# Decision Making among Women-Headed Households

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## Introduction

Agriculture is a family enterprise in which both men and women play different roles and undertake different activities, which are complementary to each other. Women, particularly belonging to small and marginal households, play roles such as decision maker, supervisor, member of the family work force, agricultural labourer and sometimes as a head of the farm and home. Among farm women there exists a separate category, that is, women who head households either out of compulsion or by choice. Farm women who head the households are mostly the widows, or spouse of the migrant husband who left the farm in search of better livelihood, sick and disabled husband etc. Such households are a separate category and cannot be equated with other households. The burden of heading the family by a woman has a double-edged problem of home and farm management. In managing the home, she makes many decisions for the welfare of the family members, including herself. Similarly, in economic pursuits, the farm becomes the main source of livelihood around which all farm-related decisions are involved. Thus, the role of the woman in the family she is heading, is dual in nature and the problems multiply in case of poor women with few or no resources excepting the sale of labour.

According to the 2001 census, the incidence of Women-Headed Households at the national level is 10 per cent and the average size of the Women-Headed Household was 3.5 as against 5.0 of all other households. During a brainstorming exercise organised by M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation and the National Policy for Farmers (NPF) on issues related to feminization of agriculture it was expressed that Women-Headed Households are increasing in number, and they are becoming the de-facto heads when their husbands migrate. It is in this background, that the present study was undertaken with the following objectives.

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## Objectives

1. To study the personal, socio-economic and extension related characteristics of women heading the farm households.
2. To understand the role-played in decision making by the women heading the households.
3. To suggest strategies for the development of women heading the households.

## Methodology

The study was undertaken in Andhra Pradesh with a sample of 270 women headed households distributed in 27 villages of 9 mandals of three districts in Coastal, Rayalaseema and Telangana regions of the state. The data were collected from the sample women in a pre-tested questionnaire through personal interview and group discussions. The data were tabulated and subjected to averages, percentages and correlations.

## Findings

### Age

The results reveal that a majority of the sample women belonged to the active age group of 31-50 years. The percentage of sample women above 50 years was more (12.22%) in Telangana region, while the percentage of women less than 30 years of age was high (34.44%) in Coastal region.

### Literacy

Illiteracy was wide-spread, being 86 per cent among sample women while among the remaining 14 per cent, majority had primary education.

### Marital Status

About 69 per cent of the women were widows, accounting for 75.56 per cent in Telangana region, 67.78 per cent in Coastal and 63.33 per cent in Rayalaseema region. About 12.59 per cent of the sample was with disabled husbands. There were more deserted women in Rayalaseema region as compared to other regions.

### Type of Family

About 97 per cent of the sample families belonged to the nuclear type and only 3 per cent belonged to joint families. Maximum number of small families were found in Coastal region as compared to the other two regions.

### Farm Experience

Farming experience among majority of the sample women was 10 years and less. A similar pattern existed among regions, but with 16 to 20 years in Rayalaseema region. Thus, majority had fairly good farming experience.

### Land Size

The average operational land size for the sample was 1.82 acres and it was 2.67 acres in Rayalaseema region, 1.50 acres in Coastal region and 1.28 acres in Telangana region. Sizable leased in land i.e. owner-cum-tenant operated farmers could be observed only in the Coastal region.

### Crops Grown

The major crops grown on the sample farms in the Coastal region were paddy during first and second seasons. In Rayalaseema the sample women grew groundnut as the major crop and only 10 farmers also had mulberry during the first season, while paddy and groundnut were sown during the second season. In Telangana region 5 crops viz., cotton, paddy, red gram, red gram + cotton, red gram + green gram, subabul and chilli were grown in kharif season while in rabi season only paddy was grown.

### Irrigation

As regards sources of irrigation, canal irrigation was predominant in the Coastal region, while well irrigation was the predominant source of irrigation in the other two regions.

### Family income

Overall, the total family income worked out to Rs.16,622 per family. It was a maximum of Rs.17,633 in the Coastal region and minimum of Rs.14,807 in the Telangana region with Rs.17,427 per farm in Rayalaseema. Among the sources, crop enterprise accounted for 54 per cent and other allied farm enterprises put together worked out to 66.66 per cent. The balance of 33.72 per cent was from sources like wages, petty business etc. In other sources, wage income was the maximum in all the regions.

