TECHNOLOGICAL NEEDS OF WOMEN IN PADDY CULTIVATION : A STUDY IN RANGAREDDY DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRDESH

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Women were perhaps the first to domesticate the crop plants, and have played a pivotal role in the development of agriculture. In Indian mythology, women are rightly worshipped as Annapurna - the provider of food. Even today, the rural women continue to play an important role in farm related operations, besides fulfilling other responsibilities of home making and child rearing. The female population in the country according to Census 1991, is 406.38 million (48.15 per cent of total population) of which 75 per cent are rural. The percentage of women cultivators is 34.22, women agricultural labourers is 44.93; in livestock, forestry, fisheries and other allied activities 1.60 per cent of women are involved (Gangadhara,1995).

To boost up the agricultural production, the need for enhancing the technical knowledge of women has been felt since long but not much attention was paid in this direction till the launching of the centrally, sponsored and carefully conceived schemes of "Farmers Training and Education Programme" at the beginning of the Fourth Five Year Plan. Since then growing attention was being paid to technological needs of women in agriculture. If proper education and training are given to them, their potentiality and talent could bring a desirable change in our national development (Madivanane, 1990).

For undertaking any training activities effectively the extension functionaries working in the area should have knowledge about the specific technological needs of the farmers of the area. Keeping this in view the study was undertaken with the following objectives :

1. To assess the extent of technological needs of women in paddy cultivation.

2. To find out the relationship between personal and socio-economic characteristic with the technological needs of women in paddy cultivation.

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Methodology

The study was conducted in Ranga Reddy district of Andhra pradesh. In consultation with the local extension functionaries and the officials of department of agriculture three Mandals were selected at random in which paddy was grown as major crop. From each of the selected Mandal, two villages were selected randomly. Since the purpose of the study was to assess the technological needs of women the woman member of the household who was actively involved in farm operations was selected as respondent. From each village twenty women were selected randomly thus making total sample 120. The data were collected using a structured interview schedule and analyzed using percentages, ranking of mean scores and simple correlation coefficient techniques.

Results and Discussions

The extent of technological needs of women in different subject matter areas of paddy cultivation are presented in Table - I

TABLE - I : Extent of Technological needs of Women in Paddy Cultivation

(N=120)

S. No.	Subject matter areas	Much needed(%)	Somewhat needed(%)	Not needed(%)
1	Land preparation and manuring	29.2	16.7	54.1
2.	Selection of variety	52.5	10.0	54.5
3.	Seed rate	47.5	15.0	37.5
4.	Seed treatment	54.2	10.0	35.5
5.	Nursery bed preparation	21.7	7.5	70.8
6.	Transplantation	45.9	13.3	40.8
7.	Fertilizer Application	38.2	10.0	50.8
8.	Weed Control by Weedicides	58.3	14.2	27.5
9.	Plant Protection measures	50.0	13.3	36.7
10.	Soil and moisture conservation	35.8	14.2	50.8
11.	Harvesting and post-harvesting	45.0	14.2	40.8
12.	Compost making	22.5	12.5	65.0
13.	Storage of food grains	42.5	15.0	42.5
14.	Irrigation	12.9	2.5	84.6

* ***Multiple responses***

Available empirical evidence contained in the table revealed that 54.1 percent in case of land preparation and manuring, 70.8 percent in case of Nursery bed preparation and 65 percent in case of compost making the involvement of women was not needed in paddy vultivation. However, in selection of variety (52.5 percent), seed treatment (54.2 percent), weed control by weedicides (58.3) percent) and plant protection measures (50.0 percent) were found to be the much needed technologies by the sample respondents in paddy cultivation.

Table - II : gives the rank order of the technological needs of women in paddy cultivation.

TABLE - II : Rank Order of the Technological Needs of Women in Paddy Cultivation

(N=120)

S. No.	Subject matter areas	Mean Score	Rank Order
1	Weed control by weedicides	2.308	I
2.	Seed treatment	2.183	II
3.	Selection of variety	2.150	III
4.	Plant Protection measures	2.133	IV
5.	Seed rate	2.100	V
6.	Transplanting	2.092	VI
7.	Harvesting and Post-harvesting	2.042	VII
8.	Storage of food grains	2.000	VIII
9.	Fertilizer application	1.925	IX
10.	Soil and moisture conservation	1.858	X
11.	Land preparation and manuring	1.750	XI
12.	Compost making	1.575	XII
13.	Nursery bed preparation	1.508	XIIII
14.	Irrigation	1.342	XIV

Average mean score = 1.926

The average mean score of the 14 subject matter areas is 1.926. It may be observed from the table that out of 14 subject matter areas the first eight were found to be the most important areas of technologies. The remaining six areas were considered as less important. This might be due to the fact that women participate more in these activities and not aware of technologies properly. These

results are in conformity with the results obtained Bhuyan and Tripathi (1998), Ponnuswamy et al (1990) and Subhasini (1990).

Table - III : gives the correlation between the personal and socio-economic factors and technological needs of the women in paddy cultivation.

TABLE - III : Correlation Between the Personal and Socio-economic Factors and Technological needs of Women in Paddy Cultivation

(N=120)

S.No.	Variables	'r' - Values
1.	Age	.2723*
2.	Caste	.1378
3.	Education	.0534
4.	Type of Family	.2188*
5.	Size of the Family	-.0593
6.	Category of the respondent	-.497
7.	Ownership of Land	-.0715
8.	Family Income	.0344
9.	Farm Experience	-.1996*
10.	Participation in Agriculture	.1602
11.	Participation in Horticulture	.2903*
12.	Participation in Animal Husbandry	.0450

*** Significant at .05 level**

**** Significant at 01.level.**

It can be seen from Table III that out of 12 variables, age, type of family farm experience and participation in horticulture were found positive and statistically significant with the technological needs of respondents in agriculture. The table further revealed that, while type of family and participation in horticulture had a positively significant relationship at 0.05 percent. Level of probability, farm experience had a negative significant relationship (at 0.05 percent level). After obtaining higher level of farm experience the farm-women would have acquired self confidence and it might have curbed their desire for mere knowledge. This could be the reason that can be assigned for negatively significant relationship of farm experience with the technological needs of women. This finding is in agreement with the findings of Madivanane (1990)

Conclusions

The study has brought out specific technological needs of women in paddy cultivation namely : selection of variety, seed rate, seed treatment, weed control by weedicides, plant protection measures, transplanting, post-harvest and storage of grains. Proper training and education has to be organized to impart knowledge and skill in the identified areas of technologies related to paddy cultivation. This will enable the women to play their role in agriculture more effectively and contribute their best for the well being of their family.

References

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