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Farm Women's Drudgery and Gender Gap Profile: A Participatory Diagnostic Study in District - Sitapur

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ABSTRACT

The role and place of farmwomen in agriculture needed sincere recognition and concerted efforts to address various constraints that they are facing, be it drudgery or other gender related issues. The farm women usually use long static postures while performing farm and allied activities, which increase the static muscular effort resulting in high drudgery, physiological cost, low productivity and low work efficiency. Therefore present study was conducted to find out extent and magnitude of the drudgery and gender gap perceived by farmwomen of the District-Sitapur of central U.P. in three areas namely Crop production, post-harvest and livestock management related works. Total 120 respondents i.e. 40 respondents in each three category were selected through purposive random sampling from across 9 villages spread out in three development blocks. Demographic data and activity profile was recorded using pre-structured interview schedule. The variables like time spent (in minutes), frequency of performance (in man days), degree of difficulty and posture adopted was recorded on 4-point continuum score card. Results showed that harvesting and transplanting was perceived to be most drudgery prone operations in crop production sector. Threshing, cleaning and sieving were intense drudgery loaded activities as perceived in post-harvest management related chores. Cutting fodder from field, chaffing and feeding and watering animal with cleaning of shades were recorded as most strenuous in livestock management category.

Keywords

Drudgery, Crop production, Post harvest Management, Livestock management, Participatory diagnosis, Gender gap

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Introduction

The farmwomen perform arduous, tedious and exhaustive works in farm and homestead activities. They are backbone of the agricultural workforce, responsible right from the conservation of seeds to the cooked meal on the plate. Their activities typically include producing agricultural crops, tending animals,

processing and preparing food, working for wages in agricultural or other rural enterprises, collecting fuel and water, engaging in trade and marketing, caring for family members and maintaining their homes (Klasen and Lamanna, 2009). World over, about 42% of women workers are engaged in agriculture while in India, about 60% of women workers are in agriculture. An interesting feature of

women's participation in India is the variation across regions (that increases from north to south), socio-cultural and economic groups and across agro-ecological and production systems. Importantly, they carry out a wide range of activities. In India, the work participation rate among women has increased from just 12% in 1971 to over 25% in 2001 while among men it has remained just over 51%. High female work participation rate was reflected in more number of women workers in agriculture as evident from increased share of women workers in total agricultural workers that stands at about 40% (FAO, 2011). Besides some of the agricultural tasks performed by them are not valued adequately and considered less important economically due to multiple roles they perform within the family and the farm. Her access to knowledge and information is constrained and therefore her opportunities get limited (Shivamurthy *et al.*, 2017). Women are lagging behind in the use of improved technology and equipments at farm. This causes significant physical, mental exhaustion and other health problems.

The foremost reason for all these problems are unawareness, hoary techniques of performing task, incompatibility of the technology and attitudinal constraints such as instinctive conservatism and confrontation to change (Singh, *et al.*, 2016). Traditionally women perform exclusively tedious, time and labour intensive works like sowing, transplanting, weeding, intercultural operations, harvesting, threshing, transportation and postharvest operations like shelling, cleaning, grading and processing etc. All these jobs involve considerable amount of drudgery as they are not only done manually but also they have to be performed by bending posture under the shining sun for long hours (Kumar *et al.*, 2011). Women-friendly improved implements and tools need to be developed, refined and evaluated based on feedback of the farm women. This calls for improvement of the

present status of rural women in agriculture and to enhance the opportunities for their empowerment. Therefore, present study was conducted to find out the perceived extent of drudgery in the operations of various activities by the farm women in areas of crop production, post-harvest management and livestock management related practices.

Materials and Methods

The study was carried out in district- Sitapur of central plane of Uttar Pradesh. Two villages *Katia* and *Imlipur* were purposively selected as the women are intensely involved in agricultural works in these villages. A sample of 120 respondents was selected who represented as the active workers under agriculture and allied areas from 9 villages spread out in three development blocks. Categorically, 40 respondents again through purposive random sampling were selected each from the group of crop production activities, post-harvest management and livestock management activities to ascertain the intensity of work load among the sample of women farmers. Demographic data, possession of farm tools and implements and data on farm women involved in farm activities was collected by using a pre-structured interview schedule. The data were analyzed using the simple statistics of frequency and percentage. The variable workload was recorded as time spent in particular activity in minutes, frequency of performance, total number of performance in man days (total number of hours divided by 8), posture used and degree of difficulty on 5 and 4 point continuum and body map.

