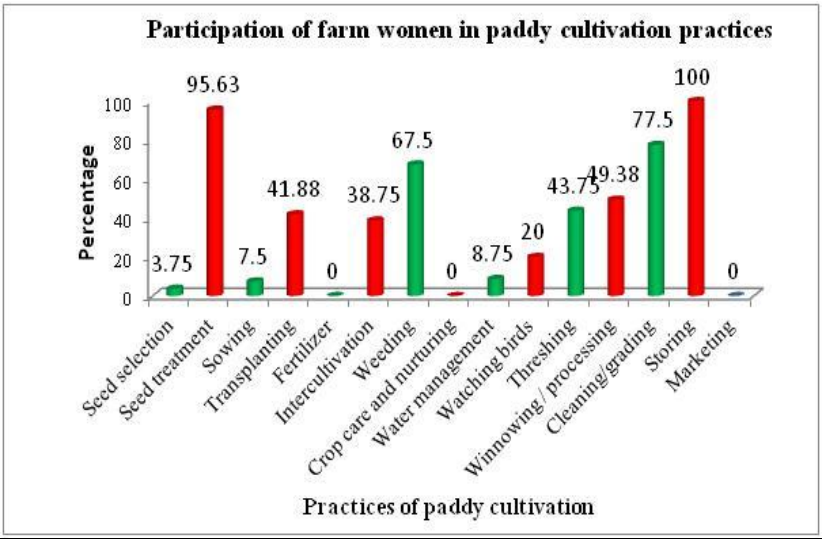
The perusal of finding included in the Table 1 pertaining to this observation makes it clear that majority of the respondents participated in seed treatment, weeding and cleaning/grading and storage.

Table 1: Participation of farm women in paddy cultivation practices

N=160

Sr. No.	Practices	Frequency	Percentage	Mean Score	Rank
1	Seed selection	6	3.75	0.04	XII

2	Seed treatment	153	95.63	0.96	II
3	Sowing	12	7.50	0.08	XI
4	Transplanting	67	41.88	0.42	VII
5	Fertilizer application	-	-	-	-
6	Intercultivation	62	38.75	0.38	VIII
7	Weeding	108	67.50	0.68	IV



8	Crop care and nurturing	-	-	-	-
9	Water management	14	8.75	0.08	X
10	Watching birds	32	20.00	0.20	IX
11	Threshing	70	43.75	0.44	VI
12	Winnowing / processing	79	49.38	0.50	V
13	Cleaning/grading	124	77.50	0.78	III
14	Storing	160	100.00	1.00	I
15	Marketing	-	-	-	-

Fig. 1:

They were highly involved in storing (100.00%), seed treatments (95.63%), cleaning and grading (77.50%), weeding (67.50%), winnowing / processing (49.38), threshing (43.75%), transplanting (41.88%) and least participation in marketing, fertilizer application, crop care and nurturing. Similar results were reported by Sidhu (2007) who states that women were found to contribute substantially in drying, storage and cleaning of grains in all the zones of Punjab. These findings are similar to that of Badigar and Huilgol (2004) where minimum participation was reported in

cleaning, transplanting, sowing, nursery raising and drying etc. Thresia (2004) also reported that tedious manual activities such as transplanting, weeding, harvesting, transporting, threshing, drying etc were wholly done by women. This shows significant participation of women in most of farming activities. The results were in close agreement with the finding of Nazar (2004) and Luqman *et al*. (2006).

Participation of farm women in animal husbandry practices

Animal husbandry practices were sub grouped into fodder and feed management, breeding management, disease management and calf management. Under fodder and food management the results in Table 2 indicated that majority of the respondents were involved in feeding of animal (97.50%) and fodder storage (67.50%).

