

## Issues of Women Agricultural Laborers in India

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The women seem to lose their decision-making ability. The income from cash crops usually comes under the immediate control of men, who are less likely to spend it on family welfare, compared to women, due to different expenditure patterns. Introduction of cash crops have a negative impact on household food and nutrition security which affects quality of food supplies and the nutritional status of children.

- ❖ Burden of feeding and nurturing the children
- ❖ Less time for child care
- ❖ Health hazards
- ❖ Lack of rest during prenatal and post-natal period
- ❖ Exploitation by land owners
- ❖ Physical drudgery
- ❖ Insecurity at work place
- ❖ Travel distant place for work
- ❖ Limited right over family resources
- ❖ Malnutrition or under nutrition
- ❖ Low wage rate than male
- ❖ Deprived from health services
- ❖ Deprived from education

### Approaches and Methodologies to Address the Issues

The strategies, approaches and methodologies to address gender issues in agriculture are as follows:

- ❖ Ergonomic data on farm women needs to be gathered for different operations, for designing women friendly farm equipments and to evaluate suitability of these equipments to them by following participatory research approach.
- ❖ The link between extension and research needs to be strengthened. This will also facilitate in ensuring that local knowledge and practices are incorporated into the research design.
- ❖ Recruitment or mobilization of more female extension personnel to identify the needs of women farmers better.
- ❖ Male extension agents need to be sensitized about the needs and problems, priorities and opportunities of



women to ensure that technological packages meet their requirements.

- ❖ Capacity building of women farmers through adequate skill trainings should be done to increase their work efficiency.
- ❖ Training methods, content, trainer, message, language, time duration, place (venue)etc. of the training must be adapted to the needs of women farmers.
- ❖ Equitable relationship between men and women in terms of sharing work and family responsibilities.
- ❖ Gender sensitization among general public, private agencies, policy makers, planners for gender mainstreaming through identification of gender issues.
- ❖ Participatory gender sensitive policy formulation; review of existing policy and planning documents, development of gender checklists and guidelines.
- ❖ Organization of workshops/seminars to provide exposure to gender concepts and Insights into gender concerns.
- ❖ Recognition of the value of women's knowledge, skills and practices and their roles, responsibilities and contribution in different socio-economic groups.
- ❖ Documentation of gender disaggregated data to support the policy makers for formulation of women-pro policies.
- ❖ Integration of gender approach in all educational curriculum Provision of incentives for staff.
- ❖ Establishment of internal and external gender networks.
- ❖ Creation of gender sensitive rural social climate
- ❖ Establishment of gender cells/units at different organizations for handling gender issues. Publicity of gender concepts and explaining gender terminologies through mass media.