

HARVEST BAG: A WOMEN FRIENDLY TECHNOLOGY

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INTRODUCTION:

In olden days flowers were plucked and stored in a plastic container in which flowers were stuffed and half of them were damaged. Cotton harvesting is a difficult task mostly performed by the farm women. Most of the flowers, either rain fed or irrigated crops are handpicked by human labour in India. Plucking of flowers is a monotonous, laborious and costlier work. In this floral plucking activity, women plays a crucial role and need to stand for long hours in kneeling or bending

postures by carrying heavy loads / weights from one place to other place. So the health farm women or a man is always at risk. To reduce the drudgery there are three types of harvest bags for farm women i.e.:

- Front load harvest bag
- Back load harvest bag
- Basket shape harvest bag



SIGNIFICANCE:

Harvest bags have belts that can be tied at waist and worn in a cross manner over the shoulder to spread the weight evenly. The bag was designed as per the standards of anthropometric measurements. The size of the bag provides easy access to move between the crops. Based on the users convenience this harvest bag can be worn in front as well as on sides. This was designed to facilitate easy and free movement while walking in the crop. Mostly this is used for harvesting the vegetables, cotton, fruits and flowers. The harvesting bag can hold up to 10 kgs weight of vegetables or flowers. The vegetables and flowers stored in this bag look fresh for more time because the bag was made of cotton material it absorbs the moisture content. As it is washable and reusable can be used for several times. While collecting and plucking flowers from the pods with both the hands and filled into bag this harvest bags were designed to serve as a drudgery reduction aid for farm women. Harvest bag can be bought at low price i.e. nearly 350-400/-

ADVANTAGES:

Due to the presence of wide mouth of the bag there is a reduction in discomfort and improvement in the comfort of users while picking, plucking and dropping the flowers in the Harvest bag and front load bag.

From the research study, it was found that by using harvest bag there is an extra coverage of field area by 145 sq.mt / hour and also the harvest quantity was increased to 1.75 kg/hour per person. Due to this improved methods of technologies, the stress of the workers was reduced a lot.

The heavy load on backbone makes discomfort to move and pluck the flowers, so this bag can be worn on sides or front to reduce the drudgery of agricultural workers.

It was found that more area was harvested in an hour by using harvest bag. They got 86% higher output on the cotton harvested crop by using harvest bags.

PICTURES OF FARM WOMEN USING THE HARVEST BAGS:



CONCLUSION:

A well-known truth that agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy. Farm workers are involved in various field works like picking, plucking, harvesting etc. All these agricultural operations are time consuming and drudgery is high. Adapting few innovative technologies like using harvesting bags may slowly changes the life style of farmers and thus, reduces drudgery by saving time and increases the efficiency in work.