



ISSN (E): 2277- 7695
ISSN (P): 2349-8242
NAAS Rating: 5.23
TPI 2022; SP-11(3): 450-452
© 2022 TPI
www.thepharmajournal.com
Received: 17-01-2022
Accepted: 19-02-2022

Surkanti Prathibha
Department of Extension
Education and Communication
Management, Hyderabad,
Professor Jayashankar
Telangana State Agricultural
University, Telangana, India

R Geetha Reddy
Department of Extension
Education and Communication
Management, Hyderabad,
Professor Jayashankar
Telangana State Agricultural
University, Telangana, India

SL Kameswari
Department of Extension
Education and Communication
Management, Hyderabad,
Professor Jayashankar
Telangana State Agricultural
University, Telangana, India

S Suchiritha Devi
Department of Foods and
Nutrition, PG&RC,
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad,
Professor Jayashankar
Telangana State Agricultural
University, Telangana, India

Corresponding Author
Surkanti Prathibha
Department of Extension
Education and Communication
Management, Hyderabad,
Professor Jayashankar
Telangana State Agricultural
University, Telangana, India

Involvement of farm women in decision making of agricultural activities in Telangana state

Surkanti Prathibha, R Geetha Reddy, SL Kameswari and S Suchiritha Devi

Abstract

Women have a multi-dimensional role within Indian society. The largest number of women in India is engaged either as cultivators or as supervisors or as agricultural laborers in farming operations. They are the main decision-makers and participants in various agricultural operations. The present study was attempted to ascertain the involvement of farm women in decision making activities. Exploratory research design was adopted for the present study and Purposive random sampling was done for selection of respondents. A total of 120 respondents were taken for the study. The study was conducted by using a structured interview schedule. The data was analyzed using frequency, mean and decision score. In the study, the result revealed that majority of the respondents were involved in decisions related to time of sowing (3.09), type and number of crops to be taken (3.04), selection of the crop (3.01), management of labor (3.00), time of harvesting and area allocation of crop (2.96).

Keywords: Farm women, agriculture, decision making

Introduction

Women's position has always been multi-dimensional and significant as women have performed well in agriculture, domestic activities, marketing activities as far as labor requirement is concerned. The decision-making process is an important segment of any household, since the functioning of family resource management depends on the efficacy of progress in decision-making. The participation of women in the decision-making process was therefore of great significance because women play an important role. In addition to engaging in various farm operations and events, Indian rural women also contribute to decision making about farming practices, operations, and household affairs.

Successful farm and family management is largely dependent on making the right decision at the right time and implementing the right decision with sufficient zeal and ability. Women thus have a considerable role in both home and farm decision taking and thus play an important role in the field of growth. A significant fluctuation has been found in rural society about women's decision-making capacity. Lalitha, V and Kumar, T.V. (2016) [3].

Methodology

In the present study Exploratory research design was followed. The study was conducted in Nizamabad and Karimnagar districts of Telangana state. Nizamabad and Karimnagar districts were selected purposively based on the highest cropping intensity. Out of two selected districts, one mandal from each district and 2 villages from each mandal covering 30 farm women from each village, thus constituting a total sample of 120 farm women were selected for the present study. Purposive random sampling was adopted for sample selection with the criteria of involvement of women in agricultural activities of major crops such as rice, cotton, turmeric, maize etc. The data was collected using personal interview method with the aid of structured interview schedule. The gathered information was analyzed by using appropriate statistical tools i.e., Frequency, Mean and decision score.

Results and Discussion

Involvement of farm women in Decision making

The participation of women in the decision-making process was therefore of great significance because women play an important role in society's domestic and socio-economic life. Respondents were asked to specify their involvement in decision-making regarding farm

related activities whether there was “no involvement”, “opinion sought”, “opinion considered”, “joint decision” and “independent decision” by farm women.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their decision making power n=120