### Social Participation

Of the 270 sample women, 63 per cent could participate in Self-Help-Groups (SHGs). The percentage of participation in SHGs varied from 52 percent in Telangana region to as high as 80 per cent in Rayalaseema region. The Coastal region was in between with almost 57 per cent.

**Extension Contact**

A handful of respondents had extension contact, only in Coastal and Rayalaseema regions.

**Exposure to Mass Media**

Television was found to be an effective mass media that was utilized by a few sample women for entertainment purposes. Other media like radio, news papers, magazines etc., were utilized by a negligible size of the sample.

**Involvement of Women in Decision-Making**

Decision making ability refers to the ability of the farm woman to take decisions regarding various activities related to the farm and home.

The major decision areas identified for the study are:

(a) Farm Production
(b) Livestock Production
(c) Home
(d) Financial and
(e) Social

The major activities under each area were identified and the responses from the sample women regarding their involvement were elicited. The results of the analysis are discussed in this section.

**a) Decisions related to Farm Production**

The extent of involvement of sample women in the decisions concerning farm production was analyzed and the results are depicted in Table -1.

About 66 per cent of the sample women were involved in the decisions concerning farm production activities, individually, as can be inferred from Table 1, while about 27 per cent of respondents were involved in decision making process on a consultative basis. These consultations were usually made with family members, neighbours and peer group. Thus, in total, about 93 per cent of the 270 sample women were involved in making decisions concerning the farm activities. Among the regions a maximum of 96 per cent (68 + 28) respondents in Telangana region were involved in making decisions relating to farm production activities, followed by 93 (62+31) per cent in Coastal region and 90 (70+20) per cent in Rayalaseema region.

Among the various farm production activities on which decisions were normally taken, the involvement of sample women in decision-making in those activities was also assessed as can be noted from Table- 1.

**Table 1 Involvement in Decision Making by Women Heading the Households in Farm Production Activities**

(No. of respondents 270)

| S. No. | Activities | Coastal | | | Rayalaseema | | | Telangana | | | Overall | | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | I | CM | NI | I | CM | NI | I | CM | NI | I | CM | NI | |
| 1 | What crops to cultivate | 62 | 26 | 2 | 73 | 16 | 1 | 64 | 25 | 1 | 199 | 67 | 4 | 270 (100) |
| 2 | Area under each crop | 62 | 26 | 2 | 73 | 16 | 1 | 64 | 25 | 1 | 199 | 67 | 4 | 270 (100) |
| 3 | Seed selection | 48 | 39 | 3 | 69 | 18 | 3 | 64 | 25 | 1 | 181 | 82 | 7 | 270 (100) |
| 4 | How much fertilizer to use | 50 | 37 | 3 | 67 | 20 | 3 | 64 | 25 | 1 | 181 | 82 | 7 | 270 (100) |
| 5 | What fertilizers to use | 50 | 37 | 3 | 67 | 20 | 3 | 64 | 25 | 1 | 181 | 82 | 7 | 270 (100) |
| 6 | How many times the field should be irrigated | 56 | 30 | 4 | 69 | 17 | 4 | 64 | 25 | 1 | 189 | 72 | 9 | 270 (100) |
| 7 | Plant protection | 55 | 31 | 4 | 66 | 21 | 3 | 64 | 25 | 1 | 189 | 72 | 9 | 270 (100) |
| 8 | Post harvest including crop harvesting decisions | 62 | 24 | 4 | 67 | 10 | 13 | 64 | 25 | 1 | 185 | 77 | 8 | 270 (100) |
| 9 | Buying farm inputs | 56 | 31 | 3 | 63 | 16 | 11 | 64 | 25 | 1 | 183 | 72 | 15 | 270 (100) |
| 10 | Buying farm implements | 47 | 22 | 1 | 38 | 23 | 29 | 46 | 26 | 18 | 131 | 71 | 68 | 270 (100) |
| 11 | Buying / selling land | 45 | 22 | 23 | 34 | 23 | 33 | 37 | 26 | 27 | 116 | 71 | 83 | 270 (100) |
| 12 | Arranging wage labour | 66 | 20 | 4 | 73 | 15 | 2 | 64 | 25 | 1 | 203 | 60 | 7 | 270 (100) |
| 13 | Selling of food grains | 64 | 22 | 4 | 66 | 14 | 10 | 64 | 25 | 1 | 194 | 61 | 15 | 270 (100) |
| | Overall average | 56 | 28 | 6 | 63 | 18 | 9 | 61 | 25 | 4 | 179 | 72 | 19 | 270 |
| | Overall percentage | (62.22) | (31.11) | (6.67) | (70.00) | (20.00) | (10.00) | (67.78) | (27.78) | (4.44) | (66.30) | (26.67) | (7.04) | (100) |

