



ISSN (E): 2277- 7695  
ISSN (P): 2349-8242  
NAAS Rating: 5.23  
TPI 2022; SP-11(3): 1595-1598  
© 2022 TPI  
[www.thepharmajournal.com](http://www.thepharmajournal.com)

Received: 01-01-2022  
Accepted: 04-02-2022

## S Kavi Raju

Ph.D. Scholar in Agricultural Economics, Department of Agricultural Economics, College of Agriculture, Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, Telangana, India

## S Sridevi

Principal Scientist, AICRP on Integrated Farming Systems, Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, Telangana, India

## M Goverdhan

Principal Scientist and Head, AICRP on Integrated Farming Systems, Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, Telangana, India

## Latheef Pasha

Senior Scientist, AICRP on Integrated Farming Systems, Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, Telangana, India

## Ali Baba

Senior Scientist, AICRP on Integrated Farming Systems, Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Hyderabad, Telangana, India

## Pragathi Kumari

Senior Scientist, AICRP on Integrated Farming Systems, Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Hyderabad, Telangana, India

## Corresponding Author

### S Kavi Raju

Ph.D. Scholar in Agricultural Economics, Department of Agricultural Economics, College of Agriculture, Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, Telangana, India

## A study on women's participation in decision making of farm activities in Medak district of Telangana state

S Kavi Raju, S Sridevi, M Goverdhan, Latheef Pasha, Ali Baba and Pragathi Kumari

### Abstract

The proposed study on women's participation and decision-making process in agriculture was conducted in Medak district of Telangana state to evaluate involvement of women in decision making process in agriculture. A multistage random sampling was adopted to conduct the study and it study was carried out on 247 sample farm families, out of which 124 farm households were categorized as marginal followed by 72 small, 34 medium and 17 large farm households. In marginal households, women's involvement in final decision of crop to be sown was (2.4%), agricultural operations (3.2%), labour to be hired (12.1%), marketing of farm produce (4.8%), sale and purchase of land (3.2%) and sale and purchase of animals (6.5%). In case of small farmers, women's involvement in final decisions like crop to be sown was (4.7%), agricultural operations (2.8%), labour to be hired (20.8%), marketing of farm produce was (6.9%), sale and purchase of land and sale and purchase of animal was (4.2%). In medium group women were only consulted with regard to agricultural operations (70.6%), agriculture operations (23.5%), labour to be hired (11.8%), sale and purchase of land was (41.2%), marketing of farm produce (29.4%) and sale and purchase of animal (8.8%). But, women's involvement in final decision in crop to be sown, sale and purchase of land and agricultural operations was nil and with regard to labour to be hired it was (23.5%), marketing of farm produce and sale and purchase of animal was (8.8%). Survey data indicated that large farmers consider women's decision in case of crops to be sown was (35.3%), agricultural operations (58.8%), labor to be hired (64.7%), sale and purchase of animals (52.9%), marketing of farm produce was (58.8%), sale and purchase of land (47.1%). However, women's involvement in final decision making in crop to be sown was nil, agricultural operations was (11.8%), sale and purchase of animal, marketing of farm produce and sale and purchase of land was (5.9%).

