

Review Article

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Role of Farm Women in Paddy Cultivation Practices in Thanjavur District, India

S. Santhi*, V. Kalirajan and K. Kanaga Sabapathi

Department of Agricultural Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, Annamalai University,
Annamalai Nagar, India

*Corresponding author

ABSTRACT

Women are involved both in production as well as in processing of paddy crops. The role of farm women in paddy cultivation practices is remarkable. Female labourers contributed significantly to the economic well-being of their families, hence, the level of income and welfare of a household will depend on the degree of their effective participation. Hence, the study is on 'role of farm women in paddy cultivation practices'. The study was conducted in Orathanadu and Thiruvonam blocks of Orathanadu taluk in Thanjavur district with a sample of 120 farm women selected based on proportionate random sampling procedure. With regard to their role of farm women in paddy cultivation practices, high level of involvement was observed in were 'weed management', 'nursery management', 'time of sowing', 'harvesting', 'selection of season' and 'irrigation management'. Low level of involvement was observed in 'post-harvest operation', 'seed treatment', 'fertilizer management for main field', 'main field preparation', 'disease management', 'pest management', 'selection variety' and 'marketing'.

Keywords

Farm women, Role of paddy cultivation practices

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Introduction

Indian rural women always play an important role and remain as a prominent partner of agricultural sector. Women form one – third of the world's official labour force but are concentrated in the lowest paid occupation and are more vulnerable to unemployment than men. Rural Indian Women are extensively involved in agricultural activities, however, the nature and extent of their involvement differs with the variations in agro-production systems. Raghuvanshi (1982) reported that women are employed in any remunerative work for 247 days in a year and they are in need of gainful employment. Over the years,

women cultivators are typically and wrongly characterized as economically inactive and women cultivators play only a supportive role in agriculture as farmers' wives (Samanta 1995). Women must be given full chance to participate in decision making as they are actively engaged in home and farm activities. Women's active involvement in decision making is considered essential for rapid economic development of the country.

Singh *et al.*, (2005) reported a higher participation of farm women in agricultural activities. Fabiyi *et al.*, (2007) reported that farm women were involved in land clearing activities (58.00 per cent), in planting (72.00

per cent), in weeding (80.00per cent), in transporting products (82per cent), in harvesting (93.00per cent), and in marketing (88.00 per cent).

Mishra *et al.*, (2009) revealed that rural women participated in larger number in the practices like nursery management (63.50 per cent), seeds storage (52.50 per cent), transplantation (41.50 per cent), weeding (40.50 per cent).

Neelam Jaiswal (2016) revealed that majority of the respondents were involved 91.66 per cent in transplanting, 85.00 per cent in weeding, 76.66 per cent in harvesting, 70.83 per cent in storage and 66.66 per cent of them in threshing activities of farm. While the activities found after threshing, 62.50 per cent respondents in winnowing, 35.00 per cent in

cleaning and seed selection, 29.16 per cent in sowing, where found involved in this farm activities. Only and 18.33 and 10.00 per cent were found involved in improved variety and seed treatment activities respectively.

The results obtained from the above study as well as discussion have been summarized under following headings