(Figures in parentheses indicate percentages)

Note: I = Individual, CM =Consultative Mode, NI = Not Involved

Further it can be seen from Table 1 that maximum number of sample women were involved in the decisions concerning the activity of 'arranging wage labour'. Three important activities, in which more respondents were involved in decision making related to 'what crops to cultivate', How much 'area to be sown under each crop' and Where to sell food grains'? followed by decisions concerning seed selection, quantum of fertilizer use, irrigation etc. Comparatively low involvement was observed in decisions concerning buying land and farm implements, which were not frequently occurring activities in the farming environment. A similar trend was observed across the three regions.

**b) Decisions related to Livestock Production**

Livestock enterprise in general supplements the farm income at regular intervals. Of the 270 sample women, 70 had livestock, in addition to crop production. Therefore, the extent of involvement of women in decisions concerning livestock activities was assessed and the responses are presented in Table 2.

It can be observed from Table 2 that overall, out of 70 livestock rearing sample women about 64 per cent were involved in livestock rearing decisions, while 16 were not involved. Among the regions, the maximum involvement of 84 per cent could be seen in Coastal region, while it was minimal in Telangana region with 57 per cent with Rayalaseema region being 62 per cent. Low percentage of women involvement in livestock production decisions in Telangana and Rayalaseema regions is more a matter of concern.

A further perusal of Table 2 indicates that among the various activities, the involvement in decision making was fairly high in the decisions concerning type and number of livestock to be maintained and in buying and selling of animals. However, the involvement seemed to be low in decisions concerning artificial insemination and health care of animals. Therefore, overall, it is inferred that the extension advice on livestock rearing, particularly creating awareness on artificial insemination and animal health care practices has to be strengthened.

**Table 2. Involvement in Decision Making by Women Heading the Households in Livestock Production Activities**

(No. of respondents 70)

| S. No. | Activities | Coastal | | | Rayalaseema | | | Telangana | | | Overall | | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | I | CM | NI | I | CM | NI | I | CM | NI | I | CM | NI | |
| 1 | Type of livestock to be kept | 13 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 17 | 7 | 11 | 37 | 17 | 16 | 70 |
| 2 | Number of livestock to be kept | 15 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 17 | 7 | 11 | 42 | 12 | 16 | 70 |
| 3 | Feeding of balanced ration | 13 | 5 | 1 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 19 | 5 | 11 | 42 | 13 | 15 | 70 |
| 4 | Vaccination of animals | 12 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 12 | 7 | 16 | 29 | 15 | 26 | 70 |
| 5 | Castration | 8 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 22 | 18 | 14 | 38 | 70 |
| 6 | Artificial insemination | 7 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 26 | 16 | 11 | 43 | 70 |
| 7 | Treatment of sick animals | 11 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 14 | 8 | 12 | 28 | 19 | 23 | 70 |
| 8 | Buying / selling of livestock | 13 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 15 | 8 | 12 | 30 | 21 | 19 | 70 |
| | Overall Average | 12 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 14 | 6 | 15 | 30 | 15 | 25 | 70 |
| | Overall percentage | 63.16 | 21.05 | 15.79 | 31.25 | 31.25 | 37.5 | 40 | 17.14 | 42.86 | 42.86 | 21.43 | 35.71 | 100 |

Note: I = Individual, CM =Consultative Mode, NI = Not Involved

### c) Decisions related to Home Activities

In women-headed households, the responsibility of taking decisions relating to home activities mostly rested on the women. In the home decision area, 13 major activities were identified and the responses received are presented in Table 3.

