



ISSN (E): 2277-7695

ISSN (P): 2349-8242

NAAS Rating: 5.23

TPI 2023; SP-12(12): 1142-1144

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Received: 29-09-2023

Accepted: 07-11-2023

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## Socio-personal profile of farm women involved in post harvest activities of tomato in Kolar district of Karnataka

**Jayalaxmi B Pawar, Surekha Sankangoudar and Venugopal CK**

### Abstract

Women play a crucial role in managing homes and significantly contribute to agricultural production in rural parts of developing countries. Women handle more than 60% of the cutting, cleaning, grading, packing, manufacturing of bundles, etc. of vegetables. Women have a significant role in moving harvests from the field to the storage facility. Though agriculture is the main occupation taken up by farm women but value addition activities still needs more efforts to taken up as their income of a family, which needs skills and knowledge. Therefore the study was carried out to reveal the socio-personal characteristics of farm women involved in post harvest activities of tomato in Kolar district. The results pertaining to the age showed that majority of the tomato growers (91.67%) belonged to the middle age followed by old age and 70.00 percent of the respondents belonged to nuclear family; the respondents belonged to small families and medium families. More than half of the respondents (53.00%) were having less than five acre land holding. The results indicated that half of the respondents belonged to medium income level. About one third respondents had low social media participation, 40.00 percent had low organisational participation and 47.67 percent of the respondents had low extension contact. Usually training programmes organised top to bottom approach, so it should be made participatory and decentralised. The study revealed that respondent's occupation was agriculture with medium participation in post harvest activities and least participation in value addition.

**Keywords:** Farm women involved, post harvest activities, tomato

### Introduction

Women play a crucial role in the development of their family, community and society in whole. In a country like India where agriculture is considered as conventional, it is believed that rural women get engaged in household works and farm activities. The contribution remains unrecognised as it is not quantitative in terms of economy and also dominated by their male counterpart. But in reality women constitute about forty eight percent of the total population in India guides their family and convince the people to accept change for the development of society.

In Karnataka, among 31 districts, Kolar, Chikkaballapura and Belagavi are the three tomato growing districts. Kolar ranks first in terms of both area and production of tomato. Tomatoes are one of the most widely used and versatile vegetable crop ranking second in importance to potatoes in many countries. Tomatoes are important both for its large consumption and richness in health related food components. Tomato (*Solanum lycopersicon*) is an herbaceous plant of *Solanaceae* family which is one of the most popular protective foods because of its lycopene content, outstanding nutritive value, antioxidant properties and a powerhouse of medicinal properties.

Many of the improved varieties grown are developed and they are Pusa-120, Pusa Ruby, Pusa shital, Pusa Early Dwarf, Pusa Gaurav, Arka Ahuti, Arka Saurabh, Arka Vikas, Arka Meghali, HS102, HS110, Hisar Lalit, Hiar Arun, Hisar Anmol, Hisar Lalima, Co-1, Co-02, Co-3, S-12, PKM 1, Pant Bahar, Punjab Chhuhara, Pant T3 and Solan Gola, Pusa Hybrid 3, Arka Vishal, Arka Shresta, Vaishali, Arka Abhijit, Arka VardanRashmi, MTH4, Naveen, Rupali, COTH 1 Hybrid Tomato, Avinash 2, Sonali, Sadabahar and Gulmohar. At present several improved varieties of tomato are introduced, which perform well under varied agro-climatic conditions. Therefore tomatoes with these special features have tremendous popularity.

The production of tomato, an important horticultural crop of India has increased enormously during past few decades which emphasize more on processing and preservation of tomatoes thereby ensuring better availability and utilization during off season. Therefore the study was

conducted in Kolar district of Karnataka state to study the socio-personal characteristics of farm women involved in post harvest activities of tomato.

### Methodology

Respondents were purposively selected based on the criteria women should be involved in farming particularly tomato crop. A list was prepared separately for each village with the assistance of local opinion leaders and facilitators. 15 Farm women were randomly selected from 4 selected villages of each taluks and thus, contributing a sample of 300 farm women for the study.

## Results and Discussion

### 1. Socio-personal characteristics of the respondents

#### 1.1 Age

Highest percentage (91.67%) of the respondents were in middle age group between 36 to 50 years of age followed by only five percent and 3.33 percent belonged to old (51 and above) and young (18-35) age groups respectively. Middle age farm women will have more experience and they work more efficiently than older and younger age groups. Further, respondents of 36 to 50 years of age have more family responsibilities than the younger ones. Hence the tomato growers, farm women found in middle aged.

