



## A Study on Women's Involvement and Their Training Needs in Rice Cultivation in Chatra District of Jharkhand India

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### ABSTRACT

A study on women's involvement and their training needs in rice cultivation and in Chatra district of Jharkhand was studied in five selected villages one each from five selected blocks i.e. Kunda, Partappur, Simariya, Tandwa and Hunterganj covering 250 respondents. Results indicated that harvesting was the activity in which farm women were mostly involved followed by transplanting, weeding, seed selection and treatment, sowing and nursery raising and seed grain storage with weighted mean scores of 2.56, 2.57, 2.38, 2.25, 2.18, 1.96 and 1.37 respectively. Plant protection was rated first training need followed by seed and grain storage, land preparation, seed selection and treatment and sowing and nursery raising with weighted mean scores of 2.36, 2.24, 2.20, 2.08, 2.04, 2.01 respectively.

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### Introduction

Rice is the most important crop of Jharkhand. In Kharif season it occupies about 18.55 lakh ha area under rice cultivation in which Chatra district contributes 33000 ha. It is grown mostly in all types of land situation i.e. Tanr and Done Under Tanr situation farmers use to cultivate direct seeded rice where as in done transplanted rice.

Rice crop require more labour compared to other crops. About 70% household work is performed by women with their involvement in agriculture (60%), particularly In rice crop some cultivation practices are performed only by women.

Keeping this fact under consideration the present study was conducted to estimate the extent of involvement of women in different activities in rice cultivation and exploring their training needs for improvement of their skill and knowledge.

### Material and method

The study was conducted in Chatra district of Jharkhand, India in five purposively selected village, one each from five selected blocks i.e. Kunda, Partappur, Semariya, Tandwa and Hunterganj, which were rice dominated area

The village selected were Kunda in Kunda, Sigua in Partappur, Amgawan in Semariya and Lamta in Tandwa. In each village, 50 women rice growers were selected randomly who had their own land and cultivated rice crops in their field.

Data were collected through a structured interview schedule which was developed after several discussions with rice scientists, extension workers as well as progressive farmers and farm women. The responses of farm women related to their involvement in different activities of rice cultivation were collected on a 3- point rating scale i.e. no involvement, Seldom and frequently with respective scores 1,2 and 3 respectively. Training need was also elicited on a 3-point continuum i.e. not needed, moderately needed and most needed with scores of 1,2 and 3 respectively.

### Result and Discussion

Involvement of farm women in rice cultivation

Table 1 depicts the extent of involvement of farm women in rice cultivation.

**TableNo1. Frequency distribution of respondents according to their extent of involvement in rice cultivation. (N=250)**

Activity	Extent of Involvement				Rank
	No	Seldom	Frequently	Weighted mean score	
Land preparation	152 (60.8)	60 (24)	38 (15.2)	1.54	X
Seed selection & treatment	42 (16.8)	69 (27.6)	139 (55.6)	2.38	III
Sowing & nursery raising	49 (19.6)	89 (35.6)	112 (44.8)	2.25	IV
Transplanting & weeding	31 (12.4)	48 (19.2)	171 (68.4)	2.56	II
Manuring/ Nutrient management	119 (47.6)	78 (31.2)	53 (21.2)	1.37	VII
Plant protection measure	152 (60.8)	91 (36.4)	7 (28)	1.42	XI
Harvesting	25 (10)	58 (23.20)	167 (66.8)	2.57	I
Threshing & transporting	128 (51.2)	91 (36.4)	31 (12.4)	1.61	VIII
Seed grain storage	28 (11.2)	40 (16)	182 (72.8)	2.18	V
Sale & purchase	104 (41.6)	52 (20.8)	94 (37.6)	1.96	VI

Figures in parentheses indicate percentages

Table 1 reveals that harvesting was the activity in which farm women were highly involved followed by transplanting and weeding and seed selection & treatment with their weighted mean scores of 2.57, 2.56 and 2.38 respectively. Followed by seed selection & treatment involvement of women were higher in sowing and nursery raising seed grain storage, sale & purchase, threshing transportation with weighted mean scores of 2.25, 2.18, 1.96 and 1.61

respectively. Land preparation and plant protection measures were the activities in which the women involvement was lesser.

#### Training need of women rice growers

In order to study the training needs of farm women in rice production the entire production technologies were divided into 10 sub-heads. The data are presented in table 2 reveals that plant protection measure was ranked first with a weighted means of score 2.36 followed by seed grain storage (2.24), land preparation (2.20), seed selection and treatment (2.08), sowing and nursery raising (2.04) and harvesting (2.01).

**Table 2. Training needs of farm women in rice production technologies.**

Activity	Training (N=250)				
	Not needed	Moderately needed	Most needed	Weighted mean score	Rank
Land preparation	60 (24)	78 (31.2)	112 (44.8)	2.20	III
Seed selection & treatment	79 (31.6)	71 (28.4)	100 (40)	2.08	IV
Sowing & nursery raising	82 (32.8)	76 (30.4)	92 (36.8)	2.04	V
Transplanting and weeding	88 (35.2)	94 (37.6)	68 (27.2)	1.92	VII
Manuring/ Nutrient management	141 (56.4)	79 (31.6)	30 (12)	1.55	IX
Plant Protection measure	48 (19.2)	62 (24.8)	140 (56)	2.36	I
Harvesting	84 (33.6)	78 (31.2)	88 (35.2)	2.01	VI
Threshing & Transporting	138 (55.2)	64 (25.6)	48 (19.2)	1.64	VIII
Seed or grain storage	52 (20.8)	84 (33.6)	114 (45.6)	2.24	II
Sale & purchase	156 (62.4)	82 (32.8)	12 (4.8)	1.42	X

Transplanting with weighted mean score of 1.92, threshing and transportation (1.64), manuring and nutrient management (1.55) were ranked vii,viii and ix respectively. Sale and purchase of rice grains were ranked at last informs of training needs of the farmers the respondents opined that plant protection measures followed by seed grain storage were their most preferred training needs because maximum loss was happening due to insect pest and diseases in standing crops, and insect and pest created loss during storage. In order to minimize the losses the farm women expressed that they need training in these areas.

#### Conclusion

The findings led to conclude that harvesting was the major operation, generally performed by farm women followed by transplanting and weeding and seed selection and treatment. However the farm women fet requirement of training mostly in the areas of plant protection and seed/grain storage. This implies that appropriate tools and farm mechanization be popularized for transplanting and harvesting of rice in order to increase their efficiency and reduce the drudgery. Training on plant protection and seed/grain storage be organized at their door steps.

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