Full Length Research Article

STATUS OF RURAL WOMEN ENGAGED IN FLORICULTURE ACTIVITIES

[1]*Biswajit Pal, [1]Satabdi Roy, [2]Arunasis Goswami, [3]Debasis Mazumder

[1]Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, West Bengal State University, Barasat, Kolkata-700126
[2]Department of Veterinary & Animal Husbandry Extension Education, West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences, 68, K.B. Sarani, Kolkata-37
[3]Department of Agricultural Statistics, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Mohanpur, Nadia, West Bengal

ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in the purposively selected block Gaighata of the purposively selected district of North 24 Parganas in West Bengal, India to know the status of rural women engaged in floriculture activities. The data was collected from the randomly selected 100 respondents of the block with the help of a pre-tested structured interview schedule. Collected data were compiled and analysed statistically. It was found that the majority of the respondents did not take any govt. help and they were not having any idea about new technology related to floriculture. They used to apply chemical fertilizer for better production. It was found that knowledge of flower cultivation was significantly related with farming experience, category, land, house and age. Knowledge about activities related to garlanding was significantly related with occupation and urban contact.

INTRODUCTION

Floriculture is one of the branches of agriculture. In Floriculture, Flowers and ornamental products are produced commercially and their markets exist throughout the country in which flower and other products are sold. Floriculture has by far, a greater annual growth potential of 25 to 30 % which is 25 to30 times more than that of cereals or any other agricultural produces. The floricultural activity generates many employments in rural area. The rural women are engaged in floriculture and garlanding works (Bharane, 2007). This work gives self empowerment among the rural women and their earnings contribute in their family income. This will be help full insight in Socio-Economic status of the rural people. The rural people upgrade their Socio-Economic status and their lifestyle through their activities. In view of that an attempt was made to know the present status of rural women engaged in floriculture activities.

*Corresponding author: Biswajit Pal
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, West Bengal State University, Barasat, Kolkata-700126

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was carried out purposively in North 24-Parganas district of West Bengal, India. One Block Gaighata Block was selected in the district purposively according to the engagement of floriculture activities.100 respondents were selected randomly from that Block. The data was collected with the help of pre-tested structured interview schedule. There were 20 independent variables and 2 dependent variables were used in the study. The data were computed and analyzed by using different statistical methods like frequency distribution, percentage analysis and co-relation co-efficient. The scoring method was followed following Socio-Economic Status Scale-Rural and developing schedule was needed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 has shown that greater numbers of respondents belong to age group of 41-60 years, (54%) and only 4% respondents belong to age group up to 20 years. Maximum respondents are land less (47%) where as 39% are marginal land holders and 14% are small land holders. Most of the respondents are engaged in only cultivation (53%) followed by all activities

Table 1. Distribution of different Personal and Socio-Economic Variables

Variables	Category	Frequency	Percentage
	Up to 20 years	4	4
Age	21-40 years	42	42
	41-60 years	54	54
	Landless	47	47
Category	Marginal	39	39
	Small	14	14
	Only cultivation	53	53
Occupation	Only making of products	15	15
	All activities except cultivation	32	32
	General	29	29
Caste	Schedule Caste	70	70
	Other backward caste	1	1
	Illiterate	9	9
	Can read only	35	35
Education of the respondent	Can read &write	40	40
	primary	14	14
	Middle school	2	2
	Unmarred	11	11
	Married	78	78
Marital status	Widow	8	8
	Divorced	3	3
Family type	Nuclear family	40	40
	join family	60	60
Family size	Up to 5 members	40	40
	More than 5 members	60	60
	No land	47	47
Land	up to one hectare	39	49
	Up to two hectare	14	14
	No house	3	3
House	Hut	12	12
	kacha house	69	69
	Mixed house	16	16
	Score1	33	33
	Score2	24	24
Material possession	Score3	40	40
	Score4	3	3

Table 2. Distribution of respondents based on knowledge of different flower cultivation activities

Items	Response	Frequency	Percentage
Engaged in flower cultivation	No	47	47
	Yes	53	53
Taken any training about floriculture	No	98	98
	Yes	2	2
Taken any help by Govt.	No	98	98
	Yes	2	2
Idea about new technology	No	93	93
	Yes	7	7
Idea about diseases of flower plants	No	2	2
	Yes	98	98
Use of organic fertilizer in floriculture	No	17	17
	Yes	83	83
Store of rain water for irrigation	No	96	96
	Yes	4	4
Use of irrigation water in cultivation	No	2	2
	Yes	98	98
Use of chemical fertilizer	No	4	4
	Yes	96	96
Taken any loan from Govt.	No	85	85
	Yes	15	15
Cultivate flower in own land	No	2	2
	Yes	98	98
Cultivation of flower in total land	No	47	47
	Yes	53	53
Use of the biological control of pest	Do not use	89	89
	use	11	11
Nitrogen fertilizer helpful to increase the flower production	No	4	4
	Yes	96	96
Flower production depend upon season	No	4	4
	Yes	96	96
Engaged in other cultivation	No	43	43
	Yes	57	57
Flower cultivation year	Upto 8years	17	17
	Above 8 years	83	83