The data in Table 3, portrays the fact that overall 61.48 per cent of the sample women were involved in making home related decisions individually. Another 18 per cent were involved in a consultative manner with the family members. Both put together shows that about 79 per cent of the sample women were involved in home related decisions, while about 21 per cent were not involved. Among the regions, as can be inferred from Table 3, about 82 per cent sample women in Coastal region, 81 per cent in

Rayalaseema region and about 75 per cent in Telangana region were involved in home related decisions.

Among the thirteen home related activities considered, a high percentage of respondents were involved in decision making in activities like 'type of food to be cooked, 'medical treatment to family members', buying clothes and food materials. However, majority of the women were not involved in the decisions relating to repair and renovation of house, children's education, marriages etc., probably as these occur in the families once in a while.

**Table 3. Involvement in Decision Making by the Women Heading the Households in Home Activities**

(No. of respondents 270)

| S. No. | Activities | Coastal | | | Rayalaseema | | | Telangana | | | Overall | | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | I | CM | NI | I | CM | NI | I | CM | NI | I | CM | NI | |
| 1 | Type of food to be cooked | 83 | 7 | - | 86 | 3 | 1 | 84 | 4 | 2 | 253 | 14 | 3 | 270 |
| 2 | Children's education | 53 | 14 | 23 | 56 | 11 | 23 | 49 | 11 | 30 | 158 | 36 | 76 | 270 |
| 3 | Construction of a new house | 39 | 27 | 24 | 47 | 15 | 28 | 41 | 17 | 32 | 127 | 59 | 84 | 270 |
| 4 | Repair /renovation of existing house | 46 | 31 | 13 | 63 | 10 | 17 | 49 | 14 | 27 | 158 | 55 | 57 | 270 |
| 5 | Children's purchases | 54 | 13 | 23 | 60 | 10 | 20 | 49 | 11 | 30 | 163 | 34 | 73 | 270 |
| 6 | Medical treatment of family members | 65 | 23 | 2 | 69 | 17 | 4 | 65 | 21 | 4 | 199 | 61 | 10 | 270 |
| 7 | Age of schooling | 46 | 20 | 24 | 60 | 8 | 22 | 48 | 8 | 34 | 154 | 36 | 80 | 270 |
| 8 | Level and type of schooling | 42 | 28 | 20 | 59 | 9 | 22 | 48 | 8 | 34 | 149 | 45 | 76 | 270 |
| 9 | Age of marriage for son / daughter | 40 | 27 | 23 | 38 | 18 | 34 | 20 | 27 | 43 | 98 | 72 | 100 | 270 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | Selection of match for son / daughter | 39 | 26 | 25 | 31 | 26 | 33 | 20 | 29 | 41 | 90 | 81 | 99 | 270 |
| 11 | Preparation of household articles like baskets, mats, processed foods etc. | 49 | 18 | 23 | 63 | 7 | 20 | 54 | 9 | 27 | 166 | 34 | 70 | 270 |
| 12 | Buying clothes for self and family members | 68 | 20 | 2 | 76 | 13 | 1 | 72 | 18 | - | 216 | 51 | 3 | 270 |
| 13 | Buying food materials / household items | 77 | 12 | 2 | 80 | 9 | 1 | 72 | 18 | - | 229 | 39 | 2 | 270 |
| | Overall Average | 54 | 20 | 16 | 61 | 12 | 17 | 52 | 15 | 23 | 166 | 48 | 56 | 270 |
| | Overall Percentage | 60 | 22.22 | 17.78 | 67.78 | 13.33 | 18.89 | 57.78 | 16.67 | 25.56 | 61.48 | 17.78 | 20.74 | 100 |

Note: I = Individual, CM =Consultative Mode, NI = Not Involved

**d) Decisions related to Finance**

In a farm household, finance management is a critical area of decision-making. Therefore, the extent of involvement of the women in decisions related to finance was analyzed and the results are furnished in Table 4.

