

# The Place of Women in Domestic and Agricultural Decision-Making: An Analysis of Gochhi Village in Jhajjar District

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**Abstract**— Women make up around half of India's population and are crucial to expanding the agricultural industry. We may state that women are the foundation of agriculture and related fields. As wage workers, farmers, co-farmers, farm managers, and family carers, women are vital to the agricultural industry. In addition to working in related fields like horticulture, cattle, and fishing, women also cultivate crops. According to the 2011 report by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), there is a greater proportion of women working in the agriculture industry in Asian countries as compared to other regions. Women began collecting seeds from the local plants and growing those that caught their attention regarding food, feed, fodder, fiber, and fuel. According to estimates from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), women generate between 60 and 80 percent of the food in underdeveloped nations. The study's main goal is to examine how women participate in family and agricultural decision-making. Research indicates that women are significant contributors to the decision-making process. 39.47 percent of female agricultural laborers receive assistance from their male partners in using fertilizers, 23.70 percent in purchasing agricultural equipment, and 57.90 percent in altering crop patterns.

**Keywords**— Agriculture, Workforce, Women Participation, Farmers, Cultivation.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Women make up almost half of India's population overall, and they are crucial to expanding the agriculture industry. It is reasonable to argue that women form the backbone of agriculture and related fields. Women are vital to the agricultural industry as wage workers, co-farmers, farmers, farm managers, and family workers. Women also work in agriculture and related fields such as fisheries, horticulture, and cattle. agriculture sector as a percentage of the economically active population is higher in Asian Countries". Around 50 percent of the food production is contributed by Asian Women. In the words of Swaminathan

(famous agriculture scientist), "It was women who first domesticated crop plants and there initiated the art and science of farming while men went out hunting in search of food. Women started gathering seeds from the native flora and began cultivating those of interest from the point of view of food, feed, fodder, fiber, and fuel" (Bibhu Santosh Behra 2013).

According to estimates from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), women generate between 60 and 80 percent of the food in underdeveloped nations. Women like to work near their homes and dislike traveling vast distances for employment. Both within and outside the house, women work. It is impossible to gauge a woman's position as a wife, mother, and daughter at home. Women look after the family and collaborate with males outside the house. Although women have important roles both within and outside the house, their contributions to the productive system are underappreciated in the actual world because of the male-dominated culture.

## Women in the Agriculture Sector and Globalisation: -

Due to the opening of the economy to other countries brought about by globalization, multinational corporations (MNCs) were able to establish themselves both inside and outside of our nation, giving them fundamental access to significant markets for food and non-food commodities. By allowing the agriculture sector to access unrestricted international markets, the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Agriculture (WTO-AoA) completed the process of agricultural liberalization. According to FAP (1996), the objective of the WTO-AoA was to achieve universal food security by 2010. Globalization in the Indian context meant allowing unequal players to enter the domestic market.

The globalization also has adverse effects on the livelihoods of the local farmers. It robs them off their local market. Women in agriculture has been drastically affected due to loss of control over agricultural production. It affected their work pattern, incomes and food security system of households. This has also led to change in other

social processes such as migration, increase dependence on casual labour, increased health risks and exploitation. The women in agriculture activities have been affected due to WTO policies of trade liberalization due to three reasons mainly: firstly, the TRIPs agreement affects women's control over seeds, knowledge and their productive functions. The Agreement on Agriculture not only affects the income security aspects of women but also have secondary impacts such as increased violence against them. Secondly, women have to bear disproportionate costs of health hazards and displacement as the globalization pattern is shifting towards more capital and chemical-intensive agriculture practices. Thirdly, women in agriculture face gender discrimination which leads to lower returns for them and heavier work burdens in food production. The dumping process and destruction of rural livelihood affects women the most as it further declines their already low incomes.