except cultivation (32%) and only making of products (15%). Maximum respondents belong to schedule caste (70%) followed by general (29%), and other backward caste (1%). Most of the respondents can read and write only (40%) followed by the respondents who can read only (35%) and primary educated (14%), illiterate (9%) and belonging to middle school (2%).Maximum respondent are married (78%) followed by unmarried (11%), widow (8%) and divorced (3%). All respondents are Hindu. Maximum of the respondents belong to joint family 60% followed by nuclear family (40%). Most of the respondents have no land (47%) followed by having land up to one hectare (39%) and having land up to two hectares (14%). Maximum respondent (69%) have kacha house followed by mixed house (16%), hut (12%) and no house (3%). Maximum respondents (40%) have cycle T.V, electricity independently followed by only cycle (33%), cycle and radio (24%), cycle, T.V., radio and electricity (3%) as their material possession. Table 2 has shown that 53 percent of respondents were engaged in flower cultivation and among them all most everybody (98 %) were not having any training about flower cultivation. All most nobody (98%) took training about from Govt. 93 percent of the respondents did not have any idea about new technology through about 98 percent were having idea about diseases of flower plants. 83 percent of them used organic fertilizer in floriculture. Pathania (1988) found that studied about the FYM, organic fertilizer use in flower production and found the flower production. 96 percent used

to store rain water for irrigation and most of them (98%) used irrigation water in cultivation for floriculture. Chemical fertilizer was used by most of them (98 %). 85 percent of them did not take any loan from Government. 98 percent used to cultivate flower in their own land although 53 percent respondents used to cultivate flower in total land owned by them. 89 percent of the farmers did not use biological control of pest. Mostly of them (96 %) told that nitrogen fertilizer is helped to increase the flower production and also it depend on season. 57 percent of them were engaged in other cultivation. 83 percent of the respondents started flower cultivation since more than nine years

Pearson's Rho

Table 3 showed that different flower cultivation knowledge score was significantly and positively correlated with farming experience, category, land, and house, at 1% level of significance and significantly and positively correlated with, age at 5% level of significance. Mankar *et al.* (2013) found in

Table 3. Relationship of independent variables with knowledge level of flower cultivation and garlanding

	Knowledge of flower cultivation sum (Y1)	Knowledge of garlanding sum (Y2)		Knowledge of flower cultivation sum (Y1)	Knowledge of garlanding sum (Y2)
AGE	0.203 *	-0.181	AGE	0.215 *	-0.135
CATEGO	0.889 **	-0.886	CATEGO	0.874 **	-0.888 **
OCCU	-0.970 **	0.978	OCCU	-0.885 **	0.938 **
CASTE	-0.142	0.151	CAST	-0.099	0.148
EDU	-0.065	0.059	EDU	-0.08	0.019
MARI_ST	-0.059	0.053	MARI_ST	-0.018	-0.02
FAM_TYP	-0.023	0.061	FAM_TYP	-0.025	0.128
FAM_SIZ	-0.023	0.061	FAM_SIZ	-0.025	0.128
FAM_EDU	0.081	-0.083	FAM_EDU	-0.06	-0.049
LAND	0.879 **	-0.874	LAND	0.862 **	-0.876 **
HOUSE	0.475 **	-0.467	HOUSE	0.444 **	-0.426 **
MATE_PO	0.141	-0.141	MATE_PO	0.054	-0.126
UR_CONT	-0.612 **	0.62	UR_CONT	-0.578 **	0.580 **
FARM_EXP	0.952 **	-0.948	FARM_EXP	0.863 **	-0.864 **
MASS_ME	0.194	-0.17	MASS_ME	0.139	-0.134
PER_COS	0.103	-0.07	PER_COS	0.108	-0.065
PER_LOCA	-0.003	-0.002	PER_LOCA	0.075	-0.129

CATEGO = Category OCCU = Occupation. EDU = Education of the respondent.
MARI_ST = Marital Status. FAM_TYP =Family type. FAM_SIZ = Family size.
FAM_EDU = Family Educational status. MATE_PO = Material possession.
UR_CONT = Urban contacts. FARM_EXP = Farming experience. MASS_ME = Mass media. PER_COS = Personal cosmopolite. PER_LOCA = Personal localite

their study that age, experience on floriculture negatively significant relationship with the role performance in improved cultivation practices of rose floriculturists. Different flower cultivation knowledge score was highly significantly and negatively correlated with occupation and urban contact at 1% level of significance. Floricultural activities knowledge about garlanding score was not significantly correlated with independents variables.

Spearman's Rank correlation

Table 3 showed that sum total of flower cultivation knowledge score was highly significantly and positively correlated with farming experience, category, land, and house at 1% level of significance and significantly and positively correlated with, age at 5% level of significance. Different flower cultivation knowledge score was highly significantly and negatively correlated with occupation and urban contact. Garlanding knowledge score was significantly and positively correlated with occupation and urban contact, at 1% level of significance and highly significant and negatively correlated with category, land, farm experience house and material possession.

Conclusion

Finally the study found that the majority of rural women engaged in floriculture activities did not take any Govt. help and they were not having any idea about new technology related to floriculture. They were in habit of using chemical fertilizer for better production. Further, it was found that knowledge of flower cultivation was significantly related with farming experience, category, land, house and age. Knowledge about garlanding was significantly

REFERENCES

Bharane, S. B., 2007, Role Performance of Rural Women In Vermiculture enterprise : A case study. *M.Sc. Thesis*, Dr. PDKV, Akola (India).

Mankar, D.M., Shambharkar, Y.B., Khade, K. 2013. Role performance of farm women engaged in floriculture. Karnataka journal of Agriculture Science. 26(1):161-163.

Pathania N.S., 1988. "Propagation of carnation" M.sc thesis, Department of Floriculture and Land Scarping. Dr. Y. S. Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Solan.

****