Extent of Utilisation of Training on Improved Farm Practices by Rural Women

BY

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Introduction

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the predominant activity in rural India and it is in this sector that women in villages are primarily engaged, in, besides of course managing their homes as women every where do. It is estimated that about 78 per cent of active rural women are engaged in agriculture compared to 63 per cent of men. About 50 per cent of these are agricultural labourers and over a third are cultivators. The whole range of agricultural operations except those involving animal and machine power are performed by women and indeed some of these like transplantation (in South India), weeding, producing, cleaning etc., are exclusively done by them. Apart from their contribution of physical labour, women play a significant role in decision- making in crop production, dairy poultry etc.

Agriculture in India is regarded as a subsistence, unorganised and traditional activity. The outstanding features of Indian farming are the uneconomic size of holdings and the fragmentation of holdings, the lack of proper loan and credit facilities for the rural people, the internal rivalries and the litigations in the villages, marketing facilities for the cultivators. Thus is India, the time demands an economic revolution, for attainment of greater productivity of human labour.

India is the land of villages and 80 per cent of its population lives in country side. Women constitute nearly 50 per cent of rural population. About 87 per cent of the rural working women are engaged in agricultural operations. In order to include rural women as a component in the main stream of economic development, it becomes essential to know as to what exactly they are doing now, where they need help and where they can contribute to the development.

In the often quoted memorable words of Jawaharlal Nehru, "If agriculture in this country fails, we fail, Government fails and the nation fails. There is no help for us but to succeed in Agriculture". Raising agricultural production has thus becomes a prerequisite for the progress and development of India in general and rural India in Particular. There are several factors of production like land, capital, science and technology and the entreprenurs. All these factors need to be judiciously combined in appropriate proporations to obtain maximum production. Agricultural development programme thus includes besides others, activities aimed at an acceptance and adoption of new practices or changes in the methods of farming in place or in addition to the traditional methods of agriculture by the largest number of land tillers covering the largest possible area undergroups, so that the ultimate result is a substantial

increase in agricultural production. Agriculture development is a complex and a complicated programme. Agricultural extension is the tool involving the largest number of farmers covering the largest possible area under crops to accept and adopt scientific methods of farming with a view to raise agricultural production.

From the time immemorial, women played different roles in their home activities, as wives in their personal lives with their husbands; as mothers in their responsibilities for the development of their children, and as homemakers incharge of the operation to their homes. In addition, women also played a pivotal role in agriculture and livestock management. In modern agriculture too, women continued to share a number of farm operations with men.

The largest number of working women in India were engaged in farming operations either as cultivators or as agricultural labourers. According to census 1981, women constituted 330 millions or 48 per cent of the total population. There were 46 millions of women workers in India, out of which 40.5 millions (i.e, 88 per cent) were in rural areas and 5.5 millions (i.e, 12 per cent) in urban areas. In rural, areas a great majority of women workers viz 78 per cent were engaged in agriculture 4 per cent household industry and 9 per cent in manufacturing industries.

In rural areas 16 per cent of the women were in the workforce whereas it was less than 6 per cent in urban areas. Nehru once said "To awaken people, it is the woman who must be awakened, once she is on move the family moves, the village moves and the nation moves".

Since ancient times, women have played a pivotal role in our agriculture. She shares with her man the arduous burden of farm work in addition to her major responsibility as home maker. Women can thus influence their families towards increased farm production and income.

The farm women play a dominant role not only in influencing various farm managerial decisions but also in carrying out these decisions by putting in labour input in various farm operations.

Women's place in Indian society has been pre-eminent. This is equally true of agriculture where women play a pivotal role. They work in the fields along side men, attend to off-farm activities like processing, grading and marketing of produced, tend the cattle and run the home. Nevertheless the basic inadequates in terms of comparatively lower literacy and the skills, among women their inability to

engage in work consistently for various reasons, limited avenues for participation etc. have handicapped the desired level of their contribution to rural development. As a result participation by women has largely been confined to activities involving low wages and drudgery. Despite these disadvantages, the economic pressures and the urge to protect their levels of living getting eroded fast have made them continue in the work stream. Removal of these inadequacies and constraints is crucial to the growth of agriculture in the developing countries.

Women's role in the economic activities was brought to strap focus in the World Conference on Agrarian Reforms and Rural Development (WCARRD) organised by the FAO in July 1979.WCARRD pledged, interalia, for "Equal participation of women alongside men in the social, economic and political process of rival development and their equal access to its benefits". This may perhaps be one of the important reasons, which would explain the increase in female work participation rates in the rural areas over the last decade. The female work participation rates in the rural areas increased from 13.4 per cent in 1971 to 16 per cent in 1981. On the other hand male work participation rates declined marginally from 53.6 per cent in 1971 to 52.6 per cent in 1981.

Agriculture is a family enterprise. All members of the family, men, women and children are therefore involved in the processes of increased food production. The Gram Sevika in has a very important part to play in organizing the village to carryout an intense drive to increase its food production. She had to organise programmes to demonstrate and train all the women in all the new agriculture practices which lead to improved family living as a result of increased food production.

Since women do play such an important part in carrying out agricultural practices, and since they must be convinced about the advantages and know how to Carry out the improved practices, it is suggested that as a start in involving the women, the wives of the men members of the agricultural production committee form a women's committee to have responsibility for educating the village women about improved agricultural practices.

Separate training courses were organised for farm women either at the institutions such as 'Gram Sevika' training centres, KVKs or in the villages. Courses were organised on agricultural activities commonly performed by women (i.e) seed selection, planting, storage and handling of fertilizer, safe custody of pesticides, grain storage,

selection of high yielding varieties, family nutrition, kitchen gardening and collection and storage of farm yard manure. Thus appropriate institutions in the HYV programme areas in each state were encouraged to organise short courses lasting from 7 to 10 days for about 30 farm women at a time. Separate courses for literate and illiterate women were organised.

Objectives:

The objectives of the study are: To study

the involvement of women in agriculture.

the different types of training given by the training institutes for farm women.

benefits gained by the women farmers through the training programmes.

to what extent the farm women had put into practice the improved farm practices that they had gained in the training.

Need for the study:

The training centres had been giving training in the improved farm practices for the past 10 years and the investigator felt that an objective study of the utilisation of the training in modern farm practices on a scientific basis may help to improve the training as well as increase the production. Hence the present study was undertaken.

Limitations of the study:

Due to the shortage of time and poor transport facilities and heavy cost involved, the present study was confined to a limited area in Tamil Nadu, namely, Coimbatore District.

Review of Literature

II REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The review of the relevant literature related to the present study are presented under the following headings:

A. Improved methods of Agricultural Operations
B. Training given in the Improved Methods of Agricultural Operations.
C. Role of Women in Agriculture, and
D. Training given in Agriculture exclusively for farm Women.

A. Improved methods of Agricultural Operations:

Mathur(1972) states that farmers education has been seen to be the very key to agricultural development. Education here means functional literacy "designed to give to the learner the skills necessary to perform more efficiently the vocations to which he belongs and to function more effectively in the environment in which he lives".

Pandey and Roy (1977), concluded that discussion was the most effective mode of presentation for gaining in knowledge immediatly after the broadcast in respect of all three age groups. As regards the knowledge retained 15 and 30 days after the broadcast, discussion was found most effective for young and middle aged farmers only.

Singh (1977) says that in the past when seed potatoes had to be kept in ordinary stores in the plains of India, physiological considerations influenced the traditional practices of seed potato production which included 1. the choice of long and medium-duration varieties of long dormancy and producing small or medium sized tubers. 2. Use of small sized seed and 3. Adoption of late planting with close spacing.

Ray (1982) emphasised that "the rapid progress of the Indian Agriculture with newer achievements was vividly depicted at various pavilions through models, charts, illustrations and other media while the state pavilions highlighted their own special feature of agricultural activities which was different from state to state because of the varying nature of soil, availability of inputs and the climate. The eleborately laid out pavilion of the Directorate of Extension of the Union Ministry of Agriculture titled "March of Indian Agriculture " was devoted to the central theme of the remarkable advancement of Indian Agriculture ' over the past three decades.

A report from the International Council for Research in Agroforestry states that using compatible species in optimum spatial and temporal arrangements and application of appropriate methods of management of agroforestry

technologies have considerable potential for alleviating some of the serious problems of forage, food and fuel being faced by land users in developing countries.

Sachidananda (1972) observed that a number of new seeds and fertilizers were not adopted due to lack of irrigation and poor finance.

Muthiah (1978) concluded that the different farm size groups adopted recommended practices irrespective of their different sizes.

Deb and Karam Singh (1975) has rightly pointed out that the high yielding varieties introduced in 1966 resulted in large scale use of improved seed varieties and the associated yield increasing farm outputs. They observed that socio-economic structure has been undergoing significant changes such as increases, in percapita income, real wages of agricultural labourers and improvement in the literacy rate. Regarding associated changes they remark that "There is sufficient evidence of an increase in the rate of industrialisation and urbanisation. Above all the value system is also undergoing change from 'Traditional' to 'Modern', In a comparative study in Punjab they indicated that due to technological growth there were socio- economic changes. They found that the development stimulated education in the region, possession of prestigious

assets and occupational shift from farm to non-farm along with a shift in technology. It also lead to more employment opportunities and changes in family attitude, values and communication behaviour of farmers.