#### 1.2 Education

Nearly half of the respondents (42.67%) had high school education more than one fourth (28.67%) had higher secondary education where as 15.00 percent had middle school education followed by 5.67 percent primary school education, five percent of them were graduated and only three percent of the respondents were illiterate. Social environment is the major cause for the girls' education. As the rural people are traditional in nature, they don't send their girl children to colleges or the distance of higher study centres from the village also might have prevented the girls to get higher education.

#### 1.3 Family type

Majority of the respondents (70.00%) belonged to nuclear family followed by 27.00 percent of them belonged to joint family and only three percent were having extended family. This may be due to family separation and migration of husbands towards cities, this may be one of the reasons to get separate and form a nuclear family.

#### 1.4 Family size

With respect to family size 41.67 percent of the respondents found under small family followed by 39.33 percent grouped under medium family and 19.00 percent found in large family.

#### 1.5 Occupation

Majority of the respondents (88.00%) were involved in farming only 12.00 percent involved in farming along with subsidiary occupation and none of them were engaged in agriculture with service. The possible reason that those who had other occupations apart from agriculture might have less access to farm activities since: they may not find sufficient time to devote for post harvest activities with the labour intensive activity.

#### 1.6 Land holding

In case of land holding 35.67 percent and 32.67 percent of the

respondents were small and medium level of land holdings respectively, while 17.67 percent of the respondents were having marginal land holding. Only 14.00 percent of the respondents were big farmers with land holdings more than 10 acres. Fragmentation of ancestral land from generation to generation and increase in number of nuclear families is one of the major reasons to have small landholdings.

### 1.7 Annual income

Almost half of the respondents (49.33%) of the respondents were under medium income group followed by 26.00 percent belonged to low income category. About 15.00 percent of the respondents were found under high income group. The possible reason could be that the low and medium annual income families could not own post harvest equipments and other machineries required for value addition.

**Table 1:** Socio-personal characteristics of the respondents

| N=300                          |  |           |         |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------|---------|
| S.No                           | Independent variables  | Frequency | Percent |
| 1.                             | Age  |           |         |
|                                | Young age (18- 35 years)                                     | 10        | 3.33    |
|                                | Middle age (36 - 50 years)                                   | 275       | 91.67   |
|                                | Old age (51 & above)   | 15        | 5.00    |
| 2.                             | Education  |           |         |
|                                | Illiterate   | 09        | 3.00    |
|                                | Primary education (1 <sup>st</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> std)   | 17        | 5.67    |
|                                | Middle school (5 <sup>th</sup> to 7 <sup>th</sup> std)       | 45        | 15.00   |
|                                | High school (8 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> std )       | 128       | 42.67   |
|                                | Higher secondary (11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> std) | 86        | 28.66   |
|                                | Graduation (above 13 <sup>th</sup> std)                      | 15        | 5.00    |
| 3.                             | Family type  |           |         |
|                                | Nuclear family   | 210       | 70.00   |
|                                | Joint family   | 81        | 27.00   |
|                                | Extended family  | 09        | 3.00    |
| 4.                             | Family size  |           |         |
|                                | Small family (Below 4)                                       | 125       | 41.67   |
|                                | Medium family (4 -6)   | 118       | 39.33   |
|                                | Large family (7and above)                                    | 57        | 19.00   |
| 5.                             | Occupation   |           |         |
|                                | Primary agriculture  | 264       | 88.00   |
|                                | Agriculture with Subsidiary                                  | 36        | 12.00   |
|                                | Agriculture with service                                     | 00        | 00.00   |
| 6.                             | Landholding  |           |         |
|                                | Marginal farmers (Up to 2.5 acres)                           | 53        | 17.67   |
|                                | Small farmers (2.51 to 5.0 acres)                            | 107       | 35.66   |
|                                | Medium farmers (5.01 to 10.00 acres)                         | 98        | 32.67   |
|                                | Big farmers (>10.00 acres)                                   | 42        | 14.00   |
| 7.                             | Annual income  |           |         |
|                                | Low (< Rs.47,368,344)  | 78        | 26.00   |
|                                | Medium (Rs. 47,369 to 1,32,727)                              | 148       | 49.33   |
|                                | High (> Rs 1,32,727)   | 44        | 14.67   |
| Mean = 77931.03, SD = 11759.71 |  |           |         |

## 2. Media and organisational participation of the respondents

### 1. Social media participation

The data from table 2 revealed that 35.33 percent, 32.67 percent and 32.00 percent of the respondents had low, high and medium level of social media participation respectively. The respondents had almost equal percentage of respondents categorised under low level, medium level and high level of social media participation. Mobile phone was the most usual and effective medium which was possessed by almost all the farm women. Social networking provides interaction among members in a social system; exchange views. They used the

social media like Whatsapp and facebook exclusively for communication and entertainment purpose.