From Table 4, it can be seen that overall, more than 90 per cent of the sample women were involved in making decisions concerning financial matters, while only about 8.52 per cent were not involved at all. Among the financial activities, majority of sample women were involved in deciding how much to spend on different activities, on day-to-day spending, taking loans / credit and repayment, because the responsibility of arranging credit and repaying the same lies with the women heading the household.

**Table 4. Involvement in Decision Making by the Women heading the Households in Financial Activities**

(No. of respondents 270)

| S. No. | Activities | Coastal | | | Rayalaseema | | | Telangana | | | Overall | | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | I | CM | NI | I | CM | NI | I | CM | NI | I | CM | NI | |
| 1 | How much to spend on different items | 74 | 12 | 4 | 78 | 12 | - | 72 | 18 | - | 224 | 42 | 4 | 270 |
| 2 | Decision of taking loans | 53 | 33 | 4 | 71 | 19 | - | 64 | 26 | - | 188 | 78 | 4 | 270 |
| 3 | Decision of repaying | 54 | 31 | 5 | 73 | 17 | - | 64 | 26 | - | 191 | 74 | 5 | 270 |
| 4 | Buying / selling jewelry and other movable property | 48 | 40 | 2 | 44 | 21 | 25 | 49 | 23 | 18 | 141 | 84 | 45 | 270 |
| 5 | Purchasing assets | 43 | 38 | 9 | 30 | 26 | 34 | 36 | 24 | 30 | 109 | 88 | 73 | 270 |
| 6 | Obtaining credit | 53 | 29 | 8 | - | 74 | 16 | 64 | 26 | - | 117 | 129 | 24 | 270 |
| 7 | Spending on day to day expenses | 75 | 12 | 3 | 79 | 11 | - | 69 | 21 | - | 223 | 44 | 3 | 270 |
| | Overall Average | 57 | 28 | 5 | 54 | 25 | 11 | 60 | 23 | 7 | 170 | 77 | 23 | 270 |
| | Overall Percentage | 63.33 | 31.11 | 5.56 | 60 | 27.78 | 12.22 | 66.67 | 25.56 | 7.78 | 62.96 | 28.52 | 8.52 | 100.00 |

Note: I = Individual, CM =Consultative Mode, NI = Not Involved

**e) Decisions related to Social Activities**

Family is a social institution and has to interact with the societal environment. As a head of the family, the sample woman has a societal responsibility and she has to attend many social activities. In this respect, six important social activities identified were listed and the responses regarding their participation were recorded. The responses are presented in Table 5.

Table 5, shows that overall 72.59 per cent of the sample women were making decisions independently regarding attending social activities. Another 20.74 per cent were taking decisions in consultation with others. Thus, more than 93 per cent of the sample women were involved in making decisions concerning social activities, while only about 7 per cent remained without involvement.

Among the regions, the maximum participation could be noted in Coastal region (96.66%) followed by Telangana region (95.56%) and Rayalaseema region (87.78%).

**Table 5. Involvement in Decision Making in Social Activities by the Sample Women**

(No. of respondents 270)

| S. No. | Activities | Coastal | | | Rayalaseema | | | Telangana | | | Overall | | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | I | CM | NI | I | CM | NI | I | CM | NI | I | CM | NI | |
| 1 | Attending courtesy calls | 81 | 7 | 2 | 83 | 7 | - | 85 | 4 | 1 | 249 | 18 | 3 | 270 |
| 2 | Visit to nearby mela | 59 | 28 | 3 | 74 | 14 | 2 | 73 | 16 | 1 | 206 | 58 | 6 | 270 |
| 3 | Attending functions / rituals of relatives / friends | 66 | 23 | 1 | 79 | 11 | - | 74 | 15 | 1 | 219 | 49 | 2 | 270 |
| 4 | Celebrating festivals | 59 | 27 | 4 | 47 | 30 | 13 | 55 | 30 | 5 | 161 | 87 | 22 | 270 |
| 5 | Extending invitations to children / relatives for family functions | 55 | 31 | 4 | 59 | 16 | 15 | 57 | 30 | 3 | 171 | 77 | 22 | 270 |
| 6 | Gifts to be given | 74 | 15 | 1 | 41 | 12 | 37 | 57 | 21 | 12 | 172 | 48 | 50 | 270 |
| | Overall average | 65 | 22 | 3 | 64 | 15 | 11 | 67 | 19 | 4 | 196 | 56 | 18 | 270 |
| | Overall Percentage | 72.22 | 24.44 | 3.34 | 71.11 | 16.67 | 12.22 | 74.44 | 21.02 | 4.44 | 72.59 | 20.74 | 6.67 | 100.00 |

