

## Role of Women in Farm Decision Making

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### SUMMARY

Women make up a significant portion of India's economy in comparison to male laborers, women engage in a wider range of farm operations and put in more hours overall, but they participate less in decision-making processes pertaining to agricultural and revenue-generating activities. It is believed that women's active participation in decision-making is crucial to the nation's quick economic progress. Consequently, it is advised here to empower farm women by giving them access to the most recent scientific information and expertise through efficient and suitable channels so that they may support, encourage, and influence male farmers in making wise decisions that will increase business profits.

### INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the largest and diverse sector of our country's economy, which provides livelihood to more than 70 percent of the population. (Zend J.P., 2009). Even though most of the people in India depending on agriculture and most experienced in agriculture from ancient days but they are still facing some problems during their farm activities due to uncertainties; climate change. Because among all sectors, agricultural activities are prone to variety of risk and uncertainties; climate change. On account of high risk of getting uncertainties in agricultural activities farmers decision making ability is important aspect of all human activities in decision making process. Now a days number of issues, including climate change, agriculture is currently considered to be one of the riskiest professions. Therefore, farmers nowadays must be more selective than ever when it comes to farm operations. Before making any decisions about agriculture, farmers must take into account a variety of factors like rethinking, discussion with family, taking suggestions from extension professionals who are having knowledge on those particular things, mass media exposure to gain some knowledge on uncertainty like weather, climate change etc. because farmers and farm family's decision-making is therefore essential to daily living as well as to increase profit from farm (Sharma A. *et al.*, 2014). According to 5<sup>th</sup> sustainable development goal, it's proven that empowering women and girls helps economic growth and development. It means women's decision in agricultural activities can also plays vital role. But in actual situation women contribute more than half of the duties and responsibilities of the family but are hardly empowered to participate in decision making. Despite women's important contributions in farming and livelihoods, they have been neglected while making decision on various aspects of farming. As a leader of farm family men only take majority of decisions right from varietal selection till marketing (Hazarika D., 2001) Women are less accessed than men to knowledge and skills, productive assets, including agricultural inputs, improved seeds, land, credit, agricultural extension services and small equipment/light machinery.

### Decision Making:

- Decision making refers to an individual's ability and power to make and act on decisions and control resources and profit.
- Decision-making is the process of consciously choosing courses of action from available alternatives and integration them for the purpose of achieving the desired goal (G.L. Ray, 2001).

**Farm Decision-Making Roles:** Women play a crucial role in decision-making related to crop selection, resource allocation, and financial management on farms. Research indicates that women often take part in decisions related to household budgets, including those for agricultural inputs.

**Labor and Management:** Women are actively involved in the day-to-day labor and management of farms. They contribute significantly to activities such as planting, weeding, and harvesting, demonstrating their integral role in agricultural operations.

**Barriers and Empowerment:** Despite their involvement, women often face barriers such as limited access to credit and land ownership. Empowering women in agriculture involves addressing these challenges to enhance their decision-making capabilities.

**Policy Interventions:** Policies recognizing and supporting women's contributions in agriculture are essential. Governments and organizations need to implement policies that ensure equal access to resources, education, and technology for women in farming.

**Financial Decision-Making:** Women are increasingly involved in financial decisions related to farming, such as budgeting, investment, and marketing of agricultural products.

**Innovations and Technology Adoption;** Women play a key role in the adoption of new agricultural technologies, contributing to increased productivity on farms.

**Challenges and Empowerment:** Despite their significant contributions, women often face challenges such as limited access to resources, education, and decision-making power.

## CONCLUSION

The bulk of farm decisions made by rural families were made by men. Buying and selling land, equipment, and other farming instruments, as well as making changes to livestock and crop management, were primarily decided by the head of the household or husbands.

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