Results and Discussion

Socio-economic profile of the farm families

Data shown in the Table 1 revealed that all the respondents of the study were Hindu (100%)

by religion and most of them were belonged to the OBC category (39.16%) followed by SC (31.16%) and general category (29.16%) in their social affiliation. Total 58.33 percent families were nuclear, rest were living in the joint families. Most of families had 5-6 members (58.33%), 19.16 percent respondents have 7-8 members, while 7.5 percent have above 8 members and 6.66 percent have up to 4 members in their families. There were maximum number of adult males (27.04%) and male children (27.48%) in the families, while adult women and adult female children were found to be 25.62% and 19.85% respectively.

It is evident from the Table 2 that most of the respondents i.e. 111 respondents out of total 120 were found to be small and marginal farmers (92.5%) and 7.5 percent were landless farmers. Cent percent of respondents had irrigated farming type with flood type of irrigation method. In case of source of irrigation, only 17.5 percent were owned both bore well and engine, while 66.67 percent respondents families owned engine but water from bore well was borrowed from others, 20.83 percent borrowed both water and engine from others. None of them have other listed irrigation sources. There were four types of crop cycles i.e. Sugarcane + Pulses, paddy-Wheat-Pulses, Paddy-Wheat-Vegetable and also round the year vegetable production undertaken by the respondent farm families.

Data shown in the Table 3 revealed that the main occupation of the head of the family was agriculture while 72.5 percent also engaged in animal husbandry and agricultural labour (26.7%). Main source of income was agriculture and allied activities, followed by agriculture wages and allied activities (28.33%). Most of the farm families reported to earn more than Rs. 8000 per month of family income whereas 25 percent farm families fall under the range of Rs 5000-

8000/month and only 6.67 earned Rs. 2000-4000/month.

Possession of farm tools, implements and livestock

It is evident from the Table 4 that traditional and very basic tools viz. sickle, *khurpi*, hand hoe, hand plough and manual chaff cutter etc. were possessed by most of them, while very few of them possessed improved tools like maize sheller, chaff cutter, sprinkler, fertilizer broad caster, weeder, hand ridger etc. In case of farm implements also, most of them did not own sophisticated implements. Still, many of possessed diesel engine (61.67%), tractor (29.16%), sprayers (19.17%) and tractor trolley (17.5%) are main implements processed by them. Buffalos (33.92%) and goats (32.65%) were most favoured animals, followed by cattle (21.01%) and poultry (8.35%).

Socio-personal profile, work engagement pattern and work related injuries of women farmers

Details of female respondents engaged in farm families depicted that most of the farm women were from age group 30-40 years (49.16%) and 34.17 percent were in the age group 40-50 years. 92.5% were illiterate and rest were literate which education qualification, primary (0.83%), junior high school (3.33%), high school (0.83%), intermediate (0.83%) and graduation and post-graduation degree was possessed by none (Table 4).

Majority (39.17%) of farm women were conducting household chores, agriculture work in their own farms and dairy works, while 33.33% each were doing household chores with agricultural work on own land and household chores and dairy work. 28.33 percent of respondent worked as agricultural labour with household chores.

Table.1 Demographic distribution of farm families of the respondents (N=120)

Parameters	Crop Production n=40	Dairy and livestock production n=40	Post-Harvest Handling n=40	Total (N=120)	
				Frequency	Percent Distribution
Religion					
Hindu	40 (100)	40 (100)	40 (100)	120	100
Caste Category					
General	0	17(42.5)	18 (45)	35	29.16
OBC	12 (30)	21(52.5)	14 (35)	47	39.16
SC	28(70)	2(5)	8 (20)	38	31.16
Type of Family					
Nuclear	22 (55)	23 (57.5)	25(62.5)	70	58.33
Joint	18 (45)	17(42.5)	15 (37.5)	50	41.66
Size of Family					
Up to 4 member	-	5 (12.55)	3 (7.5)	8	6.66
5 to 6 member	26 (65)	23 (57.5)	21(52.5)	70	58.33
7 to 8 member	10 (25)	9 (22.5)	4 (10)	23	19.16
Above 8 member	4 (10)	3 (7.5)	2 (5)	9	7.5
Family Composition					
Adult male	87	82	79	248	27.04
Adult Female	79	86	70	235	25.62
Children Male	85	86	81	252	27.48
Children female	82	51	49	182	19.85