Note: I= Individual, CM=Consultative Mode, NI= Not Involved

## Correlation between Overall Decision Making Ability and other Characteristics

With a view to understand the nature of relationships that exist between decision making capability and other basic characteristics of the sample women, correlation analysis was effected and the results are furnished below, in Table 6.

**Table 6. Correlation between overall Decision Making Ability and other Characteristics**

| S.No. | Basic factors | Correlation coefficient 'r' value |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Age | 0.149* |
| 2 | Education | 0.072 |
| 3 | Family size | - 0.008 |
| 4 | Farm experience | 0.131* |
| 5 | Land size | - 0.005 |
| 6 | Innovativeness | 0.181** |
| 7 | Self-confidence | 0.184** |
| 8 | Extension participation | 0.060 |

* Significant at 1.00 per cent level of probability ** Significant at 5.00 per cent level of probability

Correlation coefficient given in Table 6, brings out the fact that characteristics like age, farm experience had significant positive correlation with the decision making ability of the sample women at 1 per cent level of probability whereas, Innovativeness and Self-confidence has shown significant positive relationship with the decision making ability of women at 5 percent level of probability.

## Issues and Strategies

The issues emerging from the study and the strategies suggested are briefly outlined below:

**1. Issue:** Majority of the sample women are widows and deserted. Feeling of insecurity, depression, indebtedness, fear of future was found among these women which caused tremendous physical, financial and mental stress to them.

### Strategy

Taking into consideration the overall percentage (20) of the women-headed households in the state it may be necessary to undertake a large scale study by treating women-headed households as a separate category among the farm women, to understand the types of women-headed households, their livelihood options, access and control over resources, specific problems they encounter etc. Based on the findings of the study a comprehensive policy or package could be evolved for the welfare of women-headed households.

**2. Issue:** Small land holding and in-accessibility to bank loans, low economic status and financial problems.

**Strategy**

As a majority of the women do not have land ownership rights and a minimum size of land 2 acres which are the requirements for seeking any loan, it is suggested that these small and marginal women heading the households should be encouraged to form thrift and credit groups, so that they can meet small credit needs from the groups. In addition, collective farming by taking on lease the fallow, panchayat lands and cultivating crops on group basis can be promoted among the Women- Headed Households.

**3. Issue:** About two thirds of the sample women were members in the SHGs and the remaining one-third was yet to enroll.

**Strategy**

A special drive to motivate and enroll women-headed households as members in SHGs should be taken up by using NGOs and existing SHGs as facilitators. As the social participation of the women was low, in general (except SHG membership), their enrollment in SHGs will not only give them peer group support but also develop their self–confidence, exposure to different programmes and opportunity for learning new things.

**4. Issue:** Majority of the sample women were involved in making decisions concerning farm, livestock, home, finance and social issues. However, in certain important areas their involvement was not that high.

**Strategy**

Small training modules on decision making may be designed and implemented for the benefit of rural women heading the farm families. This would give a moral boost to the women and their morale would be very high, which is a requisite for the leader of a family. With training on decision making skills and input on agricultural production technologies women will be in a position to make better decisions.

## Conclusion

To mainstream the concerns of women in farming, in general, women heading the farm households in particular, it is important to analyze all the on going schemes and women specific schemes with a gender perspective, to assess the coverage and impact of these programmes on women farmers and Women-Headed Households.

Needless to say, the Women-Headed Households need and deserve special attention of the planners and policy makers to help them raise their socio-economic status. The strategies and action plans have to be very specific to the area and the type of Women-Headed Households.

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