



# A Study on Decision Making Ability and Participation in Various Agriculture Activities Performed by Farm Women in Khargone District of M.P

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**Abstract:** The role of women has always been a multi-dimensional and significant as women have performed well in case of agricultural activities, domestic activities, marketing activities as far as labour requirement is considered. The decision-making process is an important segment of every household because the functioning of family resource management depends on the efficiency of decision-making progress. So, women involvement in decision-making process has been of great importance because sampling method to make a sample of 120 respondents. Hence finally the sampling consisted of 120 respondents. More number of farm women were found to have level of decision making process: the highest decision making behavior in sowing followed by winnowing process, seed processing, irrigation management, collection of harvested crop, storage, field preparation, selection of seed/variety, marketing, Manures and fertilizer application, weeding, harvesting, seed treatment, Pest and disease management and soil testing.

## Introduction –

Decision-making and accurate performance of all activities helps in making an enterprise more viable, feasible and profitable. Before performing any operation task a person thinks over various options available to him/her and selects only those which are simple, profitable, compatible and relatively better. If a person before implementing a task also plans and decides about various activities, can produce excellent results.

But in case of agriculture, due to gender bias, farm women, a significant contributor in various activities is being kept away from the role of decision maker.

Women contribute a major share to the farm labour, all over the world, especially in the developing countries like India. According to the 2011 census, the percentage share of farmers and agricultural labourers in the rural population of India are 34 percent and 41.4 per cent respectively in which the share of women cultivators and women agricultural labourers are 10.3 per cent and 17.7 per cent, respectively.



The role of farm women in decision making process in agriculture in Madhya Pradesh has not been explored by many researchers. To examine the role of farm women in the decision making process in growing of crop in agriculture, different areas of decision making were identified for the present study, considering their importance for agricultural development.

### **Objective-**

To measure the decision making ability of farm women and their participation in various agriculture activities.

### **Review of Literature-**

Chayal *et al*. (2013) also found that decisions on cropping pattern and marketing of produce were made solely by men. Although, decision making score was higher among the man respondents, woman respondents participated in decision making processes in the areas of crop and variety to be sown, sale of farm products and savings.

Godara and Varsha (2017) found that majority of the respondent has not involved in decision related to purchase and sale of land. Only near about 29.7 per cent respondents were partially involved in taking decision in this activity.

Dudi and Meena (2017) revealed that the farm women participated in decision making process in each and every farm activities. The data indicated that the higher number of farm women (57.11%) were observed in low category of decision making followed by medium category of decision making with (27.74%) and high category of decision making (15.15%) also found that the more number of farm women in agricultural activities taken low decision making involvement.

Patel *et al*. (2017) indicate that 84 per cent and 75.50per cent of the farm women took participation in decision about choosing the type and breed of milch animals, respectively. However, majority of them (71.50 % and 67%) of the farm women did not participation in decision about taking loan for purchase of milch animals and purchase of feed and fodder, respectively.

### **Methodology-**

There are nine blocks in Khargone district. Namely- Barwaha, Bhagwanpura, Bhikangaon, Goganwa, Kasarawad, Maheshwar, Segoan, Zirnya, Khargone. Out of these only one block i.e. Kasarawad will be selected purposively for present study. A list of all the villages of the selected block will be and taken



from block office out of them one block will be selected purposively i.e. Kasarwad. Kasarwad block comprises of 220 villages, Out of these 6 villages will be selected randomly for the ongoing study.

### **Selection of the respondents-**

In Kasarwad block, the majority of the women have been found to be involved in agriculture activities *viz*, Vegetable production, Masala processing, Vermiculture, Goatry and Dairy enterprise for their livelihood. From this block six villages were selected for the study, and prepared of the list of respondents on the basis of higher number of rural farm women members. This list of farm women were selected through proportionate and of sampling method to make a sample of 120 respondents. Hence finally the sampling consisted of 120 respondents.

### **Decision making ability of farm women and their participation-**

The decision making ability of a farm women is operationally defined as the degree of weighing the available alternatives in terms of their desirability and their likelihoods and choosing the most appropriate one for achieving maximum profit on his farming. The scale developed by Supe (1969), and as adopted by Nagesh (2006) with suitable modifications was used.

### **Result and Discussion-**

Measure the decision making ability of farm women and their participation in various agriculture activities.

**Table: Measure the decision making ability of farm women**

**n=120**

S. No.	Agriculture activities	Decision making ability			Mean score
		Low	Medium	High	
1.	Field preparation	69	29	22	1.60
2.	Selection of variety / seed	73	24	23	1.58
3.	Sowing Methods	35	53	32	1.97
4.	Weeding	61	32	20	1.54
5.	Soil testing	79	27	14	1.44



6.	Seed treatment	73	35	12	1.49
7.	Irrigation management	65	23	32	1.72
8.	Manures and fertilizer application	71	32	17	1.55
9.	Pest and disease management	83	19	18	1.45
10.	Harvesting	79	21	20	1.50
11.	Collection of harvested crop	63	31	26	1.69
12.	Winnowing process	55	22	43	1.90
13.	Seed processing	38	59	23	1.87
14.	Storage	57	44	19	1.68
15.	Marketing	74	23	23	1.57
<b>Overall</b>		<b>65</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>120</b>

**Table: Measure the participation of farm women in various agriculture activities**

**n=120**

S.N.	Agriculture activities	Extent of participation			Mean Score
		Low	medium	High	
1.	Field preparation	35	43	42	2.05
2.	Selection of variety / seed	23	43	51	2.18
3.	Sowing Methods	49	38	33	1.86
4.	Weeding	26	53	41	2.12
5.	Soil testing	19	45	56	2.30



6.	Seed treatment	21	38	61	2.33
7.	Irrigation management	18	40	62	2.36
8.	Manures and fertilizer application	21	28	71	2.41
9.	Pest and disease management	29	18	73	2.36
10.	Harvesting	16	38	66	2.41
11.	Collection of harvested crop	29	26	65	2.30
12.	Winnowing process	12	32	76	2.53
13.	Seed processing	21	35	64	2.35
14	Storage	29	31	60	2.25
15	Marketing	23	35	62	2.32
	Overall	25 (20.83%)	36 (30.00%)	59 (49.17%)	120 (100%)

**Table: measure the overall participation of farm women in various agriculture activities**

**n=120**

S. No.	Categories	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Low	25	20.83
2.	Medium	36	30.00
3.	High	59	49.17
	Total	120	100



## **Decision making ability of farm women and their participation in various agriculture activities:**

### **Decision making ability of farm women**

More number of farm women were found to have level of decision making process: the highest decision making behavior in sowing because sowing process is easily handled by farm women followed by winnowing process because women is expert in this process, seed processing, irrigation management, collection of harvested crop, storage, field preparation, selection of seed/variety, marketing, Manures and fertilizer application, weeding, harvesting, seed treatment, Pest and disease management and soil testing.

### **Participation in various agriculture activities-**

More number of farm women was found to participation in agricultural operations i.e. 49.17 per cent followed by medium participation with 30.00 per cent and low participation of 20.83 per cent. Also found higher participation of farm women in agricultural activities. Further data revealed that the farm activities in which farm women obtained the highest score at high level of participation were winnowing process, followed by manure and fertilizers application, harvesting, pest and disease management, irrigation management, seed processing, seed treatment, marketing, collection of harvested crops, soil testing, storage, selection of variety, weeding, field preparation and sowing method.

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