S. No.	Area of Decision making	Decision making by respondents					
		NI (0)	OS (1)	OC (2)	JD (3)	ID (4)	Score (Max. 4)
1.	Selection of the crop	0	3	10	89	18	3.01
2.	Type and number of crops to be taken in a crop season	0	3	7	92	18	3.04
3.	Variety of seeds	5	3	12	82	18	2.87
4.	Area allocation to each crop	4	4	3	91	18	2.96
5.	Purchase of inputs like seeds fertilizer, pesticides, insecticides etc.	24	5	28	45	18	2.23
6.	Source for purchase of the inputs	24	5	39	34	18	2.15
7.	Time of sowing	0	3	1	98	18	3.09
8.	Management of Labor	4	3	0	95	18	3.00
9.	Taking advise from extension workers regarding improved package of practice	59	7	9	27	18	1.48
10.	Purchase, sale and lending of farm machinery implements or agricultural land	35	9	23	35	18	1.93
11.	Time of harvesting	5	3	2	92	18	2.96
12.	Maintenance of crop / produce	4	4	7	87	18	2.82
13.	Marketing the produce	16	7	14	65	18	2.52
14.	Storage of the farm produces	21	5	22	54	18	2.36
15.	Utilization of family/farm income	4	3	7	96	10	2.87
16.	Purchase & sale of land	9	3	32	73	3	2.48
17.	Irrigation management	5	5	11	81	18	2.85
	Mean	12.88	4.42	13.35	72.70	16.65	2.63

NI: No Involvement, JD: Joint decision, OS: Opinion sought, ID: Independent decision, OC: Opinion considered (Figures in the parenthesis indicate the weightage given to decision making power).

From Table 1, it was observed that decision score was highest in time of sowing (3.09), followed by type and number of crops to be taken in a crop season (3.04), selection of the crop (3.01), management of labor(3.00), time of harvesting and area allocation to each crop (2.96), variety of seeds and utilization of family/farm income (2.87), Irrigation management (2.85), maintenance of crop / produce (2.82), marketing the produce (2.52), purchase & sale of land (2.48), storage of the farm produces (2.36), Purchase of inputs like seeds, fertilizer, pesticides, insecticides etc. (2.23) and source for purchase of the inputs (2.15). While the farm women had low decision score among the purchase, sale and lending of farm machinery implements or agricultural land (1.93) and taking advise from extension workers regarding improved package of practice (1.48) (Figure 1).

The results were due to the reason that for purchasing, sale, lending and extension participation activities were mostly

undertaken by the male members of the family, so the farm women had low decision making power among these activities and also due to the lack of ownership rights.

The results were supported by Pal and Haldar (2016) ^[4], they studied that among the responding women, decision score was measured on 5 point scale and was highest in crop and variety to be sown (2.6), followed by sale of farm products (2.3) and savings (2.1).

Chouhan (2014) ^[1] observed that the decision making was ranked first in time of weeding followed by time of sowing, time of harvesting, uprooting and transplanting of seedling ranked II, III and IV respectively. While the decisions on intercultural operations, preparation of produce of sale, time of application of manure and fertilizers, market sale, choice of vegetable crops to be grown and land preparation were ranked V, VI, VII, VIII, IX and X respectively.

Godara *et al.* (2014) ^[2] revealed that women's participation in different aspects of decision-making process of agricultural sector have not recorded up to the mark. The decisions related to opting the measures to increase the production, buying activities, expenditure activities were found to be minimum.