**Keywords:** Agriculture, Farming systems, Women's participation, Decision making

### Introduction

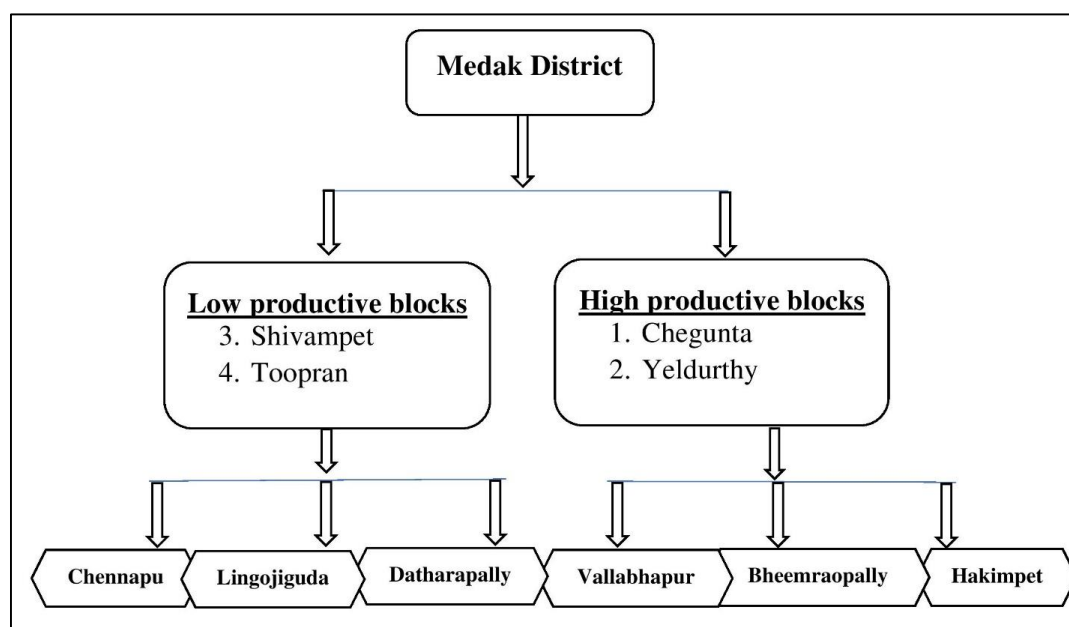
Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy. Women play a vital role in building this economy. Over the years, there is a gradual realization of the key role of women in agricultural development and their vital contribution in the field of agriculture, food security, horticulture, processing, nutrition, sericulture, fisheries, and other allied sectors. Rural Women form the most important productive work force in the economy of majority developing nations including India. In Indian context, farming is a family occupation and farm women are associates to their husbands performing various activities in farm and home level (Pampi paul *et al.* 2015). Women participate in all type of farm activities and do more work as compare to male workers but their participation in decision making related to farm and income generating activities is low (Subitha *et al.* 2013). Decision-making is a fundamental process that incorporates all the functions of family resource management. Rural women perform all the duties of household, attending to farm labour, caring of domestic animals but in spite of discharging all the duties of household, no recognition is given to her immense contribution. But her involvement in decision-making process of household remained in a very low position as all important decisions are made by head of the family or the male members because majority of the females have not provided opportunities to get education due to have the policy of discrimination against the females of the family (Abhey singh *et al.* 2014). Decision making power was positively correlated with the age of the women. Education of farm women was found effective in the participation of farm women in agricultural decision-making process. Respondents of forward castes participated in farming decisions with greater frequencies than SC and ST. Although, the decision-making score was higher among the male farmers, most decisions were taken jointly by both female and male participants indicating the development

of social status of the farming women (Subhadip *et al.* 2016). Capacitating rural women in all rounded developmental aspects can affect their livelihood which enables them actively participate in various agricultural and non-agricultural activities. Maximum attention should be given for rural women to build their capabilities in decision making (Mihiret 2014). Women role in decision-making in different agricultural activities need to be analyzed properly. Keeping this in mind, the present study was conducted in Medak district of Telangana State to evaluate women decision making in different agricultural operations comprising crop to be sown, agricultural operations, labour to be hired, marketing of farm produce, purchasing and sale of land and purchasing of milch animals.

### Materials and Methods

The proposed study on women's participation and decision-making process in agriculture was conducted in Medak district during 2017. A multistage random sampling was adopted to select the mandals (Blocks), villages and farm households in the district for the study. Out of 20 mandals in

the district, four mandals were selected based on previous history on productivity of various crops (Source: secondary data from Dept of Agriculture). Among these, two mandals were designated as high productive represented by Yeldurthy, Chegunta and another two blocks were designated as low productive represented by Shivampet, Toopran. In each of high and low productive blocks 3 villages were selected. Then in each village farm households were categorized based on the holding size in ascending order as marginal (< 1.00 ha.): small (1.00 -1.99 ha.): medium (2.00 -3.99 ha.): and large (4.00 ha & above). From each village and each categorized group, 33 percent of farm households were selected for the study. Care has been taken to select a large village consisting of preferably more than 100 farm families. Thus, a total of 247 samples were collected from low Productive and high Productive mandals (blocks). Descriptive statistics like sum, average, percentage and ratio were calculated to examine the agricultural operations comprising crop to be sown, agricultural operations, labour to be hired, marketing of farm produce, purchasing and sale of land and purchasing of milch animals.