Moreover, A radical shift in agricultural techniques and conventional farming ways has resulted from the advent of a revolution in the agriculture sector, known as the "green revolution," which has completely changed the old modes of operation. With unrestricted access to agricultural resources, multinational corporations (MNCs) have contributed to the decline of conventional techniques, increase in production costs, substitution of HYV seeds for traditional varieties, and current stagnation of productivity in the sector. The plantation industry is negatively impacted by globalization as well. Due to uncontrolled imports and a dramatic decline in global pricing, the industry has been confronted with several difficulties.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Godara and Rani (2015) focused on the women's role as agricultural cultivators in different districts of Haryana. Secondary data was used for analysis purposes. The study showed that women give a multi-dimensional contribution in terms of effort and time which was not lower than men's contribution. The study also found that in Haryana 62.5 percent population lived in rural areas in which men and women were 53 percent and 46.8 percent respectively. The study revealed that from 2001 to 2012 share of the agriculture working population to the total working population in Haryana has been increased from 15.3 percent to 17.1 percent. They also found that women's status had been low by all indicators like social, economic, and political. They suggested that the government should make more efforts to encourage women and to raise their agricultural knowledge.

Chayal and Dhaka (2010) analyzed the participation of women in agricultural activities. The study

focused primary data on a sample of 200 female workers from the Bundy district of the state of Rajasthan. They found that the participation of women was maximum in cutting, shifting production to threshing, floor storage, picking, and cleaning of grains. The study also emphasized the fact that the participation rate of women was influenced by various factors like land holding, family condition, educational level and age. Participation of women was least in ploughing of field, fertilizers, levelling of field, marketing operation and fertilizers application.

### Study Area: -

Situated amidst the lush green landscape of Jhajjar district in Haryana, Gochhi village is an excellent example of rural life in India. With its fertile agricultural lands and predominantly Jat community, Gochhi is primarily dependent on agriculture, with dairy farming as well as growing crops such as wheat, mustard, and pulses. The demographic structure of the village reflects a mix of age groups and religious communities, fostering a rich cultural diversity. According to the Census of India, 2011, the total population of the village is 5093, out of which 2720 are males and 2373 are females. Despite its agricultural prosperity, Gochhi faces challenges such as water scarcity, inadequate infrastructure, and seasonal migration for employment. However, amidst these challenges there exist development opportunities, including the promotion of agro-based industries and skill development initiatives. Socially, Gochhi symbolizes strong community bonds, which is evident in its celebration of festivals and collective welfare efforts. Through a comprehensive socio-economic study, the dynamics, challenges, and potential pathways of development of Gochhi have been clarified, laying the foundation for a sustainable and prosperous future for its residents.

### Research Objective: -

- i. To examine the role of women in decision-making in households in the study area.
- ii. To study the engagement of women in agricultural activities.

## III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employs a mixed-methods research design, combining both quantitative and qualitative approaches to investigate the role of women in decision-making within households and agricultural activities in Gochhi village, Jhajjar District. The mixed-methods design allows for a comprehensive understanding of the topic, capturing both numerical data and rich narratives from participants. The study will utilize purposive sampling to select participants who represent different socio-economic

backgrounds and roles within households and agricultural activities. The sample size will be 90 aiming to include a diverse range of participants. Structured questionnaires will be administered to collect quantitative data regarding the demographic profile of participants, their roles in decision-making, and their perceptions of gender dynamics within households and agriculture. Statistical techniques such as descriptive statistics, will be used to analyze quantitative data at the state level. ArcGIS software will be used for making different kinds of maps. Microsoft Excel will be used for various bar and line graphs.

**Results and Discussions: -**

The most important phase in the research process is the analysis and interpretation of data. The process of extracting meaningful information from survey data is called analysis. Without interpretation, analysis cannot be finished, and without analysis, interpretation cannot continue. They are connected. Interpretation is the process of giving facts a meaning. Fair and cautious judgment is necessary for interpretation.

Table No. 1: Social Category of Respondents

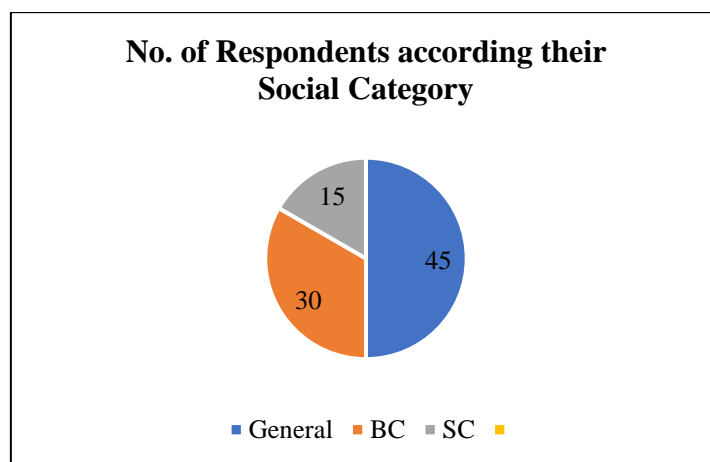
Sr. No.	Category	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	General	45	50
2.	BC	30	33.3
3.	SC	15	16.6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey

Table No. 1 represents a demographic breakdown of respondents based on their categorization into General, Backward Class (BC), and Scheduled Caste (SC) groups. In total, there are 90 respondents included in the study. Among

these respondents, 45 individuals, constituting 50% of the total, belong to the General category. This category typically encompasses individuals who do not belong to any specific caste or social group.

Fig. No. 1



Source: Table No. 1

The BC category comprises 30 respondents, representing 33.3% of the total. Backward Classes often include groups identified as socially and economically disadvantaged, with special provisions and support provided for their upliftment and inclusion in various aspects of society. The SC category consists of 15 respondents, making up 16.6% of the total. Scheduled Castes are recognized as historically disadvantaged communities in India, and special affirmative action

measures are implemented to address their socio-economic challenges and ensure their participation in mainstream activities.

Overall, the table illustrates the distribution of respondents across different social categories, providing insights into the composition of the sample population and enabling a nuanced understanding of the demographic dynamics within the surveyed group.

Table No. 2: Age-Group of Respondents

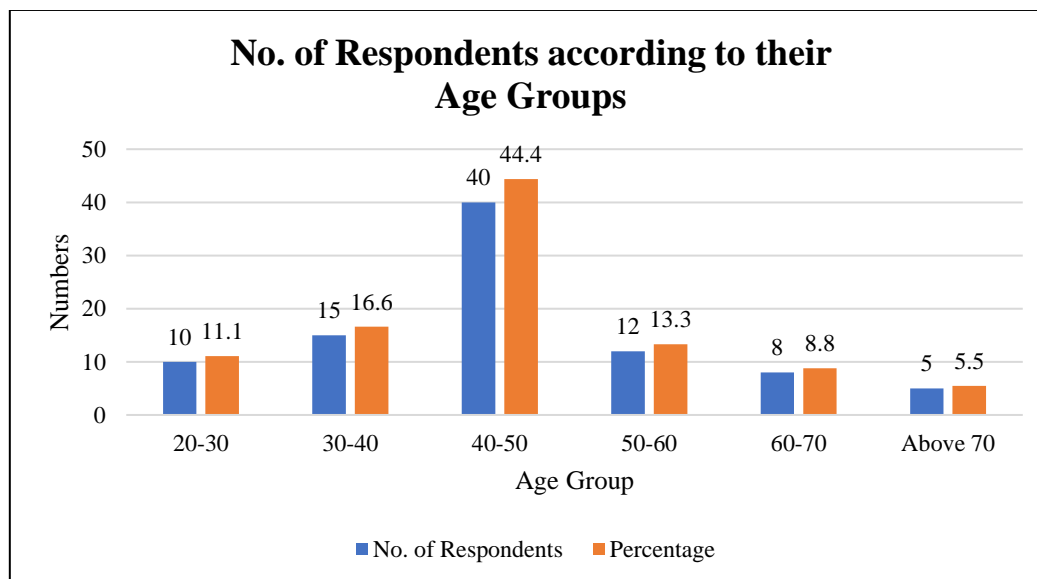
Sr. No.	Age Group	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	20-30	10	11.1
2.	30-40	15	16.6
3.	40-50	40	44.4
4.	50-60	12	13.3
5.	60-70	8	8.8
6.	Above 70	5	5.5
	Total	90	100

