

⑧ Women in Indian Agriculture :-

- ↳ Status :-
- As per Oxfam research, Agrs. employs 80% of all economically active women in India.
 - It comprises : 48% of self-employed farmers
33% of Agrs. labor force
 - Acc. to Agr. Census (2015-16), female operational holdings increased to 14% from 12.8% (2010-11)
 - Acc. to Oxfam : 80% of farm work in India (sowing, harvesting, other labor intensive) is done by women
 - 90% of dairy production work.

⊕ Feminization of Agriculture

↳ CONCEPT :- Measurable increase of women's participation in the agr. sector

↳ Reasons for emerging trend of FoA

• Economic factors :- (1) Agr. distress has pushed male to non-farm activities + female members to perform Agr. activities

(2) Acc. to eco. survey (2017-18), growing male out-migration from (Rural - Urban) \Rightarrow \uparrow participation of women in multiple roles eg: laborers, cultivators, entrepreneurs.

(3) Since women constitute cheap labor.

(4) 84% farmers are small + marginal

cannot afford \Downarrow to hire labor

\Downarrow
depends on the labor of female in family.

(5) Ind + Glob has created diverse job opp.

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opp. however are limited for skilled workforce

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In absence of edu + skills, women are
confined in Agr. sector.

2) Socio-Cultural factors :- (1) Cultural acceptance of women working in Agr. Sector

(2) Due to Patriarchy

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Less bargaining power
of women

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Easy to exploit

- (3) feminization of old age
- (4) Easy to manage dual Burden
- (5) Farmer Suicides.

Challenges faced by women in Agr. sector :-

1) Lack of entitlement to land and other assets (eg: machinery, livestock etc)
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(due to patriarchy (+) Lack of awareness wrt property rights)

2) Lack of land ownership
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Lack of access to institutional credit
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dependence on moneylender increases.
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aggravates eco. disability

1) Wage gap

2) Technological Interventions
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Infrastructure facilities

⇒ Not designed
acc. to women
farmers.

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Hence, Lack of
Supportive Infra

3) Low representation in adm. bodies (eg: Agr. marketing committees)

4) Acc. to Corteva Agriscience

, 48% of women farmers faces gender
discrimination

5) Absence of Dec. making powers over important issues eg: crop selection,
marketing etc.

6) Mechanization of Agr

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Concentration of women in
labor intensive and menial roles

7) Lack of eduⁿ + Awareness

⇒

Lack of awareness
wrt schemes, benefits
rights etc

⇒

Lack of opp. of
eco + social
growth.

⑧ Govt. efforts :-

- Mahila Kisan Shaktikaran Pariyojana
- ICAR - Central Institute for women in Agriculture
- Additional support by Deptt of Agr. Coop + farmer welfare to women farmers in existing schemes : eg: NFSM, Integrated scheme for Agr. marketing etc.
- Govt. has rped its focus on (SNC's) to ensure sustainable livelihood for women.
- 15th Oct' = Women farmer's Day.

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WAY FORWARD

- Enhanced representation of women in dec-making bodies
- Gender friendly interventions w/ ag. extension services.
- Technological Advancements to create gender friendly farm equipments
- Women SHG's can pro-actively engaged in value addition of ag. produce at village level.
- Prioritizing women in accessing credit on soft terms.
- Awareness generation among women w/ rights & entitlements.
- Skill dev^t training (eg: organic farming, field operations etc)
- Recognize the work of women farmers.
(+)
Equal pay.
- Areas such as beekeeping, poultry, fishery etc has scope for women farmers, it needs to be explored.