Rogers (1982) recognised that the knowledge function as one of our functions in the innovation-decision process. He also identified knowledge about farm practices as a factor affecting adoption behaviour of farmers. An individual is said to possess knowledge about an innovation when he is exposed to the innovation existence and gains some understanding of how it functions. A number of studies have indicated that knowledge of an innovation is a pre-requisite for adoption of the practices.

B. Training given in the Improved methods of Agricultural Operations:

Regarding role of 'Farmers' education particularly in the context of Agricultural development Malassis(1976) remarks that "As far as agricultural development is concerned it is essential to establish a system leading from creation to dissemination "Creation-dissemination system", on which the development of these sectors will be based.

Mathur (1970) explained that goal in food grains and pulse production was 129 million tonnes annually by the fiscal year (1973-74) and current annual output was estimated as 100 million tonnes. That is why Government of India was giving higher priority to farmers training programme as key elements to achieving its new goal in food production. He further explained that large number of farmers, big and small had to be given training in the use of new methods.

Singh and Kolte (1979) attempted an evaluation of the efforts made in India in the field of functional literacy and farmers training programme. Since the immediate goal of these programmes was agricultural development, adoption of agricultural innovations served as the yard sick of effectiveness. It was concluded that if the objective of agricultural development has to be achieved then both functional literacy and farmers training programmes should be well co-ordinated.

Raju(1977) aimed out the finding out the influence of education on farm efficiency and also the impact of education on the use of modern agricultural practices, Such as fertilizers HYV seeds, tractor, human labour input and cropping pattern, Farm efficiency was measured in terms of farm income per unit of land, human labour, fertilizer,

tractor, input and family labour. Both illiterate and educated farmers (who had some formal education) possessing different sizes of land holdings were the respondents. It was found that formal education had some influence on the use of fertilizers, human labour, tractor, power but not on the use of HYV seeds and commercial crops. Farm efficiency in terms of productivity of each unit studied was higher among educated farmers than illiterate farmers. However it was concluded that higher productivity would be achieved if the farmers has some education to understand the management of inputs which results in farm efficiency.

To quote Malassis(1976) "the acceptance and application of the methods and inputs of scientific agriculture involve a change in the behaviour and orientation of the traditional agriculturist. This change consists in the practice of style of farming, his culture and more than likely the combination of production inputs he uses. Several past studies have brought out the relation between farmers education and their adoption of innovations.

According to Chaudhary and Prasad (1981) courses of three distinct categories of farmers have been arranged separately.

1. In the first instance, there were courses of a week's duration in which arable farming dealing with main crops was discussed with the cultivators. The duration was

kept as one week because such farmers could hardly afford to keep themselves away from their farms for a period longer than this. So the duration of training course had always got to be short to suit their convenience with increasing education and effecient methods of communication, this duration is likely to be reduced to 2-3 days.

2. The Second type of courses held of specialised training in such subjects as vegetable and fruit preservation and fruit growing, dairy, poultry keeping, handling of farm machinery and bee keeping and sericulture. The duration of such a course ranged from a week to two weeks. These courses were intended to attract trainees with a specialised interest in the particular subject.

3. The third category of courses have been arranged for the young farmers who have been given more comprehensive information imparted practical training in performing various improved agricultural operations.

C. Role of Women in Agriculture:

Rao (1962) claims that farming in India is not only an occupation and a business but it is also a family enterprise in which the home maker needs to adjust to all aspects. Agriculture is the oldest and most of all

Primary industries because it satisfies our most vital need, namely, food. In this industry wife is an equal partner of the farmer taking full share in the cultivation of the field.

Jain (1985) states that women play a significant role in farming and in farm management. The farm women is often the key person on whom depends success or failure of the farm.

Devadas (1969) has stressed that women determine the goals and values of their families. Since a farmer is exposed to and influenced greately by his mother in his childhood and wife later, proper education of the farm women to the guidance and help in agricultural operation is important in the home and on the farm.

Devadas (1972) reported that farm women were almost always consulted in making decisions with regard to various farm operations, like getting new seeds, selecting crops, getting fertilizers and pesticides, appointing labourers, etc.

Gopal (1975) viewed that some working ladies used to do agricultural work at the farms of their husbands from morning till evening. They used to attend to many add jobs for example taking meals to their husbands in the farms, drying of grains, grainding etc.

Krishna (1975) revealed that some of the important agricultural operations like weeding, sowing, transplanting, harvesting, threshing storing etc, are performed more or less exclusively by the women. In the hilly areas, women play a more active part in the agricultural operations than the men folk.

Chany (1981) argued that women are playing important role in corp production, storage, processing and off farm activities but their access to land, agricultural extension and non agricultural employment co ntinues to be limited.

Agarwal (1983) revealed that in rice systems women supply on an average 70-80 per cent of labour for transplanting, 70-85 per cent for weeding, over 60 per cent for harvesting. They do all the husking and have important roles in seed selection and storage.

Sadhu and Dhesi (1977) reported that women were mainly consulted for selling the produce, the area to be sown under various crops, the change in the cropping pattern, the hiring of farm services and the purchasing of seeds. They were rarely consulted in the supervision of the servants and the least consultation was made while purchasing tractor and other machinery.

Hiranand (1979) opines that areas in which women influenced the decision making process were: setting of marriages, purchase and sale of animals and the education of girls.

Pandey (1986) argues that rural women had supporative role in most of the agricultural decisions.

Grover and Kapoor (1988) say that several studies have indicated that women's participation is more in the cultivation of rice, cotton, sorghum and berseem, while men take more active part in raising pigeonpea, chickpea, cluster bean and sugarcane.

Women are more efficient than men by 16 per cent in transplanting rice, by 8 per cent in weeding rice and wheat fields, by 24 per cent in harvesting pearl millet and by 37 per cent in picking cotton. They are 300 per cent as efficient as men in using some potato digging equipment. Their efficiency in harvesting and processing of tea, coffee and plantation and horticultural corps has never been in doubt.

In the rice farming, women provide the major share of labour involved in transplanting (75 per cent), weeding (78 per cent) and harvesting (60 per cent). They virtually perform all jobs connected with winnowing, husking, cleaning and storage.

Sithalakshmi(1980) says that "A Survey conducted to asses the aptitude of 196 farm women showed that 98 per cent are interested in learning more about improved seeds, Fertilizer use and plant protection measures, 83 per cent were interested in a scientific water use, 75 per cent in improved methods of storage and 70 percent in improved implements. However, a surprisingly low five per cent were interested in the use of exotic breeds in animal upgradation. Should farm women be shying away from the thought of artificial insemination of cattle, adequate training from women extension workers appears to be necessary.

In Jordan, women say that neither they nor men can by themselves make adequate decisions about how much land to plant wheat.

In several countries, including India research is being done on women's participation in Agriculture.

A study was undertaken by M.P Singh and Nuraj Sharma in 1988 to find out the differential proportion of women managed farmholds in hills and the western plains at Uttar Pradesh.

Illiteracy was found to be rampant among the farm women of both hills and the plains. The level of women's participation was statistically higher than that of men in all the six major activities studied namely paddy, wheat, fruit, and vegetable cultivation, livestock, rearing, fuel, fodder cultivation. The participation of hill women in agriculture was more.

Of the total 1,953 farm holds of the 14 villages surveyed in the hills, 1,143 (58.53 per cent) were managed by men, 224 (16.59 per cent) by women and the rest 486 (24.88 per cent) were jointly managed. In the plains, unlike in the hills, 92.6 per cent farm holds were managed by men and only 27.6 per cent were managed by women. The average size of the holdings in the hills turned out to be 0.96 hectares. In the plains the size of the average holding was found to be 2.17 hectares. One of the important factors, besides the size of holdings, which decides the extent and level of farm business is the net annual income of the farmers.

The average annual income in the hills was found to be Rs.3,233. The average annual income of the women farmers in the plains on the other hand, was Rs. 8,267/- It is a form of work that is highly suitable for technological innovation to raise rural women's income and improve their welfare

This example indicates the need to be fully aware that rural women are not an undifferentiated category when it comes to the negative, or positive, effects of technological change.

In one survey in Kenya, it was found that women spend an average of 4-5 hours a day on the farm during low labour demand times and 6-9 hours a day in peak seasons, especially during the first and second weedings (Pala, 1976).

Carr (1976) reveal that women spend 9-10 hours a day in the fields during the busiest agricultural seasons. When all other tasks are added to this, it is not surprising to find that rural women work as many as 15 hours a day at the busiest times of the year.

Shasipuri (1974) studied the role of 100 farm women in 24 villages of Najafgarh Block, Delhi with respect to expected and actual performance of selected tasks and decisions. The study showed that all the following materials related tasks were predominately wife-centred and were mostly performed and decisions taken by them: bringing fodder from the field, chaff cutting, preparing feed for the cattle, giving water and feeding the cattle, cleaning the cattle shed, making cowdung cakes, preparing bitora, compost making, milking and making curd, butter and ghee.

