

# WOMEN'S IN INDIAN AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Dr.A.Thiruvenkateswari\* B.Arunkumar\*\*

Assistant Professor in Economics\*\* Assistant Professor in Commerce\*SNMV CAS Coimbatore.

## Abstract

Women play important role for the development of any economy, women's contribute to two- thirds of the world's work hours and produce 50 per cent of the world's food supplies, account for 60 per cent of the work force and contribute up to 30 per cent of the official labour force (1996). Women constituted 38% of the agricultural labour force in developing countries. It is also estimated that 45.3% of the agricultural labour force consists of women. But a large number of women have remained as "invisible workers". Since there has been concern expressed regarding the gap between women's actual economic participation and public perception of it several researchers have attempted to overcome this invisibility through gendered empirical research studies for using on gender analysis and gender roles. This piece of research is highlighting the trend of female participation in agriculture across various Indian states.

## Introduction

Women play important role for the development of any economy, women's contribute to two- thirds of the world's work hours and produce 50 per cent of the world's food supplies, account for 60 per cent of the work force and contribute up to 30 per cent of the official labour force (1996). Women constituted 38% of the agricultural labour force in developing countries. It is also estimated that 45.3% of the agricultural labour force consists of women. But a large number of women have remained as "invisible workers". Since there has been concern expressed regarding the gap between women's actual economic participation and public perception of it several researchers have attempted to overcome this invisibility through gendered empirical research studies for using on gender analysis and gender roles. This piece of research is highlighting the trend of female participation in agriculture across various Indian states.

## Women in Economic Development

India is developing country. The main occupation is agriculture, because 70 per cent of the population is involved in this occupation. Many women in developing countries are occupied in agriculture. Women occupation in agriculture in low income countries in Asia is between 60-80 per cent. In almost, Asian countries, the number of women employed in agriculture as a percentage of the economically active population is higher. Long standing obstacles faced by rural women in terms of limited access to productive resources (Land, Credit, Inputs, Transport, Extension Services, Storage and Technical Assistance) prevent them from adopting new technologies or encoring them economies of scale. agriculture impact women and men differently and ensures implications for growth.

## Agriculture Employment

The employment is available for fewer days per year for agriculture. It is therefore becoming essential for men to migrate in search of better-paid work. Women are filling this vacuum. Women are forced to accept work in agriculture in their own village under very bad conditions because they cannot migrate as easily men. The most of the women's are depends on work for family farms, especially during the peak periods to sowing and harvesting, has become very common.

## The Role of Women in Agriculture

The role of women in agricultural development and allied fields including in the main crop production, livestock production, horticulture, post-harvest operations, agro/ social forestry, fisheries, etc. The nature and extent of women's involvement in agriculture, no doubt, varies greatly from region to region. Even within a region, their involvement varies widely among different ecological sub-zones, farming systems, castes, classes and stages in the family cycle. But regardless of these variations, there is hardly any activity in agricultural production, except ploughing in which women are not actively involved. Women in agriculture conducted in India and other developing and under developed countries all point to the women contribute far more to agricultural production.

### Agriculture decision making activities in women

In rural areas of our country, both husband and wife are jointly responsible for making decisions on matters like family obligations, specific housing charges and purchases of household articles. However women's suggestions are not given due consideration in the decisions pertaining to agricultural sector and important family matters.

In general, women have less access to information about technology by virtue of their inferior educational status and relative isolation from public life. Thus, there is a hesitation to come out and interact.

### Conclusion

Most importantly, the women should have a penchant for self-empowerment through enhancing their knowledge and skills. State and central government policies should be framed to provide legal support and instill confidence in women. Programmes should be developed exclusively for women to build leadership skills for managing agricultural community based development activities. Access of technology, inputs and credit has to be ensured predominantly through women extension workers.

### References

1. Dr. K. Senthil Kumar women in Indian agriculture sector peninsular economist, no.1 vol.xxv,pp 238-239,2013.
2. World of work, international labour organization NO.17,1996.
3. International labour organization, 1989.
4. Shiva kumar AK,UNDP gender related development index-A compilation for india states.economic and political weekly, 31(14),1996.
5. Shiva vandana, 1991 most farmers in india are women FAO, New Delhi,1991.