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CONSTRAINTS FACED BY THE RURAL WOMEN IN ADOPTION OF HOMESTEAD TECHNOLOGIES

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ABSTRACT

Technological innovations and their reach to the rural women can result in enhancing women's welfare and their empowerment. Low cost, reliable homestead technologies related to nutrition, health and sanitation, drudgery reduction, post harvest technologies. The objective of the present study was to find out theconstraints faced by rural women in adoption of homestead technologies in Chittorgarh district. The study was conducted in *Bhadesar* and *Bassi* panchayat samities of Chittorgrarh district of Rajasthan state. From each panchayat samiti, two villages where the homestead technologies have been promoted by the KVK since last five years were included in the study. The sample consisted of randomly selected 100 rural women, 25 from each village. Personal interview method was used for data collection. Frequency distribution, percentage and mean per cent score were used for analysis of data.The major constraints faced by the respondents in adoption of homestead technologies were lack of knowledge, high cost of fruits and vegetables, high cost of appliances, non availability of printed literature such as pamphlets, leaflets, folders etc. on specific technology, inability to contact extension personnel at the time of need and lack of time.

INTRODUCTION

A rural women hold on three fold responsibilities of home, farm and management of livestock. In home she devotes endless time in preparing food, washing clothes, procuring fuel from forest, bringing water, storing food grains, cleaning and maintaining house, looking after children and adults, participating in social and religious ceremonies and the list is never ending. Beside this, she does a lot of work in agriculture and animal husbandry. Adding to the plight of these, women use age old customary methods for performing all these tasks which make their work more drudgery ridden, tedious and thorny.

The lives of most rural women are characterized by hard work, drudgery, lack of technological information and poor infrastructural support. Women continue to work in smoky kitchens, live in ill-ventilated homes, consume unbalanced diets, have large families, low educational status, poor health and nutritional profile, few employment opportunities, lower wages and submit themselves to male domination. Technological innovations and their reach to the rural women can result in enhancing women's welfare and their empowerment. Low cost, reliable homestead technologies related to nutrition, health and sanitation, drudgery reduction, post harvest technologies etc. can provide a great leap forward for meeting rural women's practical needs for reducing their drudgery, increasing their efficiency and improving family's health condition.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Chittorgarh district of Rajasthan state. The district has 11 panchayat samities out of these, two panchayat samities namely *Bhadesar* and *Bassi* were selected purposively where the homestead technologies have been promoted by the KVK since last five years (2009-2013). Total four villages from two selected panchayat samities were included in the study. Sample for the study consisted of 100 rural women, 25 from each village. Personal interview method was used to collect the data from the respondents. Frequency, percentage, mean percent score were used for analysis of the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Background information of the respondents

More than 40 per cent respondents belonged to the age group of 18-30 years and 38 per cent were from 31-45 years of age. Majority of the respondents (60%) were under upper caste category. Regarding education, 29 per cent respondents were illiterate and 24 per cent were educated up to middle level. Only 15 per cent respondents were graduates. Farming was the main family occupation of 89 per cent respondents. All the respondents were involved in some subsidiary occupations like farm labor, business and service. Majority (63%) belonged to nuclear family. More than 40 per cent respondents had small size family consisting of up to 4 members. Majority of the respondents (62%) were small and marginal farmers. Majority of the respondents (75%) were residing in *pucca* houses.

Constraints faced by the rural women in adoption of homestead technologies

The benefit of any technology is actually derived only when it is efficiently utilized by an individual in his situation. A large number of constraints are operating in creating an adoption gap which is ultimately responsible for the partial adoption or non adoption of technology. In the present study an effort was made to identify the problems faced by the respondents in adoption of homestead technologies.

Sharma *et al.* (2011)concluded that in adoption of recommended kitchen gardening techniques, input constraint was most serious constraint experienced by the rural women followed by general constraints, technical constraints, socio-cultural constraints and post harvest constraints.

Data presented in Table 1 reveal that majority of the respondents faced the problem of lack of knowledge about preparing soya curd and lengthy method of preparing soya products (83%). Similarly in case of preparation of preserved products, the adoption index clearly depicts that majority of the respondents were not preparing preserved product from fruits and vegetables mainly due to high cost of fruits and vegetables even during the pick season (67%) and lack of knowledge (58%). Some of the respondents (33%) also reported the problem of lack of time to prepare preserved products as they were involved in multifarious work at home as well as farm.

More than 40 per cent respondents have not adopted electric mixer grinder and *poori* making machine due to its high cost. Similarly 40 per cent respondents reported the problem of lack of knowledge to handle equipment like electric mixer grinder. Non availability of printed literature such as pamphlets, leaflets, folders etc. on specific technology was the another problem stated by 47 per cent respondents. The respondents also faced the problem of inability to contact extension personnel at the time of need (37%).

The results are in line with the findings of Mandowara (2005) who reported that major problems faced by the rural women in adoption of fruit and vegetable preservation technologies were lack of knowledge about method of preparing different preserved products, unawareness about chemical preservatives, non availability and high cost of fruits and vegetables and non availability of equipment required for processing.

Table: 1 Constraints faced by the respondents in adoption of homestead technologies

n=100

S. No.	Aspects	f / %
1.	Lack of knowledge about soybean products (soya curd)	83
2.	High cost of fruits and vegetables	67
3.	Lack of knowledge about preserved product	58
4.	Non availability of printed literature such as pamphlets, leaflets, folders etc. specific technology	47
5.	High cost of appliances (electric mixer grinder and *poori* making machine)	43
6.	Lack of knowledge to handle equipment (electric mixer grinder)	40

7.	Inability to contact extension personnel at the time of need	37
8.	Lack of time to prepare preserved products	33

The findings of the study indicated that the respondents possessed good knowledge about homestead technologies. However, the different technologies were adopted to the extent of 55.12 per cent. The respondents faced certain constraints in adoption of homestead technologies like lack of knowledge, high cost of appliances, lack of time, non availability of printed literature and inability to contact extension personnel at the time of need.

Reference:

Mandowara, D. 2005. Adoption of fruit and vegetable preservation technologies by rural women in selected villages in Udaipur district.M.Sc. Thesis submitted to MaharanaPratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur, Rajasthan.

Sharma, K., Singh, G., Dhaliwal, N. S. and Yadav, V.P.S. 2011.Constraints in adoption of recommended kitchen gardening techniques.*Journal of Community Mobilization and Sustainable Development.***6**(1):96-99.