According to Swaminathan (1985) "some historians say that it was women who first domesticated crop plants and thereby initiated the art and science of farming. While men went out hunting in search of food, women started gathering seedlings from the native flora and began cultivating those of interest from the point of view of food, feed, fodder, fibre and fuel. Women have played and continue to play a key role in the conservation of basic life support systems such as land, water, flora, and fauna.

In this study, the concept of decision making involved, defining the problem, finding, comparing and choosing a course of action. It was assumed that the participation of rural women in decision-making pattern of home and farm management might have co-related to their role behaviour in home and farm management.

Chakravarthy (1975) conducted a study in some villages of Haryana to see the role performance of women in the farm families. The study revealed that an active farm women spent 8 to 9 hours on the farm during the peak agricultural season. The study was conducted during the wheat harvesting period-3 to 4 hours on taking care of the cattle and 3 to 4 hours on house hold chores.

As the National Institute of Rural Development and F.A.O workshop on the intergration of women in Agriculture and Rural Development (1980) observed "There is an urgent need to expand knowledge and statistical data on all aspects of the rural poor particularly with regard to women's role in rural activities and to disseminate this information in order to promote greater awareness of women's role in Society".

Nagre (1976) states that participation of women in decision making was the highest (81 per cent) in storage and sale of produce. Women participated jointly with their husbands in decision making about cropping pattern in 15 per cent of the cases. Women's involvement was meagre 2.5 per cent in decision making on choice of seeds, use of chemical fertilisers, adoption of plant protection measures (Use of insecticides and pesticides)

According to Sunita (1970):

a) All members of farm families took part in decision making in the agricultural practices relating to production and storage, sale of produce and sale and purchase of livestock.

b) Male family heads played the dominant role in decision making of all farm tasks. Sons played the second important role in decision making for all farm tasks except vegetable growing for which housewife played the second important role.

c) Women in nuclear families had relatively greater say than their joint family counterparts regarding agricultural practices relating to production area to be sown, selection of seeds and growing of vegetables. On the other hand women in joint families had relatively greater say regarding use of chemical fertilizer and adoption of plant protection measures.

d) Types of family, education and family composition influenced the event of acceptance of women's role in decision making relating to farm task.

e) The reason for ignoring women in decision-making relating to agricultural production practices and marketing of farm produce were 'men know better' and 'the job is mans' reason for the acceptance of women's participation in decision making relating to purchase and sale of animals and storage of farm produce was 'sharing of responsibility'.

Varma (1984) says:

a) Decisions were taken by male family head alone on vaccination of animals 55 per cent, feeding of minerals and vitamins 48 per cent and castration 46 per cent.

b) Joint decisions by husband and wife were taken in respect of artificial insemination 57 per cent, feeding of balanced ration 53 per cent, exercise of animals 50 per cent, disinfection of sheds 42 per cent, deworming of animals 40 per cent.

c) Decisions by the Tribal women alone was highest in respect of disinfection of sheds 34 per cent, isolation of sick animals 32 per cent, exercise of animals 20 per cent and deworming 18 per cent.

Kalkarani (1983) found out that a majority of farm women respondents (71 per cent) were involved in independant decision-making on any of the agricultural operations.

Ghosh, (1987) opines:

a) In practices relating to livestock, male heads of families took decisions jointly with their wives, In decisions relating to borrowing money also women played some role. However, in case of different operations directly related to crop production (area of different crops, cropping pattern, hiring extra farm help, planting time for crops, application of fertilizers and harvesting time) male farm heads took decisions independently. For trying new crop variety or plant protection measure (application of weedicide or pesticide) also women were not involved in decision making. A small percentage of women were consulted for grain storage and / or taking farm loans.

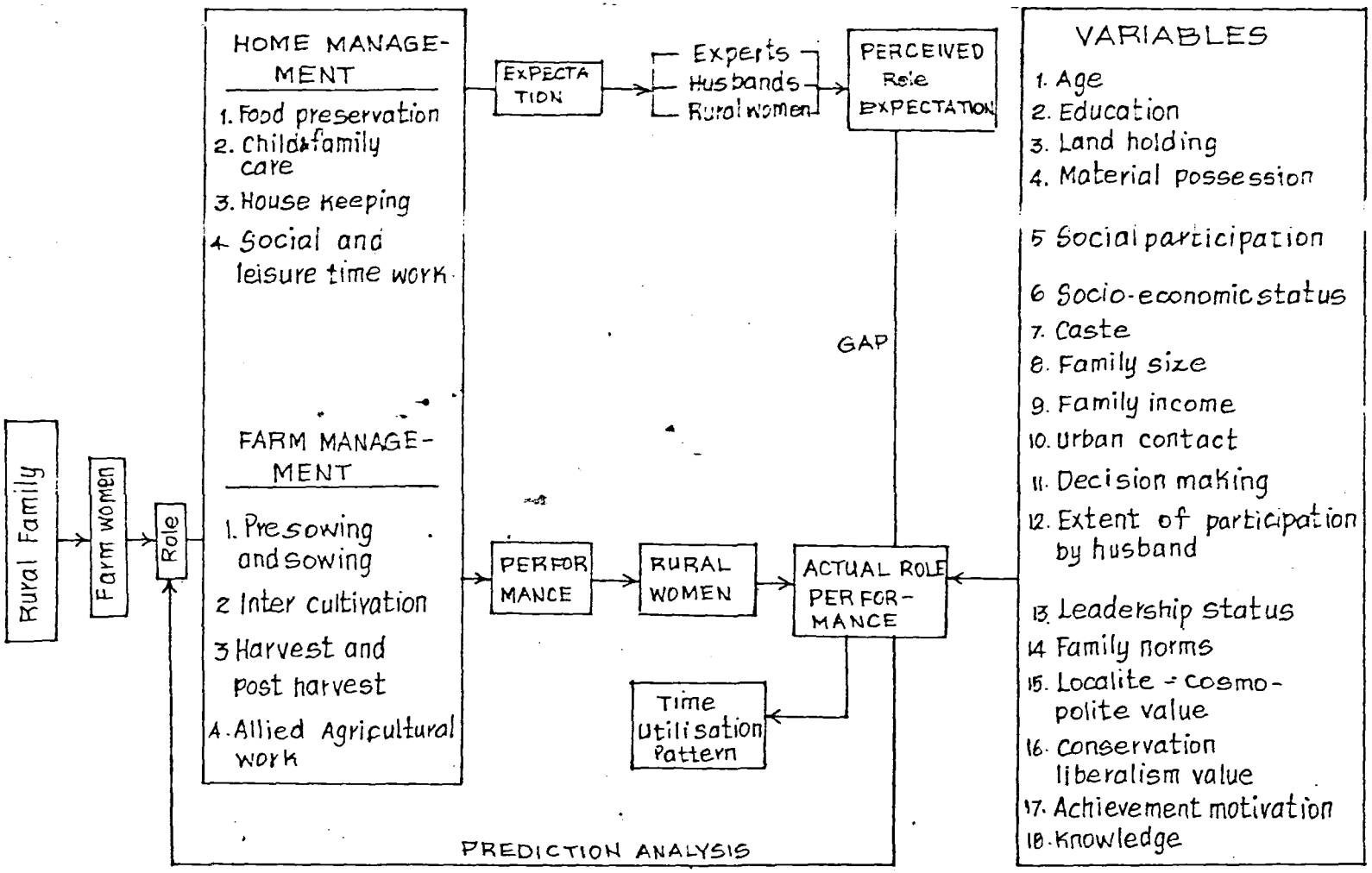
Satnam Kaur (1983) quotes that

Regarding decision making pattern relating to farm matters male dominated mostly, none of the decisions

related to farm except storage of farm produce, was made by farm women on their own. In the final decision women's involvement was the highest in the purchase and sale of animals (19.9 per cent) followed by storage of farm produce (14.8 per cent). None of the respondents (Women) was involving in final decision-making regarding variety of crop to be sown and farm credit. Matters wholly decided by males (even without consulting females) were; use of plant protection measures and application of fertilizers.

Education increased the role of farm women in decision making on home as well as farm aspects. For increasing the say of farm women in decision-making, there is a need to increase women's access to knowledge regarding new varieties of crops fertilizers, agro-chemicals, credit and marketing.

CONCEPTUAL MODEL



CONCEPTUAL MODEL FOR ROLE ANALYSIS OF RURAL FARM WOMEN

Figure. 1

Conceptional model for Role Analysis of Rural Farm Women:

From the conceptional model for role analysis of Rural farm women it is clear that four roles expected to be performed by rural women with respect to farm management activities were identified based on review, research and consultation with experts. These major role items were given to the experts, rural women and their husbands in order to know their expectations regarding their relative importance of these items as perceived by them. It was also hypothesised that there will be difference between perceived role expectations and actual role performance of rural women. Incidentially, the study also conceptualised to examine the time utilisation patterns of different economic group and of rural women with the performance of identified for role items. This study also aims to unearth the influence of a set of independent variables with the role performance which will facilitate the role prediction of a farm women belonging to rural families.