**Fig 1:** Details of Sample Framework used for the present Study

### Results and Discussion

The extent of women's participation (gender issue) of the study indicated (tables 1 to 6) that in marginal households the women's opinion was considered in choice of crops sown (12.9%), agricultural operations (33.9%), labour to be hired (31.5%), marketing of farm produce (16.9%), purchase and sale of land (32.3%) and sale and purchase of animals (38.7%) and women's involvement in final decision of crop to be sown was (2.4 %), agricultural operations (3.2%), labour to be hired (12.1%), marketing of farm produce (4.8 %), sale and

purchase of land (3.2 %) and sale and purchase of animals (6.5%). Women were only consulted in crop to be sown was (51.6%), agricultural operations (46.8%), labour to be hired (33.1%), marketing of farm produce (34.7%), purchase and sale of land (28.2 %) and purchase of animals was (25 %). In marginal farm families no participation of women was identified in choice of crops sown (33.1%), agricultural operations (16.1%), labour to be hired (23.4%), marketing of farm produce (43.6%), purchase of land (36.3%) and sale and purchase of animals (29.8%).

**Table 1:** Extent of women's participation in crop to be sown

Extent of women participation	Marginal	Small	Medium	Large	Overall
Nil	33.1	22.2	8.8	5.9	17.5
Only consulted	51.6	55.6	70.6	58.8	59.2
Opinion considered	12.9	18.1	20.6	35.3	21.7
Final decision	2.4	4.7	-	-	3.6
Total number farm households	124	72	34	17	247

\*All figures in the table are percentage to the total number of farm households.

**Table 2:** Extent of women's participation in Agriculture operations

Extent of women participation	Marginal	Small	Medium	Large	Overall
Nil	16.1	15.3	2.9	5.9	10.1
Only consulted	46.8	26.4	23.5	23.5	30.1
Opinion considered	33.9	55.6	73.5	58.8	55.5
Final decision	3.2	2.8	-	11.8	4.5
Total farm households	124	72	34	17	247

\*All figures in the table are percentage to the total number of farm households.

**Table 3:** Extent of women's participation in labour to be hired

Extent of women participation	Marginal	Small	Medium	Large	Overall
Nil	23.4	16.7	0	5.9	11.5
Only consulted	33.1	19.4	11.8	11.8	19
Opinion considered	31.5	43.1	64.7	64.7	51
Final decision	12.1	20.8	23.5	17.7	18.5
Total	124	72	34	17	247

\*All figures in the table are percentage to the total number of farm households.

**Table 4:** Extent of women's participation in marketing of farm produce

Extent of women participation	Marginal	Small	Medium	Large	Overall
Nil	43.6	23.6	11.8	5.9	21.2
Only consulted	34.7	40.3	29.4	29.4	33.5
Opinion considered	16.9	29.2	50	58.8	38.7
Final decision	4.8	6.9	8.8	5.9	6.6
Total	124	72	34	17	247

\*All figures in the table are percentage to the total number of farm households.

**Table 5:** Extent of women's participation in purchase and sale of land

Extent of women participation	Marginal	Small	Medium	Large	Overall
Nil	36.3	47.2	11.8	17.7	28.2
Only consulted	28.2	30.6	41.2	29.4	32.4
Opinion considered	32.3	18.1	47.1	47.1	36.1
Final decision	3.2	4.2	-	5.9	3.3
Total	124	72	34	17	247

\*All figures in the table are percentage to the total number of farm households.