Source: Field Survey

Table No. 2 provides a comprehensive breakdown of respondents categorized by age groups, offering valuable insights into the demographic composition of the surveyed population. With a total of 90 respondents, the data delineates the distribution of individuals across six distinct age brackets. Among respondents aged 20-30, ten individuals are accounted for, constituting 11.1% of the total. This demographic segment typically encompasses young adults who may be embarking on their careers, pursuing higher education, or establishing themselves in

various aspects of life. Moving into the 30-40 age group, 15 respondents fall within this bracket, representing 16.6% of the total. Individuals in this age range are often characterized by greater professional stability, possibly advancing in their careers while also navigating familial responsibilities and personal aspirations. The most prominent demographic segment in the table is the 40-50 age group, encompassing 40 respondents and accounting for 44.4% of the total. This cohort typically includes individuals in their prime working years, with

Fig. No. 2



Source: Table No. 2

substantial professional experience and possibly assuming leadership roles within their professions or communities. Additionally, many individuals in this age group may be actively involved in family life, balancing career aspirations with familial duties. The subsequent age brackets, 50-60 and 60-70, each comprise 12 and 8 respondents, respectively, representing 13.3% and 8.8% of the total. These groups consist of individuals who may be

approaching retirement age or transitioning into different life phases, offering valuable perspectives based on their accumulated experiences. Finally, the category "Above 70" includes five respondents, making up 5.5% of the total. This demographic segment comprises elderly individuals who may require special care and attention due to age-related health concerns but continue to contribute to their families and communities through their wisdom and life

experiences. Overall, the table provides a nuanced portrayal of the age distribution among respondents, enabling researchers to tailor their analyses and interventions to

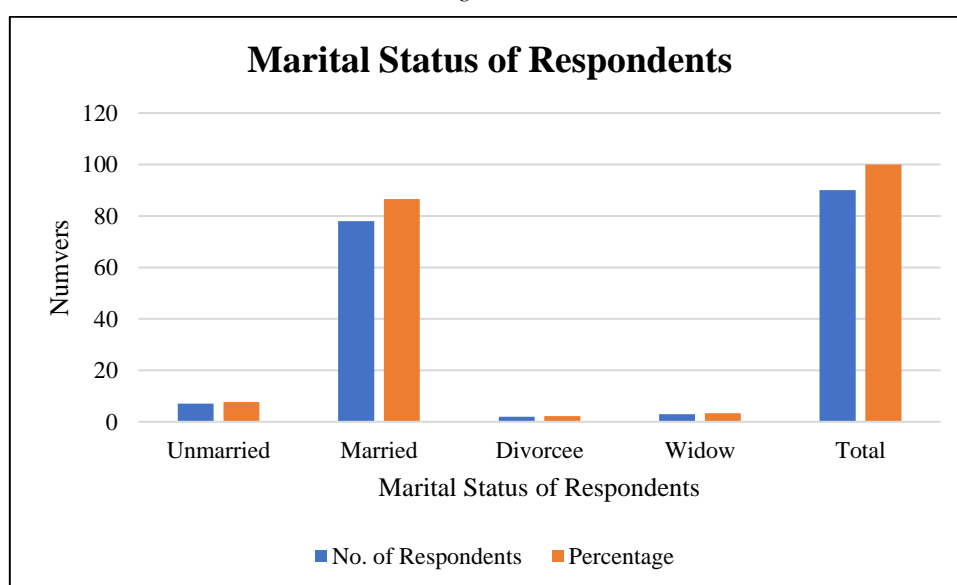
address the diverse needs and priorities associated with different age cohorts within the population.

Table No. 3: Marital Status of Respondents

Sr. No	Marital Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Unmarried	7	7.7
2.	Married	78	86.6
3.	Divorcee	2	2.2
4.	Widow	3	3.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey

Fig. No. 3



Source: Based on Table No. 3

Table No. 3 illustrates a detailed breakdown of respondents categorized by their marital status, providing insights into the marital dynamics within the surveyed population. With a total of 90 respondents, the data illustrates the distribution of individuals across four distinct marital statuses. The largest demographic segment in the table is the "Married" category, comprising 78 respondents and representing 86.6% of the total. This group encompasses individuals who have entered into formal marital unions, reflecting the prevalence of marriage as a social institution within the surveyed population.