D. Training given in Agriculture Exclusively for Farm Women:

Brachhan (1978) pointed out that in developing countries there are hardly any projects to train women in modern techniques of production or to inform them about market and credit facilities inspite of the fact that women play an important role in economic activities.

In Tamil Nadu the women farmers work shoulder to shoulder with the men folk. About 25 women farmers obtained a day training course under the functional literacy class in scientific farming. The main subjects taught to them were budgetting, how to obtain yield through better seeds, manures and also plant protection method. They were also taken to TNAU in Coimbatore and were shown agricultural exhibits, millet and paddy breeding institutes; Sugarcane and cotton research stations and some agro based industries.

The Farmers Training Centre of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in co-ordination with the Modakuruchi Panchayat Union has so far organised two women training camps and more than 300 women have been trained. During the last ten years a total of about 7,000 women have been trained in scientific farming.

Methodology

III METHODOLOGY

The methodology for the study "Extent of utilisation of training on improved farm practices by rural women" consisted of the following steps:

A. Selection of the Area

B. Selection of the Sample

C. Selection of the Method

D. Evolving Questionaire and Interview Schedule

E. Conduct of the Study

and F. Analysis and Interpretation of Data

A. Selection of the Area:

Five villages in Karamadai block namely Muttukulur, Kuranur, Thakampatti, Kittampalayam, Kondaipalayam and one from Athippalayam village in Sarkar Samakulam block were selected for the study.

The Criteria for selection of the villages were:

1. Co-operation and interest ensured by the people
2. Easy accessability and the transport facilities to the villages.

B. Selection of the Sample:

105 Farm women who had undergone training were selected randomly from 6 villages namely, Kuranur, Muttukular, Thakamaptti, Kittampalayam, Kondaipalayam, and Athippalayam and 3 training associates from K V K and 5 training Associates from T N A U were selected as samples.

C. Selection of the Method:

Interview schedule is the name given to a list of questions to which responses are obtained from the respondent by the investigator in a face to face contact. It is the name usually applied to a set of questions which are asked by the interviewer to the interviewee (Bindh, 1984).

Questionaire method affords great facilities in collecting data from large, diverse and widely-scattered groups of people. It is used in gathering objective, quantitive data as well as for securing information of a qualititative nature (Wikinson and Bhandarkar, 1982).

The interview shedule for eliciting information from farm women and questionnaire to collect information from training centres were the methods adopted for the present study.

D. Evolving Questionnaire and Interview Schedule:

Ar. interview schedule to elicit information from the farm women about the utlisation of knowledge gained by attending the training in the modern farm practices was evolved and given to a jury panel for scrutiny. Incorporating their suggestions the interview schedule was finilised.

To obtain the information relating to the types of training and the personnel to whom the trainings were given and get the contents of the training given to the farm women in improved farm practices and the names and addresses of the farm women to whom the trainings were given, from the training centres, a questionnaire was evolved.

E. Conduct of the Study:

With the help of the finalised interview schedule, the investigator personally contacted and interviewed 105 farm women who had undergone the training to collect information with regard to the utilisation of knowledge gained in training in their farms.

The questionnaire evolved for the purpose was administered to the 8 trainers of the 2 training centres.

F. Analysis and Interpretation of Data:

The data collected are consolidated, tabulated, analysed and presented in the following chapter.

Results and Discussion

IV RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the study which was planned and implemented to elicit information about "The extent of utilisation of training on improved farm practices by rural Women", are presented and discussed under the following headings:

A. (i) Background Information about the Farm Women

(ii) Agricultural Operations of Farm Women

and B. Training given by different Training Institutions.

A. (i) Background Information about the Farm Women:

A sample of 105 farm women who had undergone training in Agricultural operations conducted by the training centres were taken for the study and interviewed by the investigator with the help of a specially evolved interview Schedule.

The age range of the women beneficiaries is given in Table.I.

TABLE I

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE BENEFICIARIES

S.No.	Age group	Total	Percentage
1.	15 - 25	29	27.6
2.	26 - 35	28	26.6
3.	36 - 50	31	29.5
5.	51 and above	17	16.1

Of the 105 Farm Women taken for the study, 31 belonged to the age range of 36 - 50 years, 29 in the age range 15 - 25, 28 to 26 - 35 and 17 were above 51 years.

TABLE II

EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF THE BENEFICIARIES

S.No.	Educational Status	Total	Percentage
1.	Studying	56	53.3
2.	Illiterate	33	31.4
3.	Up to V standard	12	11.4
4.	Up to XII standard	3	2.8
5.	Degree	1	0.9

The above table shows that 53.3 per cent were studying, 31.4 per cent were illiterates, 11.4 studied upto 5th Standard and one Degree holder.

TABLE III

CASTE DISTRIBUTION

S. No.	Caste	Total	percentage
1.	Gowder	59	56.2
2.	Naidu	28	26.6
3.	Vokalier	18	17.1

The table reveals that 56.2 per cent belonged to gowder community, Naidu 26.6 per cent and 17.1 per cent vokalier.

The occupation of the husbands of the 105 women beneficiaries taken for the study are given in the following Table IV.

TABLE IV

OCCUPATION OF THE HUSBANDS

S.No.	Occupation	Total
1.	Agriculture	45
2.	Mill labour	5
3.	Pettishop	4
4.	Teacher	4
5.	Officer	4
6.	Manager	1
7.	Others	12

Of the 105 Farm Women taken for the study 75 were married women and the occupation of their husbands are given in the above table. 45 in agriculture, 5 mill labourer, 4 each pettishop, teacher, officer, and Other types of jobs.

TABLE V

CHILDREN IN THE FAMILY

S.No.	Number of Children	Total
1.	1 - 3	60
2.	4 - 5	14
3.	7	1

60 of the beneficiaries had 1 to 3 children in the families, 14 had 4 to 5 children and one had 7 children.

ii) Agricultural Operations of Farm Women:

TABLE VI

POSSESSION OF LAND

S.No.	Land in Acres	Total	Percentage
1.	Dry land		
	1 - 5	50	47.6
	5 - 10	6	5.7
	10 and above	4	3.8
2.	Wet land		
	1 - 5	58	55.2
	5 - 10	9	8.5
	10 and above	14	13.3

The table reveals that 47.6 per cent had 1-5 acres, 5.7 had 5-10 acres and 3.8 had more than 10 acres of Dry land whereas 55.2 per cent had 1-5 acres of Wet land, 8.5 had 5-10 acres and 13.3 had more than 10 acres of wet land.

Out of 105, only 83 view "Vayalum Vazhvum" , in the T.V., and 6 listen to the farm broadcost (Puthumurai Vivasayam) All of them had stated that they had learned new agricultural farm practices by viewing the T.V. and listening the radio programmes and 96.6 per cent were putting them in their farm operations. The various items cultivated by the farm women in their farm are given in Table VI.

TABLE VII

CROPPING PATTERN

S.No.	Various items cultivated	Total	percentage
1.	Green gram dhal	39	37.1
2.	Paddy	39	37.1
3.	Cotton	38	36.1
4.	Horse gram dhal	24	22.8
5.	Bengal gram dhal	23	21.9
6.	Sugar cane	20	19.0
7.	Currie leaves	13	12.3
8.	Avarai	9	8.5
9.	Banana	6	5.7
10.	Koriandar leaves	5	4.7
11.	Tabacoo	5	4.7
12.	Channa	3	2.8
13.	Oil Seeds	3	2.8
14.	Ragi	2	1.9
15.	Brinjal	2	1.9
16.	Others	82	78.0

The table clearly shows the different items cultivated in their lands 37.1 per cent cultivate green gram dhal, 36.1 per cent cotton and 22.8 Horse gram dhal 78 per cent cultivate various items like Watermelon, Jasmine etc.

TABLE VIII

ROLE OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE CULTIVATION

S.No.	Role	Total	Percentage
1.	Cattle management	92	87.6
2.	Farm management	87	82.8
3.	Goat rearing	7	6.6

The table clearly shows the different types of workscarried out by the women in agriculture. 87.6 per cent of the farm women involve themselves in cattle management and 82.8 per cent in Farm management.

TABLE IX

TYPE OF WORK THE FARM WOMEN DO

S.No.	Types of work	Total	Percentage
1.	Seed sowing	87	82.8
2.	Harvesting	68	64.7
3.	Storage of food grains	56	53.3
4.	Cotton picking	35	33.3
5.	Winnowing	34	32.3
6.	Marketing	29	27.6
7.	Water management	17	16.1
8.	Paddy cultivation	13	12.3
9.	Green gram dhal harvesting and picking	7	6.6
10.	Spraying pesticides	7	6.6
11.	Ragi harvesting and seed sowing	2	1.9
12.	Others	81	77.1

From the table it could be seen that women were engaged in different farm operations, 82.8 per cent in seed sowing, 64.7 per cent in Harvesting, 77.1 per cent in others like irrigation, weed removing. Only 1.9 per cent were involved in Ragi cutting as Ragi cultivation is not followed much in this area.

