

# **Original Research Article**

## **Study the Profile Characteristics of Farm Women in Paddy Cultivation Practices**

### **ABSTRACT**

Indian rural women always play a 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. Hence, the study focused on ‘profile characteristics of farm women in paddy cultivation. The study was conducted in Orathanadu and Thiruvonam blocks of Orathanadu Taluk in Thanjavur District with sample of 120 farm women selected based on proportionate random sampling procedure. The profile characteristics of farm women in majority of the farm women were in middle - age category, with middle level of education, nuclear family type, agriculture as their major occupation, medium level of farming experience, information source utilization, innovativeness, risk orientation, economic motivation, self-confidence, with low level of extension agency contact, with high attitude towards farming and low level of socio-economic status.

**Key words:** Farm women, Profile characteristics and Paddy cultivation.

### **Introduction**

Rural women play a significant role by working with full passion in production of crops right from the soil preparation till post-harvest activities. But the agriculture sector in many developing countries is underperforming in the past, because women, who represent a crucial resource in agriculture and the rural economy through their roles as farmers, labourers, entrepreneurs, almost everywhere, face more severe constraints than men in access to productive

resources. Efforts by national government and the international community to achieve their goals for agricultural development, economic growth and food security will be strengthened and accelerated if they build on the contributions that women make and take steps to alleviate these constraints.

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). Meharul *et al.*, (2015) revealed that about 32.00 per cent of respondents were aged up to 30 years, while most of the subjects 53.00 per cent fell in 31-50 range and just 15.00 per cent hailed from above 50 years of age group. Chayal *et.al.*, (2013) noticed that majority (65.83 per cent) of respondents were belonged to nuclear families and followed by 34.17 per cent were from joint families. Priyanga (2013) reported that most of the farm women respondents (79.16 per cent) were found to have agriculture as their primary occupation. Fabiyi *et.al.*, (2007) noticed that sixty five per cent (65.00 per cent) of the farm women had 11-40 years of farming experience, 35.00 per cent had 1-10 years of respondents.

#### **Research Methodology:**

The study was conducted in Orathanadu and Thiruvonam blocks of Orathanadu Taluk in Thanjavur District with sample of 120 farm women selected based on proportionate random sampling procedure. There are 13 independent variables was selected based on judges' opinion. Statistical tools such as mean, simple percentage were used to analyze the data.

#### **Results and Discussion**

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

51 **Table 1: Profile Characteristics of Farm Women**

**n=120**

| S. No | Category                       |                                     | Frequency | Percentage |
|-------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1     | Age                            | Young                               | 33        | 27.50      |
|       |                                | Middle                              | 56        | 46.67      |
|       |                                | Old                                 | 31        | 25.83      |
| 2     | Educational status             | Illiterate                          | 25        | 20.83      |
|       |                                | Primary education                   | 18        | 15.00      |
|       |                                | Middle education                    | 45        | 37.00      |
|       |                                | Secondary education                 | 21        | 17.50      |
|       |                                | Collegiate                          | 11        | 9.17       |
| 3     | Family type                    | Joint family                        | 15        | 12.50      |
|       |                                | Nuclear family                      | 105       | 87.50      |
| 4     | Occupational status            | Agriculture as Primary Occupation   | 117       | 97.50      |
|       |                                | Agriculture as Secondary Occupation | 3         | 2.50       |
| 5     | Farming experience             | 2-13 Years                          | 40        | 33.33      |
|       |                                | 13-24 Years                         | 60        | 50.00      |
|       |                                | 24-35 Years                         | 20        | 16.67      |
| 6     | Information source utilization | Low                                 | 53        | 44.17      |
|       |                                | Medium                              | 61        | 50.83      |
|       |                                | High                                | 6         | 5.00       |
| 7     | Innovativeness                 | Low                                 | 27        | 22.50      |
|       |                                | Medium                              | 57        | 47.50      |
|       |                                | High                                | 36        | 30.00      |
| 8     | Risk orientation               | Low                                 | 20        | 16.67      |
|       |                                | Medium                              | 71        | 59.17      |
|       |                                | High                                | 29        | 24.17      |
| 9     | Economic motivation            | Low                                 | 34        | 28.33      |
|       |                                | Medium                              | 74        | 61.67      |
|       |                                | High                                | 12        | 10.00      |
| 10    | Self- confidence               | Low                                 | 34        | 28.33      |
|       |                                | Medium                              | 74        | 61.67      |
|       |                                | High                                | 12        | 10.00      |
| 11    | Extension agency contact       | Low                                 | 96        | 80.00      |
|       |                                | Medium                              | 3         | 2.50       |
|       |                                | High                                | 21        | 17.50      |

|    |                          |                 |    |       |
|----|--------------------------|-----------------|----|-------|
| 12 | Attitude towards farming | Less favourable | 3  | 2.50  |
|    |                          | Favourable      | 50 | 41.67 |
|    |                          | More favourable | 67 | 55.83 |
| 13 | Socio-economic status    | Low             | 78 | 65.00 |
|    |                          | Medium          | 39 | 32.50 |
|    |                          | High            | 3  | 2.50  |

The data in Table 1 represent in the profile of paddy cultivation practices of farm women. As far as socio-economic and personal profile of farm women is measured the results understand that nearly half of the respondents (46.67 per cent) were found under middle age category. One-third of the respondents (37.50 per cent) were middle level of education. It could be noticed that majority of the respondent's belonged to nuclear type of family (87.50 per cent) because of desire to lead an independent life with proper accommodation, basic amenities and to provide better future to their kids followed by joint family (12.50 per cent) .

Majority of the respondents (97.50 per cent) were found to have agriculture as their primary occupation. It is inferred that more than half of the respondents (50.00 per cent) in 13-24 years of farming experience of farm women. As the farm women majority of the respondents had middle and young age category so 13-24 years farming experience. In could be seen that more number of farm women 50.83 per cent medium level of information source utilization.. Majority of the respondents (47.50 per cent) had medium level of innovativeness. More than half that (59.17 per cent) of the respondents fell in medium category of risk orientation. More than half of the farm women (61.67 per cent) had medium level of economic motivation. Slightly more than half of the respondents (61.67 per cent) belonged to medium category with respect to self-confidence.

It could be seen that majority of the farm women had low (80.00 per cent) to medium level of extension participation. This might due to the fact that the farmwomen had poor education level and less interest in extension activities. Most of the farm women (55.83 per cent) had more favourable attitude towards farming. 65.00 per cent of the women belonged to low level of socio-economic status.

#### **Conclusion:**

The finding of study shows that fifty per cent of the farm women belonged to middle age category. Majority of the respondents were in middle educational level. More than half of the farm women had nuclear family type. More than half of the respondents had agriculture as their primary occupation; fifty per cent of farm had 13-24 years of farming experience. Majority of the respondents had medium level of information source utilization. More number of the respondents had medium level of innovativeness. Nearly half of the respondents had medium level of risk orientation. More than half of the respondents had medium level of economic motivation. More than half of the respondents had medium level of self-confidence. Majority of the respondents had low level of extension agency contact. Majority of the respondents had more favourable attitude towards farming. More than half of the farm women had low level of socio-economic status.

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