

Participation of Rural women in Agricultural activities and Extension programmes in Prakasam District of Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

Rural Indian women are extensively involved in Agriculture. Although women play a central role in the rural economy through their contribution to the agriculture production process, their equitable participation in extension programmes remains minimal. This paper highlights the participation of women in various agricultural activities, extension programmes and constraints for their lower extension participation. The present investigation was conducted in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh during 2013. A simple random sampling technique was employed. One hundred and twenty rural women were personally interviewed using structured schedule. Great majority of rural women were involved in weeding (100.00%), harvesting and threshing (95.00%), sowing/transplanting (88.33%), storing (78.33%) and processing (73.33%) activities. Where as great majority of them never participated in farmer-scientist interaction meetings (91.67%), field days (90.80%), group discussions (87.50%), rythu sadassus (86.67%), demonstrations (80.03%) and polam badi programmes (79.17%). The constraints expressed for their lower participation in extension programmes were transportation difficulties (92.50%), lack of information (88.33%), lack of time (81.67%) and lack of female extension staff (67.50%).

Key words : Agricultural activities, Extension programmes, Participation, Rural women.