

ROLE OF WOMEN IN CROP PRODUCTION IN DISTRICT PAKPATTAN, PAKISTAN

SAIF-UR-REHMAN SAIF ABBASI¹ & QAMAR ABBAS JAFRI²

¹Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan

²Department of Sociology, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan

ABSTRACT

Agriculture is the most important sector in the economy of Pakistan. It is the main source of income in rural areas. Rural women both in farm and non-farm families are involved in various agricultural activities either to help as family labour or to earn money to supplement their family income. A study was conducted in district Pakpattan of the Punjab province of Islamic Republic of Pakistan to explore the extent of participation of rural women in crop production. A sample of 250 respondents was taken through simple random sampling technique. Married women who were engaged in crop production and management were the respondents of the study. The findings indicated that women had played a vital role in the crop production of district Pakpattan, Pakistan. They take part in preparing the arable land for sowing, managing and harvesting of food and cash crops. They also participate in weeding, and cutting of fodder for domestic animals. Despite having extensive engagement in crop production, women had no say in the sale of farm produce and only few of them received a small share from the farm income. Similarly, these rural women had minimal right to own farm land or house. The study suggested that rural women who are engaged in crop production and management should be imparted knowledge and skills to enable them to use modern farm technology. The local skills of farm management should be utilized through farm mechanization to enhance farm production and productivity. Hence skill training will be quite helpful for better land management practices and in enhancing both crop production and productivity.

KEYWORDS: Rural, Women, Agriculture, Farm Production, Crops, Weeding, Threshing