1. WOMEN IN FARM OPERATION WEED REMOVAL

Figure-A_1

2. APPLYING FERTILIZERS

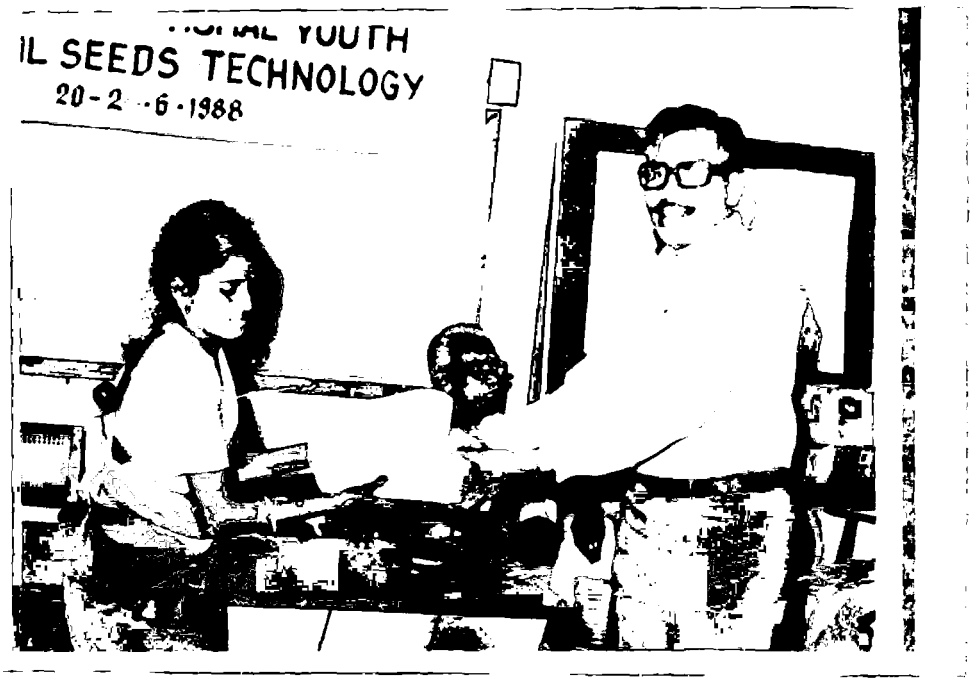
Figure-A_2

3. WOMEN IN FARM OPERATION CLEANING THE GRAINS

Figure-A_3

4. TRAINING CLASSES HELD

Figure-A_4



5. TRAINING GIVEN IN SEED TECHNOLOGY

Figure - A_5

All the beneficiaries were in need of training in improved farm practice. The areas in which beneficiaries needed training in the improved farm practices are given in the table X.

TABLE X

AREAS IN WHICH TRAINING IS NEEDED

S.No.	Area	Total	percentage
1.	Cotton	40	47.6
2.	Banana	30	35.7
3.	Tabacco	14	16.6

47.6 per cent of the beneficiaries required more training in cotton, 35.7per cent in Banana and 16.6 per cent in tabacco cultivation.

All the 105 women beneficiaries had attended the training programme like banana, cotton, coconut, tabacco, etc.

94.2 per cent of the beneficiaries had attended the training programme voluntarily whereas 5.7 per cent had attended the training because of the pressure given by KVK and TNAU personnel.

The training programme in improved farm practices for women were organised by Sri Avinashilingam Krishi Vigyan Kendra and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

All the beneficiaries were motivated by the Assistant Agricultural Officers incharge of training programme and Training Associates of the KVK.

The trainings were conducted at the KVK campus Vivekanandapuram and TNAU conducted training in the village itself. The trainees were taken to the villages on field visit. Demonstrations were conducted in the village fields.

Two types of training were conducted viz, 7 and 15 days and 78 per cent of beneficiaries had attended 7 days training and 22 per cent had attended 15 days training.

50.4 per cent had stated that the training was more theoretical whereas 49.6 per cent had stated that the training emphasised more of practical.

The training centres had given training in improved Agricultural practices for various cultivations. The improved agricultural practices in different items of cultivation to the farm women and to the extent that they had learnt from them are given in Table XI.

TABLE XI

IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES LEARNT

S.No.	Improved Agricultural practices	Total	percentage
1.	Paddy		
	a. Awareness of high yielding variety seeds	21	20
	b. Modern cultivation methods	18	17.1
	c. The manures to be used	17	16.1
2.	Banana plant:		
	a. Root decaying	9	8.5
	b. Disease control in the banana plant	8	7.6
3.	Cotton:		
	a. Dipping the seeds in water containing bevesteen	56	53.3
	b. Rodent control in cotton fields	24	22.8
	c. Usage of manures	2	1.9
	d. Light drum	2	1.9
4.	Tabacco:		
	a. Year head buck attack	2	1.9
	b. Control of insects attacking roots	2	1.9

5.	Coconut:		
	a. Digging tips and applying manures for coconut planting	20	19.0
	b. Control of coconut wasp	19	18.6
6.	Green Gram Dhal:		
	a. Drip irrigation	26	24.7
	b. Using manures	26	24.7
	c. Soil suitability	24	22.8
7.	Preservation of seeds:		
	a. Protection of seeds from insecticides	3	2.8
	b. Packing seeds	3	2.8
8.	Ground plant:		
	a. The improved techniques in groundnut cultivation	2	1.9
	b. Various types of manures used	2	1.9
	c. Soil suitability	2	1.9
9.	Poultry farming:		
	a. Disease that attack the chicks	3	2.8
	b. Poultry feeding	2	1.9
	c. Control of diseases	1	0.9
10.	Sericulture:		
	a. Feeding for larva	8	7.6

The above table clearly shows the extent the farm women had learnt about the improved agricultural practices for which the training centres had given various trainings to the farm women. 20 per cent of the farm women taken for the study became aware of the HYV of paddy seeds, 24.7 knew about drip irrigation and new manures on green gram dhal and 22.8 understood about soil suitability for green gramdhal only after undergoing the training. 22.8 per cent of Farm Women knew about rodent control in cottonfields. 53.3 removal of insecticides by dipping the water containing bevesteen.

No financial assistance was offered, during the training. After the training was over the trainees were supplied with some items as incentives. The items supplied after the training is presented in table XII.

TABLE XII

ITEMS SUPPLIED AFTER THE TRAINING

S.No.	Items	Total	Percentage
1.	Urea (12 kg)	57	54.2
2.	High Yidlding variety seeds coconut nursery	33	31.4
3.	200ml matacetax and Demakaran	13	12.3
4.	Spade	2	1.9

From the above table it could be seen that 54.2 per cent of the farm women who had undergone training in improved practices in agriculture were suppllied with urea and 31.4 per cent were supplied with HYV seeds like Green Gram dhal, soyabeans, Oilseeds, and coconut nursery.

All the farm women taken for the study actively participated in the discussions during the training and cleared the doubts.

TABLE XIII

KNOWLEDGE GAINED IN IMPROVED FARM PRACTICES

S.No.	Knowledge gained	Total	percentage
1.	Agricultural operation for more production	102	97.1
2.	Use of fertilizers	55	52.3
3.	Using Hybrid seeds	37	35.2

The farm women who had undergone the training in improved farm practice had gained more knowledge in different areas. They are 97.1 per cent on the new techniques of agricultural operation which will provide more yield, 52.3 per cent on use of fertilizers and 35.2 on using Hybrid Variety seeds.

All the farm women had stated that they were able to utilise the training in improved farm practices in their agricultural operations.

The women beneficiaries had stated that the training centres carryout follow-up activities.

Many of the farm women had put into practice the different aspects of improved farming learnt from the training in their farms. They are presented in table XIV.

TABLE XIV

PUTTING INTO PRACTICE THE IMPROVED FARM TECHNIQUES

S.No.	Farm techniques	Total	Percentage
1.	Dipping the seeds in water containing bevesteen	56	53.3
2.	Drip irrigation during water scarce period	26	24.7
3.	Using new paddy variety of seeds	20	19.0
4.	Rodent control in cotton fields	20	19.0
5.	Digging tips and applying manures for coconut planting	18	17.1

More women were involved in sowing the cotton seeds in their fields and 53.3 per cent of the farm women dip the cotton seeds in water containing bevesteen for plant protection, 24.7 per cent used drip irrigation, 19 per cent used new variety of paddy seeds and 19 per cent rodent control in cotton field.

92.3 per cent of farm women contacted the training centre for more information when they were practically doing agricultural operations, 7.6 per cent said that they carried on the practice by themselves.

