

Access and control of gender of district Ganganagar over agriculture resources

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ABSTRACT

Gender roles demarcate responsibilities between men and women in social and economic activities, access to resources and decision making authority. Due to gender bias approach, women find it difficult to gain access to valuable resources such as land, credit and agricultural inputs, technologies, extension training and services that would enhance their production capacity. Equal access to and control of women over productive resources increase their participation in decision and policy making, reduce their work load and enhance their opportunities for paid employment and income. The present study was undertaken to find out the access to and control of gender over agriculture activities and resource. The study was conducted in district Ganganagar, Rajasthan. The sample consisted of 150 households (including one male and one female respondent from each household). Personal interview, observation and focus group discussion were used for data collection. The findings indicated that men had more access and control than women over the resources like agriculture land, farm assets, inputs such as improved seeds, fertilizers and insecticides, retention of produce for commercial purpose, management of labour, management of cash and procuring and repaying loan.

KEY WORDS : Gender, Access, Control, Agriculture resources

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INTRODUCTION

Agriculture in India is the vertical backbone of the country and is regarded as the largest sector of the country's economic activity. About 80 per cent of the Indian population either directly or indirectly depends on agriculture. Most of the women perform various works for their livelihood and agriculture is considered as the biggest unorganized sector where large number of Indian rural women take part actively.

Despite the women's' key role in agriculture, there has been a lack of adequate attention towards gender issues in the fields of agriculture research, agriculture extension, information, resources, development projects and mobilization of resources. Keeping the above facts in mind, the present study is an attempt to find out the access to and control of gender over agricultural resources.

METHODS

The present study was carried out in district Ganganagar, Rajasthan under All India Coordinated Research Project in H.Sc.Ext.Edu.-ICAR, New Delhi. The data were collected from 150 rural households

(including male and female) selected proportionately to the profile of the district from four land holding categories of farmers viz., large, medium, small and landless. The sample has been drawn from 6 villages and two blocks. The structured interview schedule was developed to collect the relevant information from the respondents. Personal interview, observation techniques and focus group discussion were used for data collection. The collected data have been analyzed by using frequency and percentage.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The findings of the present study as well as relevant discussion have been summarized under following heads:

Socio-economic status of the respondents:

Regarding socio-economic status Fig. 1 shows that nearly half of the respondents (48.67 %) had medium socio-economic status and 28.67 per cent had high socio-economic status and rest 22.67 per cent had low socio-economic status.

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