Table.2 Distribution of respondents as per their size of landholding, type of farming, irrigation and major crop cultivated (N=120)

Parameters	Crop Production n=40	Dairy and livestock production n=40	Post-Harvest Handling n=40	Total (N=120)	
				Frequency	Percent Distribution
Landholding					
Landless	8 (20)	1(2.5)	0	9	7.5
Marginal and small	32 (80)	39 (97.5)	40 (100)	111	92.5
Type of farming					
Irrigated	40(100)	40(100)	40(100)	120	100
Source of irrigation					
Own Bore Well and Engine	2 (5)	9 (22.5)	10 (25)	21	17.5
Both Borrowed from others	12 (30)	8 (20)	5 (12.5)	25	20.83
Owned engine but water from bore well borrowed	26 (65)	23 (57.5)	25 (62.5)	74	61.66
Irrigation					
Flood Irrigation	40(100)	40(100)	40(100)	120	100
Major Crop Cultivated					
	1-Sugarcane +Pulses 2- Paddy-Wheat-Pulses 3- Paddy-Wheat-vegetable 4- Year Round Vegetable Production				

Table.3 Main and allied occupation, sources and monthly income of the respondents

Parameters	Crop Production n=40	Dairy and livestock production n=40	Post-Harvest Handling n=40	Total (N=120)	
				Frequency	Percent Distribution
Occupation of head of the family					
Agriculture	40(100)	40(100)	40(100)	120	100
Ag Labour	28 (70)	4 (10)	0	32	26.7
Business	1(2.5)	1(2.5)	1(2.5)	3	2.5
Service	0	2 (5)	1(2.5)	3	2.5
Labour	2(5)	0	0	2	1.67
Animal husbandry	9 (22.5)	40 (100)	38 (95)	87	72.5
Sources of family Income					
Agri.+Agri.allied	9 (22.5)	33(82.5)	38 (95)	80	66.67
Agri.+Business	1(2.5)	1(2.5)	0	2	1.6
Agri+ service	0	2 (5)	1(2.5)	3	2.5
Agri.+Agriallied+Business	0	0	1(2.5)	1	0.83
Wages+Agri.+Agri allied	30 (75)	4 (10)	0	34	28.33
Total Monthly Income					
2000-4000	8 (20)	0	0	8	6.67
5000-8000	18 (45)	5 (12.5)	7 (17.5)	30	25
>8000	14 (35)	35 (87.5)	33 (82.5)	82	68.33

Table.4 Possession of Farm Tools, Implements and livestock (N=120)

Parameters	Crop Production n=40	Dairy and livestock production n=40	Post-Harvest Handling n=40	Total (N=120)	
				Frequency	Percent Distribution
Farm tools and implements					
Sickle	40(100)	40(100)	40(100)	120	100
Khurpi	40(100)	40(100)	40(100)	120	100
Hand Hoe	40(100)	38 (95)	40(100)	118	98.33
Hand Plough(<i>phawda</i>)	40(100)	40(100)	40(100)	120	100
Maize sheller	6 (15)	2 (5)	2 (5)	10	8.33
Chaff Cutter	4 (10)	25 (62.5)	28 (70)	57	47.5
Sprinkler	-	2 (5)	6 (15)	8	6.67
Manual Chaf cutter (<i>Gandasa</i>)	5 (12.5)	13 (32.5)	12 (30)	30	25.0
Fertilizer sprayer/Broad Caster	5 (12.5)	12 (30)	24 (60)	41	34.17
Farm Implements					
Tractor	2 (5)	18 (45)	15 (37.5)	35	29.16
Trolley	1(2.5)	9 (22.5)	11 (27.5)	21	17.5
Engine	26 (65)	23 (57.5)	25 (62.5)	74	61.67
Cultivator	-	1(2.5)	1(2.5)	2	1.6
Harrow	2 (5)	1(2.5)	5 (12.5)	8	6.67
Winnowing fan	0	1(2.5)	1(2.5)	2	1.6
Others (Sprayer)	6 (15)	12 (30)	5 (12.5)	23	19.17
Livestock possession (No.)					
Cow	21	33	29	83	21.01
Buffalo	9	119	6	134	33.92
Goat	95	9	25	129	32.65
Poultry	33	0	0	33	8.35
Pigs	11	0	0	11	2.78
Pigeon	5	0	0	5	1.26

Table.5 Details of female respondents engaged in farm activities (N=120)

