

**Participation of Women Farmers in Agriculture Training
(A Sociological Study Based on Mustang District, Nepal)**

Thesis

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

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LETTER OF APPROVAL

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ABSTRACT

Participation issues in agriculture development are the areas of concern at national, regional and district levels of the country. The word participation has been used in highly variable ways. In this study, participation is used with the involvement of women farmers in extension services (training) and decision making in group activities. This study was carried out to assess the socio-economic condition of women farmer involved in agriculture, to assess the participation status of women farmers in agriculture training in the group approach, to assess the role of women farmers in decision making and resource utilization in farmers group and to assess the constraints faced by women farmers in participating training and methods to overcome them. The research was conducted in Mustang district of Nepal during the year 2013/14. The eight farmers groups (four women farmers group and four mixed group) from 20 farmers' group of pocket areas were selected purposively. Six female farmers from each group were selected randomly by simple random sampling method. Therefore a total of 48 women farmers were selected as respondent for the study purpose. Primary data were collected through interview schedule, key informant interview and focus group discussion. Review of records, research reports, different journal, published and unpublished papers were also used to collect secondary data. The data obtained from research were analyzed, presented and interpreted by using simple statistical tools such as frequency counts, percent, graphs, pie-chart, table and graphical interpretations by using excel software. Gender theory was followed to interpret the finding of the research on the basis of reviewed literature.

The finding showed that the average age of the respondents was found 35 years and majorities were from 30 to 40 years. Majorities (33.3%) of the respondents were illiterate which makes them difficult for the acceptance of technology and innovation. 75% respondents in study area were found janajati and they are Buddhists. It was found that only 25% women respondents were household head while 75% household head are male. 70% of the respondents have agriculture as their major occupation. In majorities (52%) of respondent's household, involvement of female in agriculture labor is more compared to male (16.7%). Control over income from agriculture by women is very few (16.6%) and in 83.3% of household, the ownership of house and land is on male.

Majorities of women member in mixed group are general member and few (33.3%) are in executive committee in farmers' group. Male farmers (66.6%) are getting more access, benefit and opportunities in group activities compared to women farmers (33.3%). Only 45.8% of respondents understand participation as taking and play active role in group activities. 52% of the respondents were involved in meeting but they don't have any role in decision making. Only 20.8% women participated actively in group discussion and decision making issues. Majorities (45.8%) of respondents prefer to participate in women group. According to majorities of respondents (40%), participants for agricultural training are nominated by group discussion. But there is also influence of group president and elite group member to select the participants for training. Most respondents prefer the training about vegetable cultivation, fruit orchard management and insect/diseases management. During the study, it was found that 73% of the respondent had faced constraints in participating agriculture training. Among different constraints, 57.1% respondents reported that household activities and livestock rearing is main constraint.

It was found that 68.2% respondents improved and increased crop yield in their farm due to adoption of new technology received from training. Study found that 58.3% of the respondents suggested as feedback on arrangement of on the spot training in their area and set time with them. The reasons for the demand of on the spot training are engagement in household activities, difficulties for long distance to go to the training place, financial problem. Besides, participation of the women farmers can be increased by a combination of various factors e.g. government policy like priority to women farmer in training, initiation of extension organization, active group member and by increasing awareness and interest about agriculture training and making training fit their needs and time available.

Keeping in mind the current trend in extension in the district which emphasized group approach, equal participation among men and women, greater involvement of the disadvantaged groups especially women, it is extremely relevant for the extension organization to identify gaps and adopt strategies which will not only improve women participation in group and training but also lead to the success of the extension programs.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ABPSD: Agri-business Promotion and Statistics Division

ADB: Asian Development Bank

AEO : Agriculture Extension Officer

AEP : Agriculture Extension Project

APP : Agriculture Perspective Plan

AREP : Agriculture Research and Extension Project

ASC : Agriculture Service Center

CARE : Co-operation of American Everywhere

CATC : Central Agricultural Training Center

CBO : Community Based Organization

CBS : Central Bureau of Statistics

DADO : District Agriculture Development Office

DAE : Directorate of Agriculture Extension

DAT : Directorate of Training

DDC : District Development Committee

DFID : Department of Foreign International Development

DOA : Department of Agriculture

FAO : Food and Agriculture Organization

FG : Farmers Group

GDP : Gross Domestic Product

GEED : Gender Equity and Environment Division

GO : Government Organization

GoN : Government of Nepal

GTZ : German Technical Cooperation

Ha. : Hectare

HFPP : Hill Food Production Project

IPM : Integrated Pest Management

IRDP : Integrated Rural Development Project

JT : Junior Technician

JTA : Junior Technical Assistant

LEISA: Low External Inputs Sustainable Agriculture

MOAC : Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives
MOAD: Ministry of Agriculture Development
mt : Metric ton
NAP : National Agriculture Policy
NGO : Non Governmental Organization
NPC : National Planning Commission
NZIDP : Narayani zone Irrigation Development Project
PC : Problem Census
PDDP : Participatory District Development Program
PS : Problem Solving
PSO : Public Service Organization
SADO : Senior Agriculture Development Officer
T & V : Training and Visit
TLDP : Third Livestock Development Project
VDC : Village Development Committee
WB : World Bank
WFDD : Women Farmer Development Division
SSSP : Seed Sector Support Project