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Gender participation in post-harvest activities of rice by the tribal farm families

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Abstract

Post-harvesting is a concluding activity in agriculture to secure foods and other crops. The objective of the study was to recognize gender participation regarding post-harvest activity in the tribal area. The study was conducted on 120 tribal farm families from 12 villages in the tribal areas of District Jashpur. The data were analyzed for frequencies and analysis of variance. The results indicated that however both, males and females participated in different activities *viz.* drying, threshing, winnowing, dehusking, shelling, grading, processing, storage, and marketing activities of rice. In all about one-third of the post-harvest activities was performed by female only, 10.63 percent was done by male only. Participation in marketing activities was low for females. The high level of participation of women in activities like winnowing, threshing and storage/packing of paddy makes it necessary to transfer technical knowledge on these aspects to tribal farm families.

Keywords: Gender participation, post-harvest activity, tribal farm families and rice

Introduction

In tribal areas, men and women are highly engaged in post-harvest activities. Most of the activities were done by men and women, especially in drying, threshing, winnowing, dehusking, cleaning and storage. Hansra and Dhillon (1995) [2] reported that the farm family activities are transplanting (50%), and harvesting (26.5%) however post-harvest activities such as threshing (50%), Drying (33%) and parboiling (67%). Several of these operations are carried out by both men and women. Punia (1991) [4] reported that families without women are not sustainable and women are responsible for 90% of post-harvest activities further reporting the role of women in homestead and family life. Rural women play an important role in post-harvest activities. Their involvement in agriculture varies from region to region and also among different ecological zones, farming systems, caste, class and socio-economic status of families. Keeping in view the involvement of men and women in the post-harvest activity this study has been planned to estimate the frequency of gender participation in the post-harvest activities. The major objective of the proposed research was:

1. To study the gender participation in different post-harvest management practices of rice.

Methodology

The study was undertaken in Jashpur district of Chhattisgarh. Out of 8 blocks, 4 blocks were selected purposively because of the high tribal population and also have a large area of rice crop. For this study, 12 tribal villages were selected and 10 tribal farm families from each selected village were selected randomly. Thus a total of 120 farm families were selected for the study. In this way (12 X 10 = 120) a total of 120 rice-growing farm families were selected for the study. The data were collected by a personal interview with the help of well prepared, structured and pretested interview schedule. Data were analyzed using frequency distribution, percentages, and correlation coefficient.

Result and Discussion

Gender participation in post-harvest management of rice

Post-harvest management of rice comprises many activities like drying, threshing, winnowing, de-husking, grading etc. Data regarding the participation of male and female respondents in different activities are enlisted below.

S. No.	Practices		Participation				
		Ma	le only	Fema	ale only	В	oth
		F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Drying	8	6.67	11	9.17	101	84.17
2	Threshing	20	16.67	2	1.67	98	81.67
3	Winnowing	6	5.00	14	11.67	100	83.33
4	Dehusking	4	3.33	29	24.17	87	72.50
5	Grading	6	5.00	112	93.33	2	1.67
6	Storage/Packaging	3	2.50	23	19.17	94	78.33
7	Processing	0	0.00	117	97.50	3	2.50
8	Marketing	55	45.83	9	7.50	21	17.50

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their participation in different post-harvest management activities of rice

In marketing activity participation of males alone was maximum (45.83%), followed by threshing activity (16.67%), for drying activity 6.67 percent, for winnowing and grading activity participation was 5 percent, for dehusking activity 3.33 percent, for storage/packaging activity, 2.50 percent and none of the male respondents participated alone in processing activity.

Similarly, in the category of females, participation was maximum in processing activity (97.50%), followed by grading activity (93.33%), dehusking activity (24.17%), storage/packaging activity participation 19.17 percent, winnowing activity (11.67%), for marketing activity (7.50%) and only 1.67 percent female of the respondents participated in the threshing activity, alone.

It was observed that in the case of both males and females, maximum participation (84.17%) was observed in drying activity, followed by winnowing activity (83.33%), for threshing activity 81.67 percent, for storage/packaging activity participation was 78.33 percent, for dehusking activity 72.50 percent, for processing activity 2.50 percent and only 1.67 percent of the male and female both respondents have participated in grading activity.

Table 2: Extent of overall participation of respondents in different post- harvest activities of rice

S. No.	Extent of participation	Score	Percentage
1	Male only	102	10.63
2	Female only	317	33.02
3	Both	506	52.71

Further, using the participation in different activities of postharvest management of rice by males alone, females alone and both, the Extent of overall participation was worked out. It is obvious from Table 2 that the maximum extent of overall participation (52.71%) in different activities of post-harvest management of rice was found in the case of jointly by males and females, followed by only female participation was 33.02 percent and only male participation was 10.63 percent.

Conclusion

Major participation of males only was observed in marketing (75%), while in processing male participation was almost nil. On the other hand major participation of females only was in processing (97.5%) and the least participation was in threshing (1.67%) according to the data obtained from respondents. Compositely both participation in particular activities of post-harvest management show different data. The highest 84.17 percent participation was responded in drying, while the lowest 1.67 percent of participation in grading by both males and females together.

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