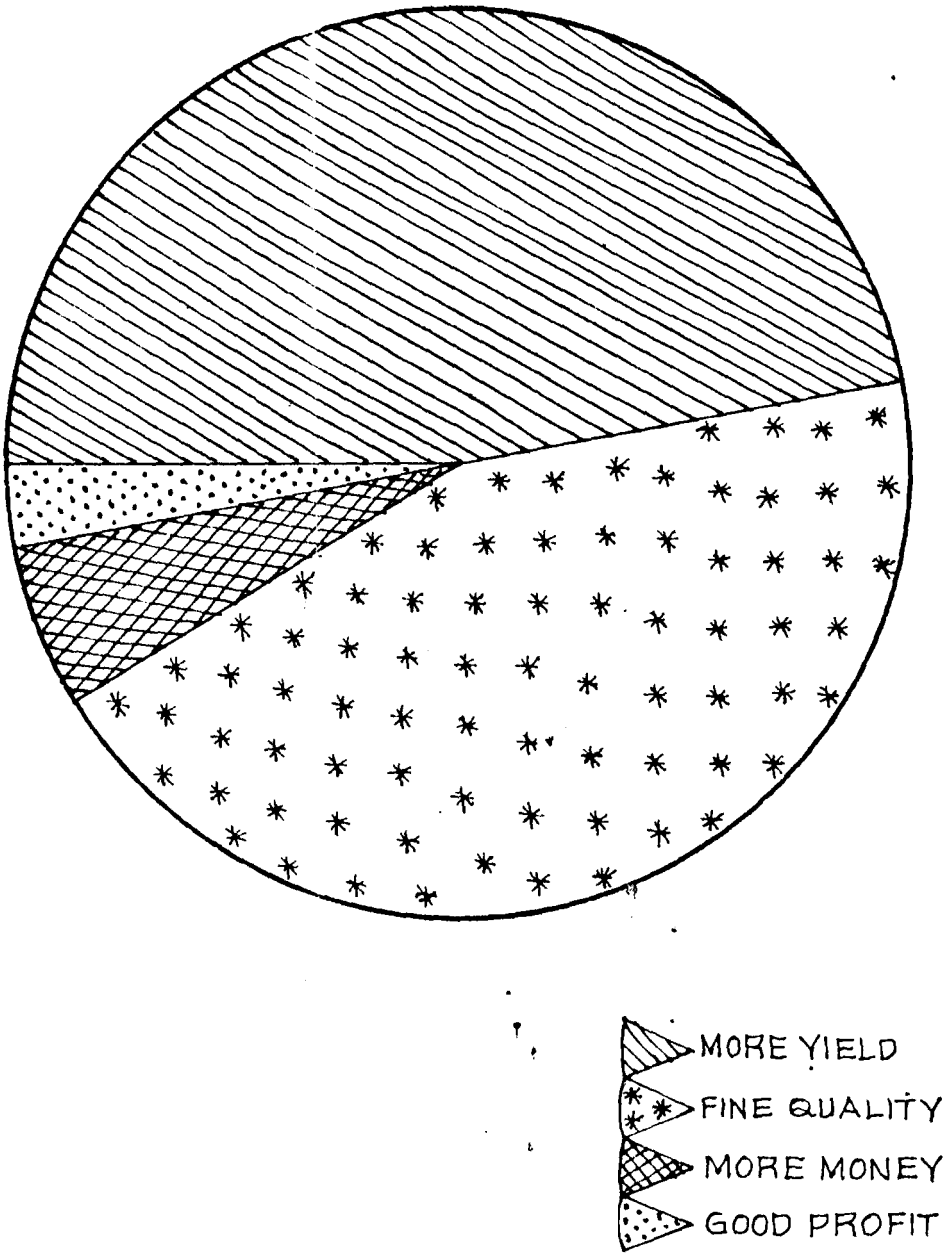
The farm women who had undergone training and had put new technologies of agricultural operations into practices in their farms had benefited because of the training. The benefits they had acquired are persented in Table.XV.

TABLE XV

BENEFITS ACQUIRED BY THE FARM WOMEN

S.No.	Benefits Acquired by the farm women	Total	percentage
1.	More yield	102	97.1
2.	Fine quality	98	93.3
3.	More Money	15	14.2
4.	Good profit	10	9.5

97.1 per cent had said that they got more yield, 93.3 per cent felt that they got fine quality of grains, 14.2 got more money because of more yield and 9.5 got more profit which is presented in pie diagram.



BENEFITS ACQUIRED BY THE FARM WOMEN

Figure. 2

Of the 105 farm women who had attended the different types of training in the improved farm practices, 102 had put into practice what they had learnt in the training and they got benefit out of that. Only 3 had not put into practice the improved farm practices and the reasons given by them for not putting them into practice were that "It involved more expenditure".

The farm women had faced problems while putting the newly learned technologies and the problems were 8.5 per cent had stated that "It involves more money", and 2.8 per cent had stated that "It is difficult to get more farm labourers".

The farm women had taken loans from the banks to overcome financial difficulties but they were unable to get more farm labourers.

Out of 105 farm women, 68.5 per cent had said that they do not have farmers club in their village, whereas 31.4 per cent had said that they were having farmers club in their village. The farmers club mormally meets once in fifteen days. All the women who had said that farmers club is in existence attend the meetings regularly.

The suggestions given by the farm women for making the training on improved farm practices more practical and useful are presented in the Table. XVI.

TABLE XVI

SUGGESTIONS OF FARM WOMEN

S.No.	Suggestions	Total	percentage
1.	Storage of food grains	75	71.4
2.	Rodent control	62	59.0
3.	Preservation of vegetables	54	51.4
4.	Marketing and Co-operatives	48	45.7

From the table it could be seen that 71.4 per cent had stated that storage of food grains and 59 per cent Rodent Control could be included in the training, 51.4 preservation of vegetables could be included in the training 45.7 per cent had said that marketing and co-operatives may also be included in the training. All of them had said that more practicals with demonstrations and less of theoretical information may be followed as the methodology of the training while organising training programmes for farm persons.

B. Training given by Different Training Institutions:

Two training centres, namely, Sri Avinashilingam Krishivigyan Kendra and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University which were conducting training programme for farm women were taken for the present study.

Sri Avinashilingam Krishi Vigyan Kendra sponsored by the ICAR was established in 1979 and TNAU sponsored by the State Government started giving training from 1981. The particulars about the training centres and the various trainings organised by them were gathered by administering a specially evolved questionnaire to 8 training personnel (3 from KVK and 5 from TNAU) of the centres. The response are given in the following.

TABLE XVII

PERSONS TO WHOM TRAINING WAS GIVEN

S.No.	Personnel	Number Responding
1.	Farm men and women	5
2.	Rural men and women on sanitation and nutrition	4
3.	Youth club members	2
4.	Personnel of Agricultural Departments	2
5.	Panchayat Presidents, Village level workers	2
6.	Radio personnel	1
7.	Adult Education (Animators)	1
8.	Social forestry personnel	1

The two training centres organise training to different categories of people which is presented in the above table. Out of 8,5 respondents had said that training was given to farm men and women, 4 had said to rural men and women on sanitation and nutrition. Trainings were arranged for youth club members, personnel of Agriculture Departments and Panchayat members, village level workers, personnel incharge of Radio Programmes and animators of adult education centres.

Avinashilingam Krishi Vigyan Kendra provided separate training for farm women whereas TNAU provided combained training for men and women.

TABLE XVIII

TYPES OF TRAINING GIVEN

S.No.	Various Training	Number Responding
1.	Bio-gas plant	3
2.	Agriculture processing	3
3.	Dairy	3
4.	Paddy parboiling	2
5.	Control of pest and disease	2
6.	Cultivation of crops	2
7.	Poultry	2
8.	Sericulture	2
9.	Farm machinery and leadership training	2
10.	Demonstration on farm practice	1
11.	Agriculture implements	1
12.	Preservation of fruits and vegetables	1
13.	Labour and energy saving devices	1
14.	Use of naveen sickle	1

The different types of training given by the training centres to the farm women in the modern farm operations are given in the above table. They had provided training in agricultural processing, Bio-gas plant, Dairy, Paddy Parboiling, pest and disease control, cultivation of crops and others.

The Sri Avinashilingam Krishi vigyan Kendra conducted 1-7 days on-campus training at Vivekanandapuram whereas TNAU conducted training from 1-10 days off-campus training at the villages itself.

TABLE XIX

PUBLISISING THE TRAINING FOR WOMEN

S.No.	Publicity	Number Responding
1.	Through All India Radio	6
2.	Through youth clubs and Mahila Mandals	3
3.	Through post card (or) circular letters	1
4.	Through local leaders	1

The information as to, how do the training centres publisise about the organisation of the training to the farm women is given in the above table. 6 out of 6 had said that they publise through All India Radio and 3 through youth clubs and Mahila mandals.

TABLE XX

MOTIVATION METHODS

S.No.	Methods	Number Responding
1.	Incentives	5
2.	Through meetings and Demonstrations	4
3.	Conversation	1
4.	Explaining the nature of the training	1

The farm women were motivated to undergo the training by giving incentives in the form of cash and kind, through general meetings and demonstrations, and through group meetings and personal contacts.