Sl. No.	Parameters	Crop Production n=40	Dairy and livestock production n=40	Post-Harvest Handling n=40	Total (N=120)	
					Frequency	Percent Distribution
1	Age of the respondents					
	20-30	2 (5)	6 (15)	5 (12.5)	13	10.83
	30-40	20 (50)	14 (35)	25 (62.5)	59	49.16
	40-50	15 (37.5)	18 (45)	8 (20)	41	34.17
	above 50	3 (7.5)	2 (5)	2 (5)	7	5.83
2	Education					
	Illiterate	39 (97.5)	37 (92.5)	35 (87.5)	111	92.5
	Primary	1(2.5)	0	0	1	0.83
	Junior High School	0	2 (5)	2 (5)	4	3.33
	High School	0	0	1(2.5)	1	0.83
	Intermediate	0	1(2.5)		1	0.83
3	Occupation					
	Housewife and Agri work (AW)	40(100)	0	0	40	33.33
	HW+Ag Labour/ Labour	30 (75)	4 (10)	0	34	28.33
	HW+ AW+ AH	9 (22.5)	0	38 (95)	47	39.17
	HW+ AW+ Bussiness/ Service	1(2.5)	3 (7.5)	2 (5)	6	5.00
	HW+Dairy Farming	0	40 (100)	0	40	33.33
4	The duration of work					
	8am To 6 pm	8 (20)	5 (12.5)	7 (17.5)	20	16.67
	Morning and Evening Pattern	32 (80)	18 (45)	33 (82.5)	83	69.17
	Early Morning till Late Night	0	12 (30)	0	12	10.00
5	Mode of payment of Wage					
	Daily-cash/In kind	5 (12.5)	0	0	5	14.70
	Weekly-cash/In kind	23 (57.5)	2 (5)	0	25	73.53
	Fortnightly/Cash	2 (5)	2 (5)	0	4	11.76
	Monthly-cash/In kind	0	0	0	0	0
11	Tools helps in reducing the force					
	Yes	12 (30)	2 (5)	5 (12.5)	19	15.83
	No	23 (57.5)	24 (60)	9 (22.5)	56	46.67
	Uncertain	5 (12.5)	14 (35)	26 (65)	45	37.50
12	Feel Tired after performing work					
	Yes	40(100)	40(100)	40(100)	120	100
	No					
13	Facing joint problems in farm/ allied activities					
	Yes	40(100)	40(100)	40(100)	120	100
	No					
14	Feel difficulty in bending in farm/ allied activities					
	Yes	40(100)	40(100)	40(100)	120	100
	No	-				
15	Got Scratches/ cuts/ injuries in farm/ allied activities					
	Yes	40(100)	40(100)	40(100)	120	100
	No					
16	Suffered from diseases/ health problems due to farm/ allied activities					
	Eye infections	21(52.5)	2 (5)	29 (72.5)	52	43.33
	Ear disorders/ hearing problems	5 (12.5)	-	2 (5)	7	5.83
	Skin cuts/ Fungal infection	40(100)	19 (47.5)	27 (67.5)	86	71.67
	Allergy	40(100)	15 (37.5)	40(100)	95	79.17

	Heat exhaustion/ Heat strokes	40 (100)	40 (100)	40(100)	120	100
	Breathing problems/ Bronchitis/ Asthma	24 (60)	38 (95)	40(100)	102	85
	Numbness in feet/hands	40(100)	40(100)	40(100)	120	100
	Back ache	40(100)	40(100)	40(100)	120	100
	Head ache	40(100)	40(100)	40(100)	120	100
	Pain in Knees, shoulders and other joints	40(100)	40(100)	40(100)	120	100
	Blisters on palm	40(100)	12 (30)	40(100)	92	76.67
	Any other					
17	To what extent you adopted one posture in farm/ allied activities					
	30 min	7 (17.5)	8 (20)	5 (12.5)	20	16.67
	1 hr	13 (32.5)	25 (62.5)	16 (40)	54	45.00
	2 hr	11 (27.5)	6 (15)	13 (32.5)	30	25.00
	Above 2 hr	9 (22.5)	1(2.5)	6 (15)	16	13.33
18	Do you go to the doctor after injuries/ allergies/ infections					
	Always					
	Sometimes					
	Only when condition is serious	12 (30)	29 (72.5)	31 (77.5)	72	60.00
	Never	28 (70)	11 (27.5)	9 (22.5)	48	40.00
19	How frequently you take care of hand tools and implements					
	Yes	40(100)	40(100)	40(100)	120	100
	No	0	0	0	0	0
	Once in a month	0	0	0	0	0
	Before use	0	0	0	0	0
	When needed	40(100)	40(100)	40(100)	120	100

