AN ANALYTICAL STUDY ON DECISION MAKING BEHAVIOR OF WOMEN IN FARMING OPERATIONS

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Abstract

Women play a predominant role in agricultural workforce. They did tedious and back – breaking tasks in agriculture, livestock management and household work. Women are engaged in agricultural activities in different ways depending on socio – economic status of their family and regional factors. They work as paid labourers, cultivators, managers of agriculture production by way of supervision and participation on post-harvest operations. Women not only contribute their work force in farming but give the suggestions to develop their farming operations. Even though they contribute significant participation in agricultural activities they have not given full chance to participate in decision making in farming activity. Keeping thesepoint in mind the present study makes an attempt to explore the decision-making behavior of women in farming operations in putukottai, sivakasi block with sample of 100 farm women. The data was collected through personal interview method. The statistical tools like percentage and growth rate were used for analyzing collected data. The present also attempt to trace out the constraints faced by women in taking decision relates to farming operations.

Keywords: Farming, Decision Making, Participation**.**

Introduction

Women play a vital role in household activities and farming activities. They are engaged in agricultural activities in different ways depending on socio – economic status of their family and regional factors. They work as paid laborers, cultivators doing labour on their own land, managers of certain aspects of agriculture production by way of supervision. Rural women mainly farmers number at least 1.6 billion worldwide and represented more than the quarter of total population. Nearly half of the world's farmers are women and they comprise most of the agricultural work.

In agriculture women involved in both in self – employment and wage employment. In our male dominated society female working in agricultural sector treated as helper. Even though they have enriched knowledge about cropping pattern and management practices, agriculture and allied activities their contributions are not authorized. In spite of their involvement in agricultural activities they face number of hurdles and challenges. Female farmers are not empowered to make decisions about the land she works. Even though their contribution is extensive in agriculture they have less access than men in taking agricultural decision.

Significance of the study

Women participation in farming decision in agricultural activities is quit revival. Major constraints faced by women in decision making are traditional and cultural practices, low self-esteem, poor knowledge, misconception about women knowledge in farming. Women remain invisible workers and their contribution as decision maker is questionable. Hence the present study was conducted to determining the constraints faced by women farmers in decision making of farming activities.

Methodology

The study is based on both primary and secondary data. Secondary data has been collected from various sources such as journals, magazines and websites. In order to get the information related to constraints faced by women farmers and decision making behaviour primary data has been collected from well-structured interview schedule the study was conducted in Pudukottai village, Sivakasi block of Virudhunagar district the selection of the village was purposively made with the consideration of agriculture as the main source of livelihood of rural people. Hundred farm women as respondents were selected for the study. The collected data has been analysed by using the statistical tools like Growth Rate, Simple Linear Regression Model Ranking Technique and MANOVA technique.

Objectives of the study

1. To analyse the trends in participation of women in agriculture sector.
2. To analyse the growth of women workforce engaged in agriculture activities.
3. To study the decision-making behavior of women in farming activities.
4. To find out the major constraints and challenges faced by women farmers in taking decision.