

## **Decision making pattern in tapioca among tribals of Kalrayan hills**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Gender became an issue in recent years as paradigm of development has shifted from economic oriented to human capacity building and further to engender tribals into the agriculture development. Involment of tribals in tapioca could bring positive and sustainable changes, particularly in taking right decisions for improving agriculture. The study was conducted in Kalrayan hills of Tamil Nadu with 120 tribal farmers and farm women. The findings revealed that majority of the farmers had taken self decision in most of the tapioca cultivation practices. Further, the decision making pattern among farmers was found to be high when compare to women.

**Key words :** Decision making, Tapioca, Tribals, Kalrayan hills, Gender analysis.

**T**he agriculture sector forms the backbone of the Indian economy. The prosperity of nation in the advancement of agriculture in tapioca basically calls for the transformation of agriculture development and its related sectors. The present traditional status, somewhat vibrant and galloping functioning units assuming the characteristics of secondary sector through innovation of modern technology need to be understood.

The richness and variety of tribal life is a most valuable heritage of the great Indian tradition. The life is nowhere more spontaneous and vivid in its fullness than the small traditions of our tribal communities. In tribal belt, tapioca cultivation is traditional and has direct impact on the lives of most of tribal population reliant on it.

Gender became an issue in recent years, as paradigm of development has shifted from economic oriented to human capacity buildings and further to engender women into the agriculture development. Involment of women in tapioca could bring positive and sustainable changes, particularly in their decision making pattern to improve the tapioca cultivation practices.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The study was conducted in Kalrayan hills located at Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu. It was decided to select 120 tribal farmers and 120 farm women based on proportionate random sampling technique. Ten villages which had the highest population of farmers and farm women engaged in agriculture was considered for the selection of sample. The decision making pattern among

farmers and farm women was measured on a three point continuum namely self decision, joint decision and consultation with others against nine cultivation practices in tapioca. The data were collected with the help of a pre tested interview schedule.

Percentage analysis was worked out to find the difference between the farmers and farm women in their decision making pattern in tapioca. The 't'-test was used to find out whether significant difference between existing both the respondents in their decision making pattern in tapioca.

### **OBSERVATION AND DISCUSSION**

#### ***Decision making pattern among tribal farmers and farm women in tapioca:***

The data pertaining to the decision making pattern in tapioca was collected and presented in Table 1.

The obtained results in Table 1 revealed that in the some of the specific technologies in tapioca cultivation, cent per cent of the farmers had taken self decision in main field preparation, fertilizer application, irrigation, pest and disease management and storage, followed by more than half of them who had taken self decision in selection of setts (58.30 per cent), treatment of setts (52.50 per cent) and harvesting (58.30 per cent) in tapioca.

With respect of joint decision, majority (83.30 per cent) of the farmers had taken joint decision with their spouse in weeding, followed by selection of setts (16.70 per cent), treatment of setts (15.80 per cent) and harvesting (14.20 per cent). Only a less percentage had consulted others in selection of setts (25.00 per cent), treatment of setts (40.00 per cent), weeding (8.30 per cent) and harvesting (27.50 per cent) in tapioca.