TABLE XXI

ENROLMENT OF WOMEN FOR TRAINING

S.No.	Enroll the women for training	Number Responding
1.	Through farm conversation	3
2.	Education	3
3.	Through letters	2
4.	Farm Size	2
5.	Age limit (16-60) years	1

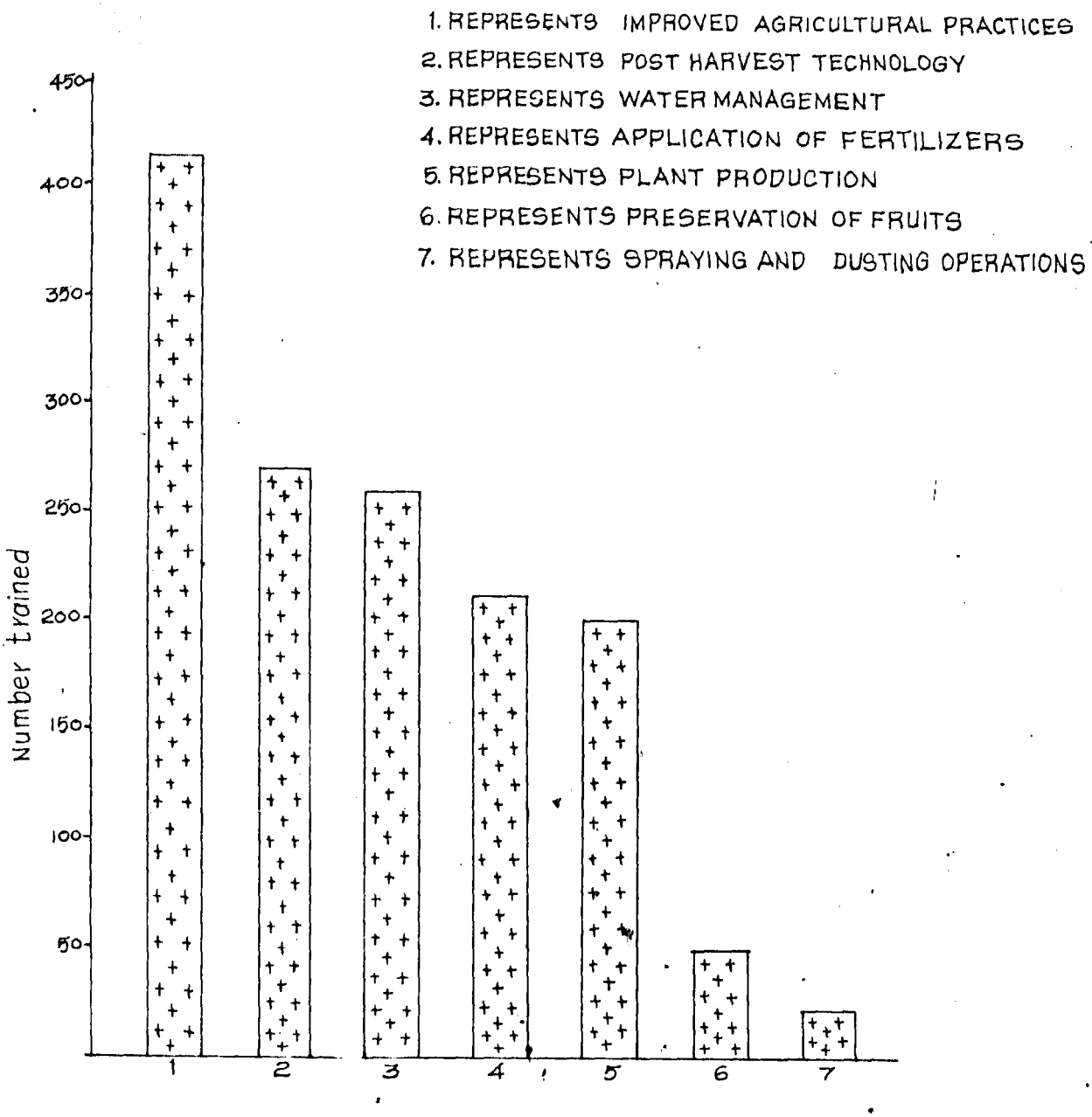
The interested farm women who were between the age range 16-60 years possessing some cultivable land and having some education were enrolled for the training. They were also enrolled through conversation in the farms and through letters.

TABLE XXII

DETAILS OF THE TRAINING GIVEN FOR WOMEN

S.No.	Area of Agricultural farm practice	Number of women participated
1.	Improved agricultural practices	419
2.	Post harvest technology	274
3.	Water management	260
4.	Application of fertilizers	210
5.	Plant protection	200
6.	Preservation of fruits	50
7.	Spraying and dusting operations	20

In the locality of the investigation 80 per cent of the people are engaged in agriculture Cultivation of crops example (Agriculture, Horticulture, Oilseeds). Most of the farm women are doing their operation connected with crop production. They mostly do not attend to hard physical activities like ploughing, digging operation etc.



DETAILS OF THE TRAINING GIVEN FOR WOMEN

Figure.3

Hence training was given to the farm women based on the type of farm work they do. 419 farm women were given training in improved agricultural practices, 274 farm women were given post harvest technology, 260 water management and 210 application of fertilizers. This is represented in bardiagram.

All the women had taken keen interest to know the new farm practices.

TABLE XXIII

PRACTICAL AND DIRECT EXPERIENCES PROVIDED

S.No.	Practical/Direct Experience	Number of Responding
1.	Participation in Demonstrations	2
2.	Success stories	2
3.	Identification of pests and disease	2
4.	Field visit	2
5.	Showing the agriculture implements	1
6.	Preparation of jam, Jelly, pickels etc	1
7.	Seed treatment	1
8.	Distribution of seeds, fertilizers and distributed free of cost	1
9.	Supplimentary food preparation	1
10.	Food preparation and preservation	1
11.	Practical in the use of all labour and energy savings.	1

The training, in addition to theoretical information [illegible] in the classrooms included demonstrations, practicals and narration of success stories, as given by the training personnel.

All the 8 training personnel taken for the study had stated that active participation during discussions in the training was much encouraged.

Periodic evaluation of the training as to the progress of the trainees learning was carried out at every stage.

The training centres carried out the follow-up activities in various ways. The training personnel visited the farms of the farm women who had attended the training periodically and held discussions with them as to how they were putting the new practices in their fields. Doubts were cleared then and there on the spot by the Training Personnel and extension staff.

The trainees were motivated to put into practices what they had learned in the training.

a. By supply of suitable inputs in the form of tools and improved implements.
b. Through frequent house visits.
c. Paying cash incentive
d. By explaining the benefits to them inaconvincing way.

e. By giving spot guidance

f. By solving the problems if any on the spots

The training personnel had stated that the trainee's had utilised the training by.

a. Popularising the equipment through lending to others.

b. Helping the neighbours in repairing and maintenance.

c. Improved seeds are requlary preserved for savings- use of fertilizer Bio-fertilizers and bacterial are widely adopted.

d. By raising crop production.

e. Cultivation of various crops like paddy, millets cotton, sugarcane etc adopting the new practice.

The farm women approach the training centre and clear their doubts on various areas. They get clarifications with regard to:

a. Mushroom cultivation for the details

b. Seed rate, population of plants, acre application of herbicide.

c. Cultivation of various crops, poultry feed, pests and disease.

d. While applying mixture (or) complex fertilizers whenever they had doubt, to know about the quality they had to apply they came and took advice from the training centre.

TABLE XXIV

REASONS FOR NOT PUTTING IN TO PRACTICE

S.No.	Reasons	Number of Responding
1.	Good seeds not available	1
2.	Shortage of water	1
3.	Lack of finances	1

The reasons, as given by the training personnel taken for the study for not putting into practice the improved farm practices by the farm women are given in the above table. The table reveals that non availability of good seeds, shortage of water and lack of finance of the part of farmers.

The solutions suggested to overcome the above difficulties were to approach the government godowns for getting good seeds, using improved implements, availing loans from banks and cultivation of those corps which required less water.

The training centres had recommended some cases for getting financial loans from the commercial banks. The different items for which loans had been recommended were sericulture, poultry, dairy and piggery.

The suggestion for making the training for farm women more useful as given by the training personnel are presented in the following Table XXV.

TABLE XXV

SUGGESTIONS FOR MAKING THE TRAINING MORE USEFUL

S.No.	Suggestions	Number of Responding
1.	Attractive and useful inputs to be supplied	2
2.	More incentive to be provided	1
3.	Intensive follow-up should be done	1
4.	Refresher courses would be more useful	1
5.	No suggestions	3

The table reveals that 2 out of 8 had said that attractive and useful inputs to be supplied, one had said more incentive to be provided, refresher courses to be organised and Intensive follow-up stressed.

Summary and Conclusion

V SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The study on "The extent of utilisation of training on improved farm practices by rural women", was carried out in five villages in Karamadai block, namely Muttukalur, Kuranur, Thakkampatti, Kittampalayam and one from Athippalayam village in SarkarSamakulam block.

