

Time Utilization of the Farm Women of Maharashtra in Rabi and Kharif Seasons in Farming and Post-Harvest Activities

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ABSTRACT

The largest number of working women in India is engaged in farming operations either as cultivators or as agricultural labourers. They spent major part of the day in farming activities. It was also observed that good part of active hours during day time was spent in economic activity on the farms. The study was carried out from two agro-climatic zones of Maharashtra. Nanded district was selected from Central Maharashtra Plateau zone and Nagpur district was selected from Central Vidarbha zone. The data was collected from total 600 women, from which 409 women were involved in actual farming activities and 410 in post-harvest activities from urban, rural and tribal areas. In the present study, time spending pattern of the respondents was studied for rabi and kharif seasons in days/year. It was found that farm women spent maximum time in weeding and land preparation in both rabi and kharif seasons as far as farming activities were concerned whereas they utilized maximum time on drying and storage as regards post-harvest activities. It was noted that the women spent total of 123.33 days/year on farming activities in both the seasons and that of 49.29 days/year on post-harvest activities.

Key words: Farming, Kharif, Post-harvest activities, Rabi, Time utilization, Women.