

Gender differential time use pattern in crop activities poultry sericulture and dairy include farming systems

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ABSTRACT

Field survey was carried out at Salem district to assess the time utilization pattern of farm men and women in seven different farming systems. The farming systems included 4 components viz., Crop, Dairy, Poultry and Sericulture. The results revealed that the farm men and farm women used to work normally for 15 hours on an average per day to attend farm and home related activities. Sericulture included farming systems viz., C+S, C+D+S, C+P+S, C+D+S+P. Women contribution in allied enterprises was higher as compared to other systems by spending 5.48, 6.02, 7.03 and 8.09 hours/day, respectively. When additional enterprises were added to crop, women adjusted their home related activities in such a way to concentrate more on allied activities and marked reduction in their leisure time. The time spent by both men and women on crop related activities registered a reduction when more than two enterprises were added in their farming. To reduce the drudgery of farm women, urgent attention related to invention and popularization of labour saving devices applicable to crop, dairy, poultry and sericulture is very much warranted

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INTRODUCTION

Women as human resource in India, constitute about 50% of the total population and about 77 per cent of them belong to rural areas. Majority of them come from small and marginal farmers or landless families. Time is an important human resource and an important part of the total pattern of living. Every individual is endowed with a limited time of twenty four hours a day. In a farm family, women who have the multiplicity of the task to be performed both at home and on farm will have to apportion her time to meet all the responsibilities. She works for long hours in kitchen and on farm compared to her counterpart at home. The energy spent by them in performing these tasks is more than it is physically feasible, particularly in a below subsistence level of living. Srivastava, (1985) and Sheela and Katteppa (1995) revealed that farm women with three enterprises spend maximum time on farm activities and farm women with single enterprises spend more time on household activities. Goyal and Sharma (1992) observed that more the number of mitch animals, less time was spend on personal grooming, care of clothes and food management activities. Therefore, it was thought that it is worth investigating into the time use pattern of farm women and men of Tamil Nadu state with single, two, three and

four enterprises (crop + dairy + poultry + sericulture) with 7 different combinations in order to quantify the amount of time spent on different farm household, allied and other activities. The specific objective of the study was to compare the gender differential in time use pattern in various integrated farmings.

METHODOLOGY

Puduchatram block from Namakkal Taluk and Namagiripet block from Rasipuram Taluk were selected for the study. Five villages from each block were randomly selected for the study by using simple random sampling method. A preliminary investigation was made to identify the different farming systems on the basis of crops, livestock, poultry and sericulture enterprises. Thus, seven different farming system viz., crop + dairy, crop + sericulture, crop + poultry, crop + dairy + poultry, crop + poultry + sericulture, crop + sericulture + dairy, crop + dairy + sericulture + poultry were identified from 10 villages. A sample of 30 farm households of each integrated farming system was selected for giving proportionate allocation to the available integrated farms in 10 village (five village in each blocks).

When a farmer adds one or more enterprises to crops, it is expected to affect the time use pattern of the farmer and the farm women keeping the pattern of spending the

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