Table 2: Participation of farm women in animal husbandry practices

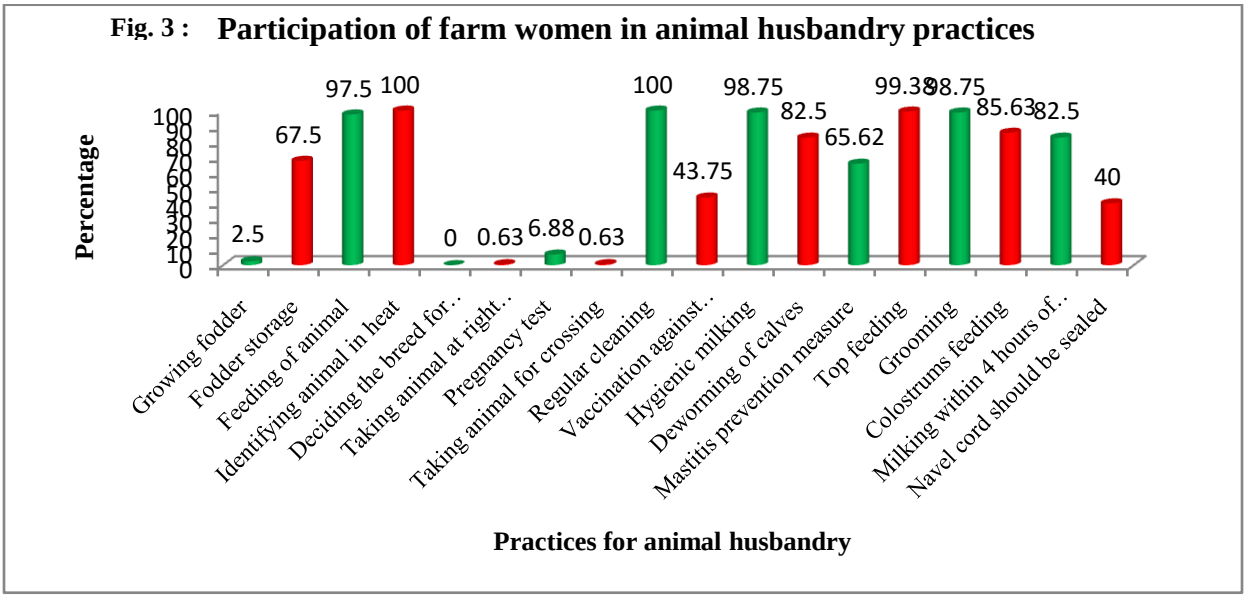
N=160

Sr. No.	Practices		Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Rank
1	Fodder & feed management	Growing fodder	4	2.50	0.03	XII
		Fodder storage	108	67.50	0.68	VII
		Feeding of animal	156	97.50	0.98	IV
2	Breeding management	Identifying animal in heat	160	100.00	1.oo	I
		Deciding the breed for crossing	-	-	-	-
		Taking animal at right time for AI	1	0.63	0.01	XIII
		Pregnancy test	11	6.88	0.07	XI
		Taking animal for crossing	1	0.63	0.01	XIII
3	Disease management	Regular cleaning	160	100.00	1.00	I
		Vaccination against contagious diseases	70	43.75	0.43	IX

		Hygienic milking	158	98.75	0.99	III
		Deworming of calves	132	82.50	0.82	VI
		Mastitis prevention measure	105	65.62	0.66	VIII
4	Calf management	Top feeding	159	99.38	0.99	II
		Grooming	158	98.75	0.99	III
		Colostrums feeding	137	85.63	0.86	V
		Milking within 4 hours of calving	132	82.50	0.83	VI
		Navel chord should be sealed	64	40.00	0.40	X

In breeding management, animal in heat could be identified by all the respondents. Other activities under breeding management were not performed by most of the respondents. Under disease management majority of the respondents (98.75%) were involved in maintaining hygiene while milking followed by dewormimng of calves (82.50%) and prevention of mastitis (65.62%). Regular cleaning was performed by all the respondents. Calf management activities were performed by majority of the respondents which include top feeding (99.38), grooming (98.75%), colostrums feeding (85.63%) and milking within in 4 hours of calving (82.50%).

Fig. 3 : Participation of farm women in animal husbandry practices



The overall view of participation of farm women in animal husbandry revealed that maximum participation of rural women in animal husbandry was found in regular cleaning (100.00%), identifying animal in heat (100.00%), top feeding (99.38%), grooming (98.75%), hygienic milking (98.75%), feeding of animals (97.50%), colostrums feeding (85.63%), and least participation in taking animal for crossing at right time for AI, growing fodder and pregnancy test. The results were supported by Upadhyay and Desai (2011), who reported maximum participation in grooming (93.33%) in health management. The findings were further supported by Pandel *et al*.(2009), Rathod *et al*.(2011), Upadhyay and Desai (2011). They revealed that farm women are actively involved in cleaning, feeding their animals, health care and management of milch animal and breeding of animals.

Conclusions

All the respondents (100%) participated in storage with mean value 1.00 followed by seed treatment (mean score 0.96), cleaning /grading (mean score 0.78), weeding (mean score 0.68) and winnowing /processing (mean score 0.5). Maximum participation of the respondents was in identifying animal in heat (100%), regular cleaning (100%), top feeding (99.38%), grooming (98.75%), feeding to animals (97.50%) and very poor participation in pregnancy test, growing fodder, taking animal at right time for AI and taking animal for crossing.

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