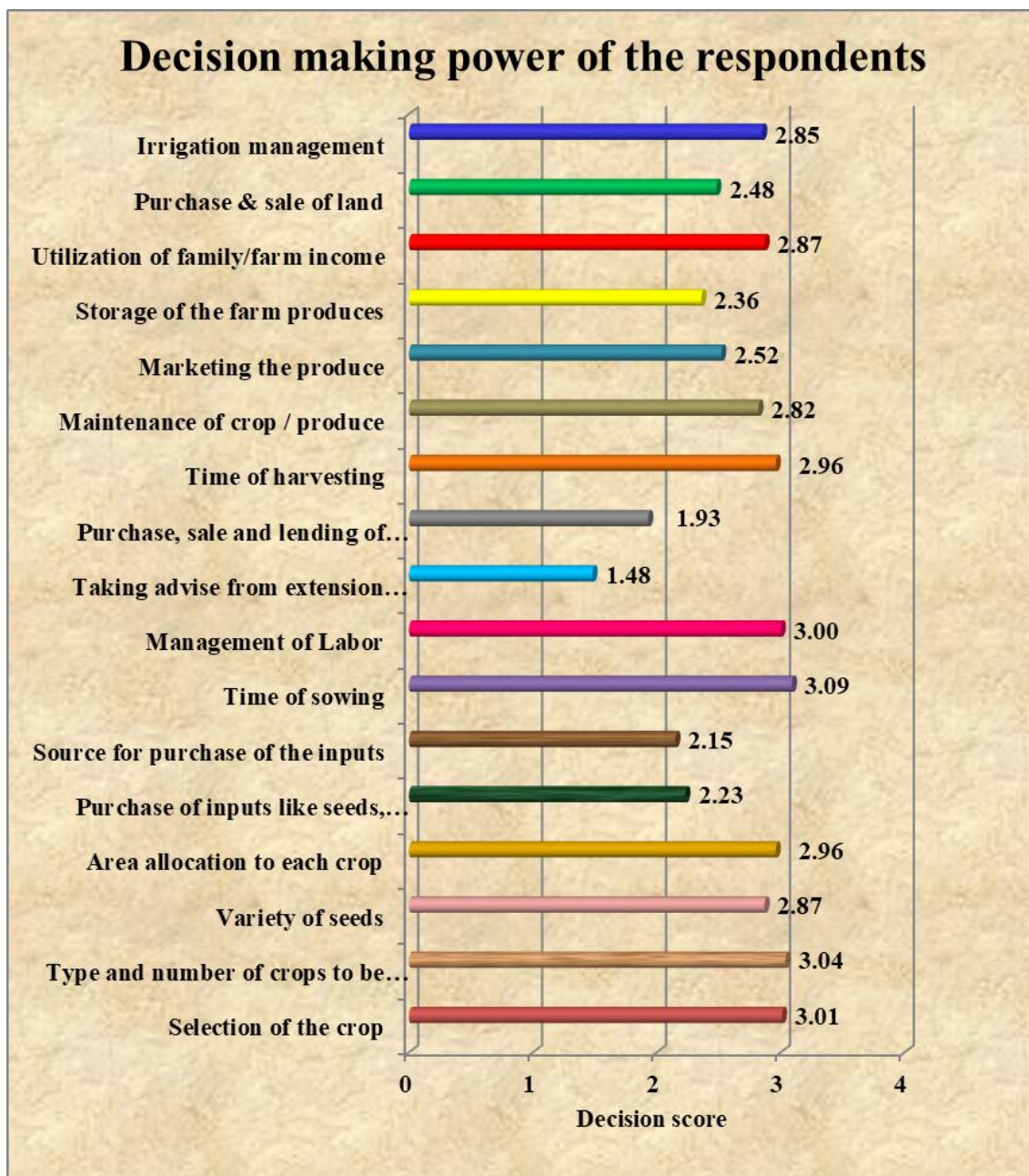


Fig 1: Distribution of respondents according to their decision making power

Conclusion

The present study concluded that the rural women are the major working forces of agricultural activities. They regularly engaged and participated in agriculture, agriculture labour, agriculture and agriculture labour, and agriculture and others. From the above study, it can be concluded that decision mean score was highest at the time of sowing (3.09), followed by type and number of crops to be taken in a crop season (3.04), selection of the crop (3.01), management of labor (3.00), time of harvesting and area allocation to each crop (2.96). While the farm women had low decision score among the purchase, sale and lending of farm machinery implements or agricultural land (1.93) and taking advice from extension workers regarding improved package of practice (1.48).

References

1. Chouhan KS. Role of farm women in decision making on vegetable cultivation in Tikamgarh district of Madhya Pradesh. M.Sc. Thesis. Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, College of Agriculture, Tikamgarh (M.P.), 2014.
2. Godara AS, Poonia U, Jyani U. Role of Women in Decision-Making process in Agriculture Sector: A Case Study of District Fatehabad. *International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications*. 2014;4(2):1-9.
3. Lalitha V, Kumar TV. Farm management in rural areas: Role of women in Decision-making process. *Social Sciences International Research Journal*. 2016;2:63-65.
4. Pal S, Halder S. Participation and role of rural women in decision making related to farm activities: A study in Burdwan district of West Bengal. *Economic Affairs*. 2016;61(1):55-63.