

## A study on work pattern of hill farm women of Uttarakhand

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■ **ABSTRACT** : Women play a pivotal role in all household, farm and allied activities. Women's contribution to the Indian agriculture and allied activities is a recognized factor. They participate in several activities such as harrowing, transplanting, weeding, picking etc. Hence, the present study was undertaken to determine the extent of participation of women in different activities and also the time spent in performing these activities. A total sample of 900 women respondents from three different zones of Uttarakhand was selected and data were collected through personal interview method on frequency of performance, time spent on each activity and their perception. Five point scales were used to record the frequency of each activity performed by women. The analysis showed that farm women spent maximum time in transplanting activity and in dairy maximum time was spent in cutting of fodder.

■ **KEY WORDS** : Work, Farm women, Frequency of performance, Degree of difficulty

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Nearly two-third of Indian population lives in the villages and depends mainly on agriculture and other related occupations for their livelihood. They work very hard, but live a poor life due to number of constraints, such as poor village community facilities and resources. The women who play a pivotal role in all types of household, farm and allied activities are deprived from most of the privileges of life. Their work is not recognized in any statistical terms. Several research studies over the years have confirmed that women work for 14-18 long hours (Kaur and Punia, 1986 and Ancheta, 1982) of manual work daily on farming operations, livestock raising, fetching fodder, fuel and water from distant places and expending more total energy (Batliwala, 1982) a day. They are deprived from the right of decision-making in important household affairs, adequate food, proper education and recognition in household and social affairs. The contribution of women to the Indian agriculture and allied activities is a recognized factor. Women as agricultural labourers participate in several activities such as weeding, sowing, transplanting, harvesting, and storage. Gender blindness towards women's involvement in work is partly the result of paternalistic biasness and also of women themselves who have been conditioned by their culture and society to

under value the worth of their work. Though modernization of agriculture is taking place at a rapid pace, but the jobs attended by women remain more or less the same. Assessment in Indian Himalaya depicted that a pair of bullock work for 1,064 hours, a man for 1,212 hours and a woman for 3,485 hours in a year on one-hectare farm. Thus, the present study is proposed with the following objectives:

- To find out the extent of participation of women in different activities.
- To study the total time spent in performing different tasks.

### ■ RESEARCH METHODS

An inventory of all the different activities performed by farm women was prepared and thus the activity profile of 900 women respondents from three different zones of Uttarakhand was studied. The data were collected personally regarding types of activities performed (household, farm and allied activities), frequency of performance, time spent on each activity and their perception regarding each activity performed by them. Time spent in doing each of these activities per year was calculated on the basis of time spent per day and the number of days a particular activity is being performed.