## 2. Organisational participation

Forty percent of the respondents had low organisational exposure followed by 33.33 percent and 26.67 percent had medium and high level organisational participation respectively. Organisational participation provides experience, and helpful during the crisis situations. Almost all the farm women were members of self help groups, and one fourth number of them were members of co-operative society as it was working at grass root. They had weekly SHG meetings to save money and to avail credit facility. In general the organisational participation level of the respondents was low due to lack of motivation, intimate family restrictions and lack of time.

**Table 2:** Media and organisational participation of the respondents

| N=300                  |                              |           |         |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| S.No                   | Independent variables        | Frequency | Percent |
| 1.                     | Social media participation   |           |         |
|                        | Low (<5.92)                  | 106       | 35.33   |
|                        | Medium (5.93 to 8.70)        | 96        | 32.00   |
|                        | High (>8.71)                 | 98        | 32.67   |
| Mean= 7.31, SD = 1.39  |                              |           |         |
| 2.                     | Organisational participation |           |         |
|                        | Low (<10.38)                 | 120       | 40.00   |
|                        | Medium (10.39 to 13.72)      | 100       | 33.33   |
|                        | High (>13.73)                | 80        | 26.67   |
| Mean = 12.06, SD= 1.67 |                              |           |         |

## 3. Extension and research details of the respondents

### 1. Extension contact

It is observed from the table 3 that nearly half of the respondents (47.67%) were found under low extension contact followed by 29.67 percent and 22.67 percent in medium and high level of extension contact respectively. Nearly half portion of the respondents had low extension contact because they have low contact with agricultural officers, horticultural officers and other extension personnel, who were working at grass root level. The reason might be that in many societies and culture, women folk are dominated by men and are conditioned to receive the information from their friends and neighbours. This may be the reason for low contact with extension personnel in agriculture development programmes and other extension activities.

### 2. Research extension linkage

It was observed that 39.00 percent and 36.00 percent of the respondents had low and medium level of research extension linkage respectively. One fourth of them had high level of linkage. About three fourth of the respondents belonged to low and medium level of research extension linkage. Under ATMA programme, to strengthen the extension system, research, extension farmer linkages were established. ATMA is implemented in all districts of Karnataka.

### 3. Training programmes attended

In case of training programmes attended, 40.00 percent of the respondents had low level training exposure followed by 34.67 percent and 25.33 percent of them had medium and high level of training exposure respectively. Majority of the respondents had low to medium level training exposure. This may be due to lack of information on trainings conducted by different organisation and insufficient time to attend the

training programmes organised by state agricultural universities and state agricultural departments.

**Table 3:** Extension and research details of the respondents

| N=300                   |                              |           |         |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| S.No                    | Independent variables        | Frequency | Percent |
| 1.                      | Extension contact            |           |         |
|                         | Low (< 2.171)                | 143       | 47.67   |
|                         | Medium (2.172 to 3.542 )     | 89        | 29.66   |
|                         | High (> 3.543)               | 68        | 22.67   |
| Mean = 2.171, SD = 1.37 |                              |           |         |
| 2.                      | Research extension linkage   |           |         |
|                         | Low (< 5.021)                | 117       | 39.00   |
|                         | Medium ( 5.022 to 7.571 )    | 108       | 36.00   |
|                         | High (> 7.571)               | 75        | 25.00   |
| Mean = 6.126, SD=1.010  |                              |           |         |
| 3.                      | Training programmes attended |           |         |
|                         | Low (<1.193)                 | 120       | 40.00   |
|                         | Medium (1.194 to 1.589)      | 104       | 34.67   |
|                         | High (>1.59)                 | 76        | 25.33   |
| Mean=1.193, SD= 0.395   |                              |           |         |

## Conclusion

India is the fourth largest producer of tomatoes accounting for 6.6 percent of the world production and second largest in acreage. However due to lack of proper processing, storage and transportation facilities, enormous quantities of tomatoes are lost during the peak harvesting season in India. Being a perishable crop, tomatoes cannot be stored for a longer time hence proper processing and storage in some preserved form during seasons of glut will ensure its availability and utilization. Hence processing of tomatoes in different forms which are preferred by the consumers, involves low cost of production helps the tomato producers to maintain socio-economic status to have sustainable livelihood.

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