Table.6 Major area of work participation of women and men farmers

CATEGORY	OPERATIONS/ACTIVITIES PERFORMED BY WOMEN	OPERATIONS PERFORMED BY MEN
Crop Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning of field: Removal of Stalks and stubbles • Nursery bed preparation • Seed Sowing/ Dibbling • Vegetable Sapling Transplanting • Paddy Transplanting • Sugarcane Seed Cutting and planting • Gap filling • Field Cleaning and Weeding • Harvesting/ Plucking/ Uprooting/ Detopping etc. • Bundling and carrying to threshing place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ploughing and making of fields • Seed purchase and Nursery sowing • Irrigation, fertilizer purchase and application • Helps in harvesting etc.
Post-Harvest Handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crushing • Threshing/ Decortication/ Shelling • Winnowing and Sun Drying • Sieving, Grading and Cleaning • Bagging and stitching of bags for Storage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrangements for thresher • Helps in winnowing • Loading of bags for transportation • Selling of produce
Dairy and Livestock Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milking of animals • Fodder cutting/ carrying • Fodder preparation and feeding to animals • Cleaning of animal shed • Carrying of animal waste for disposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sell and purchase of animals • Fodder cultivation • Vaccination and medication • Selling of milk

Table.7 Average time spent (in hours/person/day season wise) by the farm women in the major activities and major activities in which women perceived drudgery

Sl. No.	Activity	Season	Time spend (hrs/ person/ day)	Frequency of performance	Posture used	Drudgery level Perceived
1. Crop Production related work areas:						
	Cleaning of field: Removal of Stalks and stubbles	Rabi	3-4 hrs	According to crop	Sitting + Bending	Difficult
		Kharif				
		Zaid				
	Nursery bed preparation	Rabi	3-4 hrs	According to vegetable	Sitting + Bending	Difficult
		Kharif				
		Zaid				
	Seed Sowing/ Dibbling	Rabi	3-4 hrs	According to crop	Standing + Bending	Difficult
		Kharif				
		Zaid				
	Vegetable Sapling Transplanting	Rabi	3-4 hrs	According to vegetable	Sitting + Bending	Difficult
		Kharif				
		Zaid				
	Paddy Transplanting	Kharif	6 hrs.	Yearly	Standing + Bending	Very Difficult
	Sugarcane Seed Cutting and planting	Autumn	6 hrs.	Twice in year	Bending + Sitting(cutting) and + Standing (planting)	Difficult
		Spring				
	Gap filling	Rabi	3-4 hrs	According to crop	Sitting + Bending	Neither Difficult nor Easy
		Kharif				
		Zaid				
	Field Cleaning and Weeding	Rabi	6 hrs.	1-2 Times/ Season	Sitting + Bending	Difficult
		Kharif				
		Zaid				
	Harvesting/ Plucking/ Uprooting/ Detopping etc	Rabi	For Crops: 5-6 hrs. For Veg: 2-4 hrs	Multiple times according to crop and vegetable	Sitting + Bending	Very Difficult
		Kharif				
		Zaid				
	Bundling and carrying to threshing place	Rabi	1-2 hrs	Multiple times according to crop and vegetable	Sitting + Bending	Neither Difficult nor Easy
		Kharif				
		Zaid				
2. Post-Harvest Handling related work areas:						
	Crushing	All season	2-3hrs	According to crop	Sitting + Bending	Neither Difficult nor Easy
	Threshing/ Decortication/ Shelling	All season	4-5 hrs	According to crop	Sitting + Bending	Difficult
	Winnowing and Sun Drying	All season	2-3hrs	According to crop	Standing +Sitting + Bending	Difficult
	Sieving, Grading and Cleaning	All season	2-3hrs	According to crop	Sitting + Bending	Difficult
	Bagging and stitching of bags for Storage	All season	1-3 hrs	According to crop	Standing +Sitting + Bending	Neither Difficult nor Easy
3. Dairy and Livestock Production related work areas:						
	Milking of animals	All season	0.5-1 hr	Daily	Sitting + Bending	Neither Difficult nor Easy
	Fodder cutting/ carrying	All season	1-2 hrs	Daily	Standing +Sitting + Bending	Difficult
	Fodder preparation and feeding to animals	All season	1-2 hrs	Daily	Standing + Bending	Neither Difficult nor Easy
	Cleaning of animal shed	All season	1-2 hrs	Daily	Sitting + Bending	Difficult
	Carrying of animal waste for disposal	All season	1 hr	Daily	Standing + Bending	Difficult