**Table 6:** Extent of women's participation in purchase and sale of milch animals

Extent of women participation	Marginal	Small	Medium	Large	Overall
Nil	29.8	50	38.2	11.8	32.5
Only consulted	25	22.2	8.8	29.4	21.4
Opinion considered	38.7	23.6	44.1	52.9	39.9
Final decision	6.5	4.2	8.8	5.9	6.3
Total	124	72	34	17	247

In case of small farmers consideration of women's opinion in choice of crops to be sown was (18.1%), agricultural operations (55.6%), in labour to be hired (43.1%), marketing of farm produce was (29.2%), sale and purchase of land (18.1%) and sale and purchase of animals was (23.6%). women's involvement in final decisions in crop to be sown was (4.7%), agricultural operations (2.8%), like labour to be hired (20.8%), marketing of farm produce was (6.9%), sale and purchase of land and sale and purchase of animal was (4.2%). Involvement of women only up to consultation in crop to be sown (51.6%), agricultural operations was (26.4%), labour to be hired (19.4%), marketing of farm produce was (40.3%), purchase and sale of land (30.6%) and purchase and sale of milch animals was (22.2%). In about 22.2% of small farm families were found that they are not participated in crops to be sown, agricultural operations (15.3%), labour to be hired (16.7%), marketing of farm produce (23.6%), purchase and sale of milch animals (47.2%) and sale and purchase of animals was (50%).

With regard to the medium farmers consideration of women's

opinion in choice of crops to be sown was (20.6%), agricultural operations (73.5%), labour to be hired (64.7%), marketing of farm produce was (50%), purchase and sale of land (18.1%) and sale and purchase of animals was (44.1%). Women's involvement in final decision in crop to be sown, sale and purchase of land and agricultural operations was nil and labour to be hired was (23.5%), marketing of farm produce and sale and purchase of animal was (8.8%). In medium group consultation of women in agricultural operations (70.6%), agriculture operations (23.5%), labour to be hired (11.8%), sale and purchase of land was (41.2%), marketing of farm produce (29.4%) and sale and purchase of animal (8.8%) and they were not consulted in labour to be hired and the percentage of participation of women in choice of crops sown was (8.8%), agricultural operations (2.9%), purchase and sale of land and marketing of farm produce was same (11.8%) and sale and purchase of animals was (38.2%). As per the survey data large farmers consider women's decision in case of crops to be sown was (35.3%), agricultural operations (58.8%), labor to be hired (64.7%), sale and

purchase of animals (52.9%), marketing of farm produce was (58.8%), sale and purchase of land (47.1%). Women's involvement in final decision making in crop to be sown was nil, agricultural operations was (11.8%), sale and purchase of animal, marketing of farm produce and sale and purchase of land was (5.9%). Women were only consulted in agricultural operations (23.5%), crop to be sown was (58.8%) and sale and purchase of animal, marketing of farm produce and sale and purchase of land was (6.25%), participation of women in choice of sale and purchase of land was (17.7%) while in case of crops sown, agricultural operations, labour to be hired, marketing of farm produce was (5.9%) and sale and purchase of animals was (11.8%).

## Conclusion

From the above study it can be concluded that the majority of women in the Study area were not participating in decision making towards selection of crop and the opinion of women from medium and large farm families was purely absent in final decision of crop to be sown. As regards to the agricultural operations majority of women's opinion was considered and followed by few were only consulted. Nearly 51 percent women's opinion was considered in engaging of labour to conduct farm operations in the study area. Marketing of farm produce is one of major factor in which the producer should be rational for selling his produce. The marginal farmers seem to be neglecting the women decision in marketing of farm produce. Even though milch animals are operated by women, but their contribution in buying and selling decisions was too weak. Women plays important role in agriculture along with housekeeping activity, but their involvement in decision making of same activities were fully getting neglected. From this study it can be concluded that women should be encouraged to participate actively in making decision of various operations in agriculture as they were actively involved in those operations make them to take suitable decisions.

## References

1. Sharma S, Rao PK, Sharma R. Role of Women Decision-Making Related to Farm: A study of Jammu District of J&K State. *International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications*. 2013;3(1):1-4.
2. Paul P, Meena BS, Singh M, Wani SA. Gender participation in integrated farming system in Tripura, India. *Asian J. Dairy & Food Res*. 2015;34(1)2:59-62.
3. Godara AS, Usha P, 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.
4. Pal P, Haldar 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.
5. Mulugeta M, Amsalu T. Women role and their decision making in livestock and household management. *Journal of Agriculture and Rural Development*. 2014;6(11):347-353.
6. Agricultural statistics at a glance Telangana 2015-16. Department of Economics and statistics, Telangana state.
7. Statistical book of year 2016, Department of Economics and statistics, Telangana state.