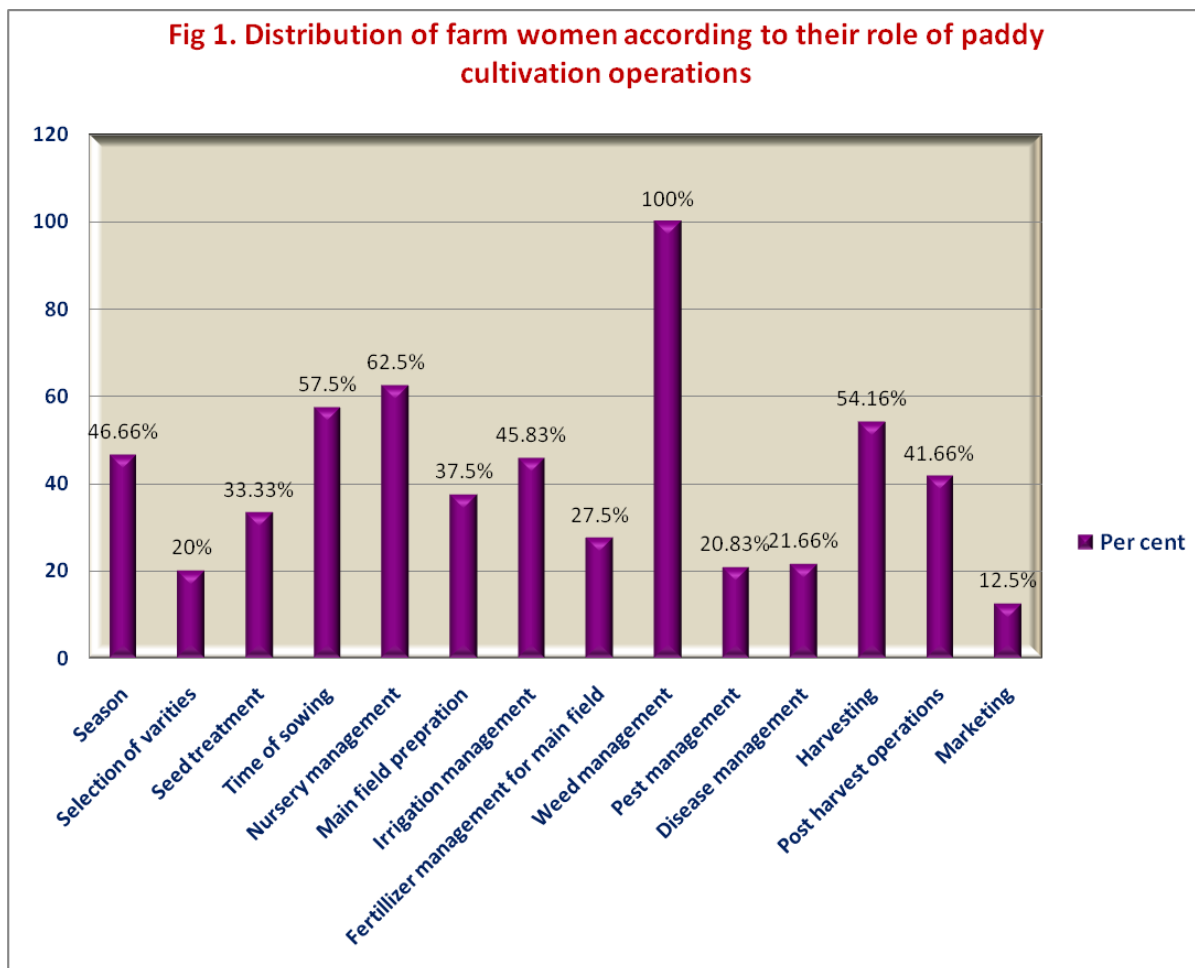
Role of farm women in paddy cultivation practices

Farm women play a significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields. In the study area women participate numerous activities expect felling of trees and spraying of chemicals. In paddy cultivation totally fourteen agricultural practices were identified for the study.

Table.1 Distribution of farm women according to their role of paddy cultivation practices

n=120

Sl. No.	Operations	Frequency	Per cent
1.	Season	56	46.66
2.	Selection of variety	24	20.00
3.	Seed treatment	40	33.33
4.	Time of sowing	69	57.50
5.	Nursery management	75	62.50
6.	Main field preparation	45	37.50
7.	Irrigation management	55	45.83
8.	Fertilizer management for main field	33	27.50
9.	Weed management	120	100.00
10.	Pest management	25	20.83
11.	Disease management	26	21.66
12.	Harvesting	65	54.16
13.	Post-harvest operation	50	41.66
14.	Marketing	15	12.50



Role of farm women in paddy cultivation operations were analysed and the results are presented in Table 1 and Figure 1.

It could be observed from the Table 1, 100.00 per cent of the farm women were participated in weed management. More than 50.00 per cent of the farm women play an important role in ‘nursery management’ (62.50 per cent), ‘time of sowing’ (57.50 per cent) and ‘harvesting, (54.16 per cent). The role in operations like ‘season’, ‘irrigation management’, ‘post-harvest-operation’ and ‘seed treatment’ whereas found to be the major roll of farm women expressed by 46.66, 45.83, 41.66 and 33.33 per cent of the respondents respectively. Nearly one-fourth of the respondents played a role in the paddy cultivation practices like ‘fertilizer

management for main field’ (27.50 per cent), ‘disease management’ (21.66 per cent), ‘pest management’ (20.83 per cent) and ‘selection of variety (20.00 per cent). A smaller proportion (12.05 per cent) participated in marketing.

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