

How to Speed up the Participation of Women in Agriculture

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Abstract

India is a country where majority of population live in rural areas, therefore the place of women is more important in future of the country. In society their roles are more important in construction and adoption of new social values. Agriculture generally involves five stages viz., production, consumption, processing, storage and marketing. In most of these stages women can actively be involved. They are participating in most of the agriculture operations like ploughing, harrowing, sowing, transplanting, weeding, harvesting, post-harvest activities and so on. Women play a key role in performing various tasks related to dairy and goatery enterprises activities like maintenance of cattle/ goat shed, feeding of animals/goats, collection of fodder for animals/goats etc

Keywords:- Agriculture, Participation, Women

Introduction

Swaminathan, the famous agricultural scientist, describes that it absolutely was women who first domesticated crop plants and thereby initiated the art and science of farming. While men went out hunting in search of food, women started gathering seeds from the native flora and begun cultivating those of interest from the purpose of view of food, feed, fodder, fiber, and fuel. Women have played and still play a key role within the conservation of basic life support systems like land, water, flora, and fauna. they need protected the health of the soil through organic recycling and promoted crop security through the upkeep of varietal diversity and genetic resistance Within pastoralist and husbandry systems, livestock plays a crucial role in supporting women and in improving their financial situation, and women are heavily engaged during this sector.

Women's Contribution in Agriculture and Allied Sectors:-

As we all know that the woman plays a very important role in various aspect of the life. During the harvesting season, utilization of women's labor is maximum, carrying a bundle of the harvested crop to the stop where threshing would be done may be a heavy task that's performed mostly by women. Men rarely participated during this task. Women and rural women, particularly, have traditionally achieved more with less. On a mean day, they plant crops and plow or harvest fields; they fish, gather firewood and fruits, and cultivate home gardens; they fetch water, cook and process food, wash clothes and look after children and therefore the elderly. Despite this, women haven't any limited rights to have the land that they farm.

Main Challenges Faced By Female Farmers In Agriculture

Sector:-

- ❖ Women have unequal land rights. They hardly enjoy land ownership rights directly in their names. Limited rights or access to arable land further limits livelihood options and exacerbates the financial strain on women, especially in women-headed households.
- ❖ Women perform all un-mechanized agricultural tasks and perform multiple tasks which add more burdens to them because of lack of apparatus and appropriate technology.
- ❖ Women have little control over the decision-making process, either inside the house or outside the house. Without access to capital or household decision-making abilities, women lack the resources that are for his or her labor stability and stability of their household.
- ❖ Poor women farmers are less able to purchase technology to adapt to temperature change because of a scarcity of access to credit and agricultural services. They often have low productivity thanks to an inability to take a position in things like improved seeds and soil replenishment.
- ❖ Few women holding of agricultural productive resources like land, animals, and machinery.
- ❖ Women farmers within the agricultural sector suffer from a high illiteracy rate. They are doing not know their legal rights.



- ❖ Women earn fewer wages, especially within the joint, informal, and personal sectors.
- ❖ Miss applying some laws and regulations in favor of women like heritage legislation.
- ❖ Lack of market intelligence and inadequate information put women farmers in an unfavorable situation with weak bargaining power with the buyers.

Strategies To Increase The Participation Of Women In Agriculture:-

1. Technologies needed particularly by farm women:-

Labour and energy-saving technologies are essential for farm women. Post-harvest kinds of machinery are equally important. Farm women typically lack technologies to alleviate time-consuming agricultural tasks like weeding, transplanting, and harvesting. Grinding, transport, and water and firewood collection are the basic non-agricultural activities where appropriate technologies can reduce the time and Technologies Needed Particularly by Female Farmers Labour.

2. Experience of the farm women:-

The main potential which farm women have for increasing agricultural productivity within the rural areas and thus improving the living standards of their families is in their long experience as farmers in addition to with tremendous store of awareness and expertise on indigenous crop varieties and also the special environmental requirements for cultivating livestock breeds. Women farmers should be empowered and assisted to do better than those are known to do well. This enhances a sustainable improvement in agricultural productivity.

3. Access of farm women to basic production resources:-

Access of farm women to basic production resources – land, labor, and capital for investment must be facilitated – specific efforts must be made to split through the social and intra-household constraints that impede accessibility of those resources. This can require special campaign programs for sensitizing communities to the negative effects of excluding women farmers from ownership of land and access to critical resources. Outreach programs to overtake gender-specific constraints may require legal, administrative, or even gender quotas.

4. Market outlets and formation of thrift and credit cooperatives:-

Women farmers are known to own tremendous motivation once given the lead. They convince to be creative entrepreneurs and react highly to market signals. It's imperative therefore to initiate market outlets for farm products and off-farm products of farm women,

most of which might grow to be small-scale industries with further expansion. Commercial and government banking services should explore more flexible and innovative credit schemes that require the type of collateral that women farmers possess and can present e.g. group guarantee.

To mobilize and sustain gender solidarity for improved productivity, the co-operatives must not restrict themselves to their small women organizations but to participate in wider village associations which will help promote access of farm women to education, agricultural extension management training, and decision-making. The linkages between women farmers and the well-organized professional women groups will facilitate this process.

5. **Women must be aware** of their existing rights, access to judicial relief and redress, removing discrimination through legal reforms, and providing legal aid, assistance, and counselling.
6. **Ensures should be taken to boost women's literacy rates.** A separate education policy for female may serve for this purpose.
7. **Minimum and equal wages should be fixed** by the state government for women agricultural labourers and also the rates should be reviewed periodically.
8. **There is a requirement to make available cheap credit** to needy agricultural women to begin self-employment and as a result that our rural women may get additional opportunities for gainful employment.
9. **Addition to the above, some alternative employment programs** and opportunities must be provided to agricultural women labour in rural areas.

Conclusion:-

“Finally it's concluded that agriculture is central to economic growth where women can learn the most effective thanks to grow and cultivate their own nutritious food and sell at markets. So closing the gender gap in agriculture is imperative if we would like to grow productivity and ensures food security.”

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