Farm women are engaged in each and every activity of household as well as on farms thus the working pattern of respondents was found to be morning till night pattern (69.17%). About 16.67% followed the work timing of 8am to 6 pm pattern because they were agricultural labours. In case of comfortability of farming tools in use, 70.83% found them comfortable, while 51.67% of respondents were uncertain if there is any need of change in tools. Regarding heaviness of tools, majority (69.17%) of respondents felt that the tools they were using were comfortable. They do not require any change in tool (19.17%). The reason behind the response may be, as they were not in the acquaintance of new tools. Respondents were not aware about the availability of any kind of drudgery reducing tools too. Cent percent farm women faced one or the other injury during various farm operation and 100% said that their sickle's handle was made up of wooden which also caused injuries when worked with them for long period.

All of the farmwomen felt tired while performing different farm activities. All the respondents (100%) faced joint problems in farm operations, felt difficulty in bending in farms and all respondents got some or the kind of scratches on body during agricultural works. Most of the respondents suffered from heat exhaustion and heat strokes, numbness in hand/feet, backache, headache, pain in knees, shoulders, joints (100%), breathing problems (85%), skin diseases like allergies (79.17%), blisters on palms (76.67%) and fungal infections (71.67%). They worked in bending posture for hours continuously under scorching sun in urea laced water while transplanting of paddy which seriously injured their feet skin and caused various ailments. As majority of respondents were agricultural labor worked under contractor so they have to adopt one posture for more than 30 minutes (83.33%). It was observed they

stand for one or two minutes but again adopt the same posture. Care and maintenance of farm implements was taken by males usually whenever needed (Table 4).

Activity profile of farm women and perceived drudgery

While observing the activity profile of the farm families involved in crop production and related works it was found that major areas of work participation of women farmers were cleaning of field, removal of Stalks and stubbles, nursery bed preparation, seed Sowing/ dibbling, vegetable sapling transplanting, paddy transplanting, sugarcane seed cutting and planting, gap filling, field cleaning and weeding, harvesting/ plucking/ uprooting/ detopping etc., bundling and carrying to threshing place. In case of post-harvest management activities women were mainly involved in crushing, threshing/ decortication/ shelling, winnowing and sun drying, sieving, grading and cleaning, bagging and stitching of bags for storage.

It is also evident from the Table 5 that women are involved in most of the work related to the Livestock management like milking of animals, fodder cutting/ carrying, fodder preparation and feeding to animals, cleaning of animal shed, carrying of animal waste for disposal. It is obvious from the Table 5 that though men are involved in various heavy operations in crop production, post-harvest and dairy management categories, but they also have access to improved machineries and tools to perform those operations. However farm women are engaged in every tedious, laborious and monotonous activity in each category that also with the help of very traditional basic types of the farm tools, even than they do not have decision making power and access to the money. This leads to the gender discrepancy, high drudgery and low efficiency on the part of farmwomen.

Average time spent (in hours/person/day season wise) by the farm women in the major activities and major activities in which women perceived drudgery

It is evident from the Table 6 that in crop production category the respondents perceived very difficult level of drudgery on the scale in paddy transplanting which is done in kharif season mostly adopting bending posture with standing for 1-3 minutes. Same is the case for Harvesting/ Plucking/ Uprooting/ Detopping etc. which is to be done multiple times in a year according to the crops grown. Mostly sitting and bending posture was adopted by respondents while performing various activities in each category. Whereas other activities were fall under difficult and neither difficult nor easy drudgery level of the scale (Table 7).

It can be concluded from the results of the study that crop production, post-harvest handling and dairy and livestock production related work were drudgery prone usually done by using traditional types of the tools causes various health problems. Farmwomen were unaware of women specific improved farm tools/ implements and their availability in the area is also a major issue. There is gender gap in work profile and decision making process of the farm families. Work rest cycle, various yoga techniques, women specific tools and implements can be

suggested to reduce the effect of drudgery on the farm women while improving their work efficiency. Knowledge and skill based trainings of farm women in related areas must be given for their capacity building.

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