In contrast, the "Unmarried" category includes seven respondents, constituting 7.7% of the total. This demographic segment encompasses individuals who have not yet entered into formal marital relationships. The presence of unmarried respondents highlights the diversity

of life experiences within the surveyed population, reflecting varying timelines and priorities in terms of personal relationships and commitments. Additionally, the relatively smaller percentage of unmarried respondents suggests that marriage is a prevalent societal norm within the surveyed community, with the majority of individuals opting for marriage at some point in their lives.

The table also includes respondents categorized as "Divorcee" and "Widow," with two and three individuals, respectively, representing 2.2% and 3.3% of the total. These demographic segments encompass individuals who have experienced marital dissolution due to divorce or the loss of a spouse. The presence of divorcees and widows underscores the complexity of marital relationships and the potential challenges associated with marital breakdown or bereavement within the surveyed population.

Table No. 4 Educational Profile of Different Respondents

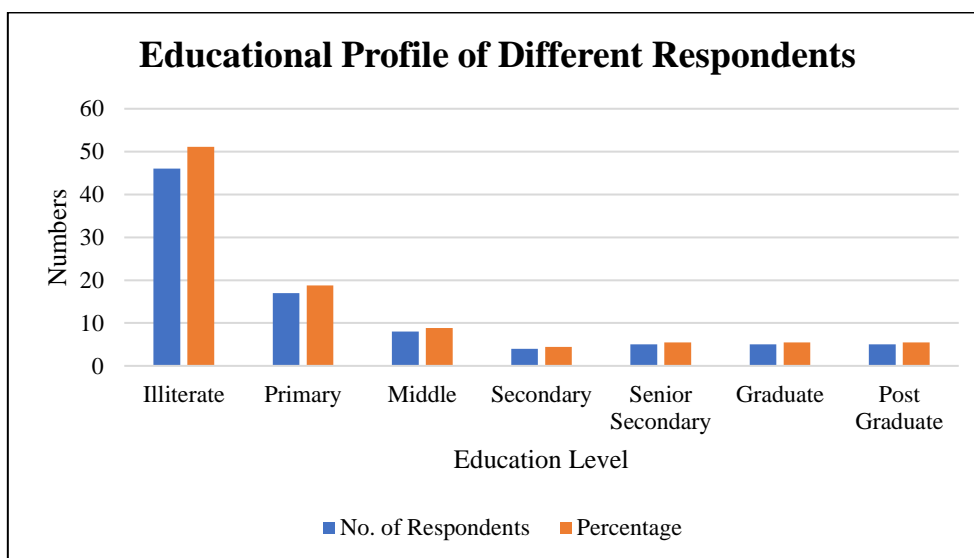
Sr. No.	Educational Level	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Illiterate	46	51.1
2.	Primary	17	18.8
3.	Middle	8	8.8
4.	Secondary	4	4.4
5.	Senior Secondary	5	5.5
6.	Graduate	5	5.5
7.	Post Graduate	5	5.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey

Table No. 4 provides a comprehensive overview of the educational attainment levels among respondents, offering insights into the educational landscape within the surveyed population. With a total of 90 respondents, the data illustrates the distribution of respondents across seven distinct educational categories. The most prominent

category in the table is "Illiterate," comprising 46 respondents and representing 51.1% of the total. This demographic segment includes individuals who have not received any formal education or have minimal literacy skills.

Fig. No. 4



Source: Table No. 4

In contrast, the table also includes respondents with varying levels of formal education. The "Primary" category consists of 17 respondents, accounting for 18.8% of the total, while the "Middle" category includes eight respondents, representing 8.8% of the total. These categories encompass individuals who have completed primary and middle school education, respectively, reflecting basic levels of literacy and numeracy skills. The presence of respondents in these categories indicates some degree of educational attainment, albeit at elementary levels.

Furthermore, the table includes respondents with higher levels of educational attainment, such as "Secondary," "Senior Secondary," "Graduate," and "Post Graduate" categories, each comprising four or five respondents. These demographic segments encompass individuals who have completed secondary school, senior secondary school, undergraduate, and postgraduate education, respectively, reflecting higher levels of academic achievement and specialized knowledge.

