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Date: 03/07/2021
Time: 10:00 AM
Venue: Online

II Seminar on
Rural Livelihood Opportunities for Women in Agriculture and Allied Sectors
Synopsis

India is predominantly an agriculture dependent nation where almost 50.00 per cent of its population is engaged in agriculture production and relies upon the income earned from agricultural activities (Anon; 2020). Agriculture and allied sectors are the largest contributors to economic growth, income diversification, rural employment and poverty reduction. Out of 24.39 crore households in the country, 17.9 million households live in villages and dependent on agriculture. Rural women being the backbone of agricultural workforce comprise 81.3 per cent of female workforce in India and account for 19.9 per cent of the total labour force (Anon; 2020). The key role of women in agricultural development and their contribution to the field of agriculture and allied sectors (livestock, poultry, fisheries etc.) makes them a vital part of agrarian country. With this background the present seminar is conceptualised with the following objectives:

1. To understand the concept rural livelihood and its components
2. To know the different rural livelihood opportunities for women in India
3. To review the related studies

Rural livelihood

Rural livelihood refers to 'the capabilities, assets and activities that rural people require for a means of living' with sub components of human assets, social assets, natural assets, physical and financial assets. Women work as agricultural labourer, cultivator do as labour in their own land, manager and supervisor and also the participate in post-harvest operations to make their own livelihood.

Rural livelihood opportunities for women

Sources of rural livelihood opportunities for women in agriculture includes vegetable farming, cultivation of commercial crops, organic farming and value added products; Livestock's such as rearing and sealing of animal, dairy-processing and marketing, production of valuable by-product; processing of egg, broiler poultry farming, organic manure production and backyard poultry; In fisheries paddy-cum-fish culture, processing & value addition, backyard ornamental fish culture and fresh water prawn culture.

Government approaches for rural livelihood

Recognizing the critical role of women in agriculture, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has declared 15th October of every year as Women Farmer's Day. Apart from this government has initiated various programmes like Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana, National Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), 'Sahi Disha' campaign, Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP), Sanjeevini- Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Mission (KSRLM).

Challenges leading to women in rural livelihood

Gender division of labour in India, literacy rate, social & mobility issues, differences in wages and limited decision-making freedom.

Review of the research studies

Narmatha *et al.*, (2012) reported that cent per cent of respondents always gave feed to animals. While 98.67 per cent respondents always performed cleaning of cattle shed followed by 72.67 per cent of women members always kept record of pregnant of animal.

Chinnam *et al.*, (2019) reported that 63 per cent farm women's participation in sowing of seed & transplanting as well as harvesting operation which was predominately done by the farm women with 61 per cent followed by 59 per cent weeding and intercultural operation.

Conclusion

Women have engaged themselves in agricultural and allied activities since ages, but still their hard work has gone unnoticed and unrewarded. There is need to create awareness, motivate, give training and skill about diverse agripreneurial opportunities to the women farmers. The recognition and encouragement to work as well as access to education, extension services, information, land, credit facilities, resources, modern technologies, other relevant agricultural innovations will entice many productions and will help to reduce poverty by enhancing employment opportunities among women farmers.

References

- ANONYMOUS, 2020, Summary of Economic Survey 2020-21, *Ministry of Finance*, Gol.
- ANONYMOUS, 2020, World Development Report-2020, ILOSTAT database, *World Bank*, Washington.
- CHINNAM, D., BHAGYA LAKSHMI, K. AND ROY, G.S., 2019, Participation of farm women in agricultural operations in Srikakulam District of Andhra Pradesh, *M.Sc. (Agri.) Thesis*, AGRAU, India.
- NARMATHA, N., UMA, V., ARUN, L. AND GEETHA R., 2012, Level of participation of women in livestock farming activities in Ludhiana district of Haryana, *M.Sc. (Agri.) Thesis*, PAU Ludhiana, India.