The findings of the study are presented in the following pages:

A. Responses from Farm Women:

1. Among 105 farm women, from 6 villages taken for the study 31 were in the age group of 36-50 years, 29 in the age range 15-25 and 28 were in the 26-35 age range. There were 53.3 per cent studying and 31.4 per cent were illiterates.
2. A large majority of them (56.2 per cent) belonged to Gowder community.
3. Among 105 family surveyed, the occupation of 45 husbands was agriculture.
4. Among the surveyed families, 60 of the beneficiaries had 1-3 children in their families.
5. 47.6 per cent had 1-5 acres of dryland,, and 55.2 per cent had 1-5 acres of wet land.

6. Out of 105, only 83 viewed "Vayalum Vazhvum" in the T.V., A large majority (78 per cent) of them cultivated various items like watermilon, Jasmin etc. While 1.9 per cent cultivated Ragi and Brinjal.

7. Among 105, 92 of the farm women were engaged in cattle management.

8. A large majority (82.7 per cent) of them were participating in seed sowing operations.

9. 47.6 per cent of the beneficiaries required more training in cotton, 35.7 per cent in banana and 16.6 per cent in tabacco cultivation.

10. 94.2 per cent of the beneficiaries had attended the training programme voluntarily where as 5.7 per cent had attended the training because of the pressure given by KVK and TNAU personnel.

11. The training programme in-improved farm practices of women were organised by Sri Avinashilingam Krishi Vigyan Kendra and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

12. All the beneficiaries were motivated by the Assistant Agricultural officers incharge of training programme and Training Associates of the KVK.

13. The trainings were conducted at the KVK campus Vivekanandapuram and TNAU conducted training in the villages itself. The trainees were taken to the villages on field visit. Demonstrations were conducted in the village fields.

14. Two types of training were conducted, viz , 7 and 15 days and 78 per cent of beneficiaries had attended 7 days training and 22 per cent had attended 15 days training.

15. 20 per cent of the farm women taken for the study became aware of the HYV of paddy seeds, 24.7 knew about drip irrigation and new manures on green gramdhal and 22.8 understood about soil suitability for Green Gramdhal only after undergoing the training.

16. 53.3 per cent of the farm women dip the cotton seeds in water containing bevesteen, A majority (24.7 per cent) Knew about drip irrigation and new manures on green gramdhal and 22.8 per cent understood about soil suitability for green gramdhal only after undergoing the training.

17. No financial assistance was offered during the training. After the training was over, the trainees were supplied with some items as inventives. A majority of them got uriea as incentives.

18. A large majority (97.1 per cent) had gained knowledge in improved farm practices in new technique of agricultural operation for more production.

19. A majority (53.3 per cent) of the farm women had put into practice in their fields "Dipping the seeds in water containing Bevesteen".

20. A large majority (92.3 per cent) of farm women contacted the training centre for more information when they were practically doing agricultural operations.

21. A large majority (97.1 per cent) had benefited in the field of more yield, while 9.5 per cent got more profit.

22. The farm women had faced some problems while putting the newly learned technologies and the problems were, 8.5 per cent had stated that "It involves more money" and 2.8 per cent had stated that "It is difficult to get more farm labourers".

23. Out of 105 farm women, 68.5 per cent had said that they do not have farmers club in their villages, whereas 31.4 per cent had said that they were having farmers club in their village. The farmers club normally meets once in fifteen days. All the women who had said that farmers club is in existence attended the meetings regularly.

24. A large majority (71.4 per cent) of the women suggested that training could be given in the storage of food grains.

B. Responses from the Training Centres:

Sri Avinashilingam Krishivigyan Kendra and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University were the institutions giving training to the farm women of the locality in the improved, farm practices. The questionnaire was administered to 5 training associates of TNAU and 3 training Associates of KVK and the Summary of the responses are given below:

1. The training centres provided training to the various persons such as farm men and women, rural men and women, youth club members, personnel of agricultural departments, panchayat president, village level workers, radio programmes officers and animators.
2. The different types of training given by the training centres to the farm women in the modern farm operations were agricultural processing, biogas plant, dairy, paddy parboiling, pest and disease control and cultivation of crops.
3. The training centres publicised the organisation of training programmes through, All India Radio, Youth clubs, and mahalir mandrams.

4. The farm women were motivated to undergo the training by giving incentives in the form of cash and kind.

5. Eighty per cent of the people were engaged in Agriculture cultivation and most of the farm women were doing the farm operation connected with crop production.

6. All the training personnel taken for the study had stated that active participation during discussions in the training was much encouraged.

7. Periodic evaluation of the training as to the progress of the trainees learning was carried out at every stage.

8. Doubts were cleared then and there on the spot by the training personnel and extension staff.

9. Due to non-availability of good seeds, shortage of water and lack of finance on the part of farmers, 3 out of 8 had not put the training knowledge in to practice.

The suggestions emerging from the study for the improvement of training for farm women are as follows:

1. Wider publicity about the training for farm women is needed.
2. More incentives can be provided during the training.

3. periodic refresher courses can be organised.

4. Intensive follow-up can be stressed.

5. More attention should be paid to involve farm women in closer-to-the home enterprises which will save trips to the fields since more women adopt than men.

6. More of women trainers are to be appointed since rural women interact more easily and come out with their ideas when the trainers are women.

7. Researcher should take a closer look at the jobs women perform on the farm and develop simple techniques that reduce drugery and improve efficiency.

8. Any bias in devising implements should be estimated, and extension workers should impart to women the functional skills required for working with implements.

9. Vocational training should be given for women, only after an adequate survey is made of the demand- and - supply situation.

Conclusion:

If these major constraints are removed in our transfer-of-technology plans, women can be made active partners in our agricultural developments.

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Appendix

APPENDIX I

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE TO ELICIT INFROMATION FROM THE FARM WOMEN:

Name of the Interviewee:

Age:

Caste: Marital status:

Husband's occupation:

1. How many children you have?
2. How much of land you possess?

   i) Dry land ii) Wet land
3. Do you listen to radio farm programmes?

   1) Vayalum Vazhvum

   2) Puthumurai Vivasayam
4. Have you learned any new agricultural farem practices by this radio programmes?
5. Have you tried to put the farm practice?
6. What do you cultivate in your land?
7. What is the role of women in agricultural cultivation?
8. What type of work as a woman you do in the farm?

9. Were you inneed of any training in improved farm practices?

Yes No

If yes, in which area? why?

10. Have you undergone any training in improved farm practices ?

11. Did you attend the training programme voluntarily or on compulsonß?

If on compulson by whom?

12. Who had organised the training?

13. Who motivated you for undergoing the training?

14. Where was the training conducted? what w as the dura tion?

15. What is the content of the training theertically/ practical field work?

16. What are the improved training practices you have learnt from the training?

17. Were you given any financial assistance/ incentives during and after training?

18. Did you participate actively in the discussions during the training?

19. Did you clear all doubts in the training?

20. What did you understand from the training on improved farm practices?

Give area wise:-

21. Do you feel that you may be able to utilise this learning of improved farm practices in your agricultural operations?

Yes No

22. Does the training centre carryout follow up work for the effective utilisation of the training?

23. How have you put into practice the different aspects of improved framing in your land while cultivating?

Give area wise:-

24. Do you contact the training centre for more information when you put into practice what you have learnt while undergoing training?

Yes No

25. If you had not utilised the different improved farming practices that you have learned give the reasons area wise?

26. How did you benefit bec ause of the utilisation of the improved farm practices?

27. Have you faced any problems while putting into practice what you had learnt in the training?

28. Have you taken efforts to solve them?
If yes, how to solve the problems?

29. Do you have farmers club or farmers forum in your village?
How aften do they meet?

30. Do you attend and participate in those meetings?

31. Give suggestions for making the training in improved farming practices for women more useful and utilisable?

APPENDIX II

QUESTIONNAIRE TO ELICIT INFORMATION FROM THE TRAINING CENTRE:

Name of the Interviewee:

Name of the Training Centre:

Sponsoring Body of the Training centre:

1. When was the training centre established?

2. To whom does the training centre give training?

3. Do you have peparate training for farm men and women?

4. Do the training centre give training in the farm women?

5. What are the different types of training given to the farm women in the improved farm practices?

6. What is the duration of the training?

7. How do you publiase the training for women?

8. How do you motivate the women to undergo training ?

9. How do you enroll the women for training?

10. Where do you conduct the training and what is the duration?

11. Kindly give the details of the training for women in the improved farm practices.

S.No.	Area of Agricultural farm practice	Duration	The date of training organised	content	Number of women participated.

12. Do the women take keen interest to know the practices?

13. What are the practical/direct experience you provide to the trainees as part of training programme?

Give area-wise.

14. Do you provide opportunities for active participation during discussion in the training?

15. Do you conduct evaluations of the training periodically and at the end of the training?

16. How do you follow-up the training programme?

17. How do you motivate the trainees to put in to practice what they have learnt in the training?

18. How have the trainees utilised the training programme in their farm practices?

Give area wise:

19. Do they approach you to clear their doubts while implementing the improved farm practices that they have learnt in the training?

If yes, please give details:-

20. If they have not put into practices improved farm practices, please give reasons and solutions that you have suggested?

21. Have you recommended some cases for getting financial loans from the banks?

Yes No

If yes, what far?

22. Suggest the ways by which the training for women could be more utilisable?.