Table No. 5: Respondent's involvement in decision-making

Decisions	The extent of Respondent's involvement in decision-making in household activities		
	Sole Decision Maker	Joint Decision Maker	Nil
House Construction and House Repair	10	70	10
Purchased Food Items	66	21	3
Buying and Selling of Domestic Goods	30	50	10
Children Carrier	5	70	15
Children Marriage	10	55	35
Social Participation	15	25	50
Taking Care of House	70	20	0
Savings and Investments	15	70	5

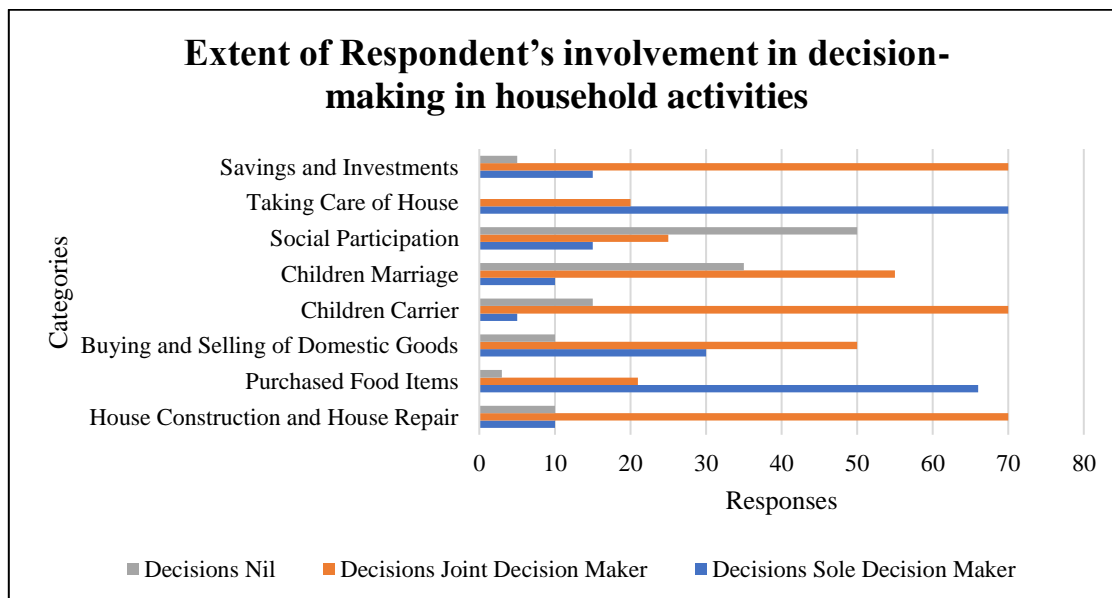
Source: Field Survey

The above table no. 5 presents data regarding the extent of respondents' involvement in decision-making across various household activities. Each row represents a specific household activity, while the columns indicate the extent of the respondent's involvement categorized into three groups: Sole Decision Maker, Joint Decision Maker, and Nil (no involvement).

In the context of "House Construction and House Repair," the data indicates that out of the total respondents

surveyed, 10 individuals are sole decision-makers when it comes to these activities, while 70 respondents make decisions jointly with others, and 10 respondents are not involved in decision-making regarding house construction and repair. Similarly, for "Purchased Food Items," the majority of respondents (66 individuals) make decisions solely, while 21 respondents make decisions jointly, and only 3 respondents are not involved in this aspect of household decision-making.

Fig. No. 5



Source: Table No. 5

Moreover, the pattern continues across various household activities such as "Buying and Selling of Domestic Goods," "Children Carrier," "Children Marriage,"

"Social Participation," "Taking Care of House," and "Savings and Investments," with varying degrees of

involvement among respondents as sole decision-makers, joint decision-makers, or having no involvement at all.

This data provides insights into the dynamics of decision-making within households, shedding light on the distribution of decision-making responsibilities among family members. For instance, in activities like "Taking Care of House" and "Savings and Investments," a significant portion of respondents (70% and 70%,

respectively) are sole decision-makers, and Joint decision-makers indicating a higher level of autonomy and authority in these domains. Conversely, in activities such as "Social Participation" and "Children Marriage," a larger proportion of respondents (50% and 35%, respectively) report having no involvement, suggesting potential areas where decision-making authority may be delegated to other family members or external factors may influence the decision-making process.

Table No. 6: Decision-Making in Agricultural Activities

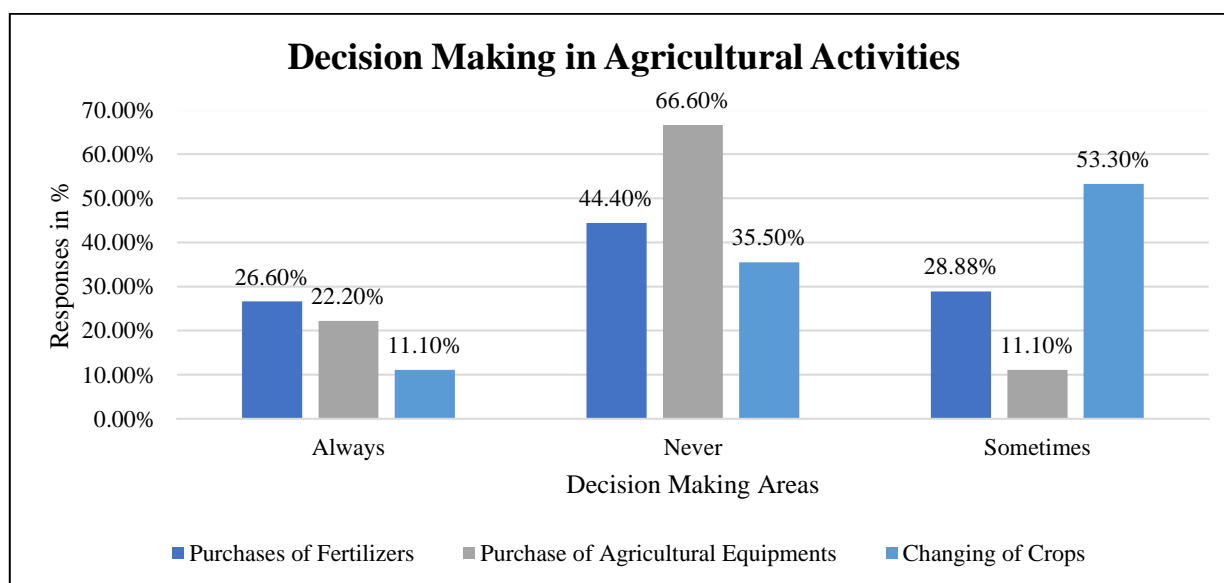
Sr. No.	Decision-Making Areas	No. of Respondents/Percentage			Total
		Always	Never	Sometimes	
1.	Purchases of Fertilizers	24 (26.6%)	40 (44.4%)	26 (28.88%)	90 (100%)
2.	Purchase of Agricultural Equipments	20 (22.2%)	60 (66.6%)	10 (11.1%)	90 (100%)
3.	Changing of Crops	10 (11.1%)	32 (35.5%)	48 (53.3%)	90 (100%)

Source: Field Survey

The above table presents data on the extent of respondents' involvement in decision-making across three specific areas related to agriculture: purchases of fertilizers, purchase of agricultural equipment, and changing of crops. Each row represents a different decision-making area, while the columns indicate the frequency with which respondents are involved in decision-making, categorized as "Always," "Never," and "Sometimes."

For the "Purchases of Fertilizers," the data reveals that 26.6% of respondents are always involved in making decisions regarding fertilizer purchases, while 44.4% never participate in these decisions, and 28.88% are involved sometimes. This suggests a significant variation in the level of involvement among respondents, with a considerable portion either always or sometimes participating in decision-making related to fertilizer purchases, while a sizable proportion is completely excluded from this process.

Fig. No. 6



Source: Table No. 6



Similarly, in the "Purchase of Agricultural Equipment" category, only 22.2% of respondents are always involved in decision-making, while a majority 66.6% never participate in these decisions, and 11.1% are sometimes involved. This indicates a lower level of involvement among respondents in purchasing agricultural equipment compared to fertilizer purchases, with a significant portion completely disengaged from decision-making in this area.

In the "Changing of Crops" category, the data shows that a mere 11.1% of respondents are always involved in decisions regarding changing crops, while 35.5% never participate, and 53.3% are sometimes involved. This suggests a relatively low level of consistent involvement among respondents in decisions related to

changing crops, with a majority either occasionally involved or completely excluded from the decision-making process.

Overall, the table highlights variations in the degree of respondents' involvement in decision-making across different agricultural areas. Understanding these dynamics is essential for agricultural policymakers and practitioners to design interventions that promote inclusive decision-making processes, empower farmers, and enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability. Additionally, efforts to increase awareness and capacity-building initiatives may be needed to ensure broader participation and representation in agricultural decision-making, ultimately contributing to the resilience and prosperity of farming communities.

Table No. 7: Work Participation of Women Agricultural Labourers

Various Activities	Participation		
	Regularly	Occasionally	Never
Field Preparation	15	48	27
Cleaning of Field	25	45	20
Sowing	46	20	24
Applying Fertilizers	6	28	56
Weeding	35	40	15
Plant Protection Measures	20	40	30
Cutting	52	20	18
Irrigation	8	28	54
Plucking	48	30	12
Drying the grain	49	37	4
Storage	15	35	40
Marketing	0	9	81
Grading	6	24	60

Source: Field Survey

The table presents data on the participation of respondents in various agricultural activities, categorized into three groups: participating regularly, participating occasionally, and never participating. Each row represents a specific agricultural activity, while the columns indicate the frequency with which respondents engage in these activities.

In activities such as "Field Preparation," "Cleaning of Field," and "Sowing," a substantial proportion of respondents participate regularly, with varying levels of occasional and non-participation. For instance, 46 respondents engage regularly in sowing activities,

indicating the significance of this agricultural task in the surveyed population.

However, in activities such as "Applying Fertilizers," "Irrigation," and "Marketing," a majority of respondents report either occasionally or never participating. This suggests potential gaps in participation or access to resources and knowledge related to these activities. For instance, the low number of respondents engaging in marketing activities (none participating regularly) highlights potential challenges in marketing agricultural produce effectively, which could impact farmers' income and livelihoods.

Conversely, activities such as "Cutting," "Plucking," and "Drying the grain" witness high levels of regular participation, indicating the importance of these tasks in agricultural production cycles. The consistent engagement of respondents in these activities reflects their understanding of the critical role these tasks play in ensuring successful harvests and post-harvest management.

The data also reveals variations in participation levels across different activities. For example, while a significant number of respondents participate regularly in "Cutting" and "Plucking," fewer respondents engage regularly in activities such as "Applying Fertilizers" and "Irrigation." Understanding these variations can inform targeted interventions and capacity-building initiatives to enhance participation and skills in specific agricultural tasks, thereby improving overall agricultural productivity and sustainability.

Furthermore, the table underscores the need for comprehensive support mechanisms to address challenges related to access to resources, knowledge, and infrastructure in certain activities. By promoting inclusive participation and empowering farmers with the necessary skills and resources, agricultural stakeholders can foster resilient and thriving agricultural communities, ultimately contributing to food security and rural development.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

In Conclusion, the data highlights the diversity of agricultural activities in which respondents are engaged, ranging from field preparation and sowing to harvesting, post-harvest management, and marketing. These activities collectively represent the intricate and labor-intensive nature of agricultural production, requiring a combination of skills, knowledge, and resources. The high levels of participation observed in activities such as cutting, plucking, and drying the grain underscore the importance of these tasks in the agricultural cycle, indicating farmers' dedication to ensuring successful harvests and effective post-harvest handling. However, the data also reveals disparities in participation across different activities, with fewer respondents engaging regularly in tasks such as applying fertilizers, irrigation, and marketing. These disparities may stem from various factors, including limited access to resources, knowledge gaps, and challenges related to infrastructure and market access.

Moreover, the data highlights the need for targeted interventions and support mechanisms to address the challenges faced by respondents in participating effectively in all stages of agricultural production. In particular, efforts should focus on enhancing access to agricultural inputs, such as fertilizers and irrigation facilities, and providing

training and extension services to improve farmers' knowledge and skills in modern agricultural techniques and practices. Moreover, initiatives aimed at strengthening market linkages and improving marketing infrastructure can help farmers access markets more efficiently, increase their bargaining power, and enhance their income opportunities. Collaborative efforts involving government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private sector stakeholders are essential to address these challenges comprehensively and sustainably.

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