

A STUDY OF EXTENT OF KNOWLEDGE OF FARM WOMEN IN RELATING TO DIFFERENT RICE PRODUCTION PRACTICES



Research paper—Home Science

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Significance of women's role in agricultural development and here contribution in allied fields has long been not only taken for granted but also ignored. There is now a growing realization that we cannot go on ignoring the contribution of nearly half of our population. Things seem to be moving however at a slow speed but in favorable direction. It is important that the speed and the directive should be evaluated from time to time to make sure that the things are going in the right direction.

Santha (1984) found that one third of the farm women surveyed had high level of knowledge about farm practices. In rice production, there are gender specific tasks or degrees of work specialization. In Eastern India, different operations, such as preparation of seed bed and broadcasting of seeds, transplanting weeding, application of fertilizers, harvesting threshing and post harvest operations are done by 100% male, 90-95% male, 80% female, 100% male, 75-80% female, 60-70% female and 80-90% female respectively (Singh & Paris, 2000).

Methodology : For the purpose of this study, knowledge will defined as the awareness, extent and manner of use of the cultivation practices as measured by knowledge test used in this study. The knowledge about the cultivation of improved rice technology was measured using the knowledge test developed by Earnest (1973) with minor modifications. All the questions in knowledge were dictomi having two dimensions "Yes/No" or "Correct/Incorrect", if the answer was 'Yes' or 'Correct' the respondent was assigned a score of 1 and if the answer was 'No' or 'Incorrect' the respondent was assigned as score of '0'. During investigation, 63 questions related to different practices of rice production were asked by

individual respondent. Therefore the ranges of scores obtained by the respondents might vary from '0' to '63' in the knowledge test, which indicated the knowledge level of the respondents. It was categorised viz. (i) mean- S.D. (ii) Mean + S.D. (iii) mean + S.D. as low, medium and high respectively.

Result and Discussion :

The perusal of finding included in Table-1 pertaining to this observation make it clear that the maximum percentage of the respondents (66.00%) were observed having medium level of knowledge about rice production technology followed by 19.00 percent and 15.00 percent respondents who had low and high extent of knowledge about rice production technology, respectively. The mean of scores was observed to be 25.43. Thus, it is very much clear from the results that nearly two third respondents had medium level of knowledge about rice production technology. So far as the knowledge possession was concerned, the selected groups of respondents were almost homogeneous. Singh (1980), Chaudhary (1999) and Vaish (1999) have also reported the similar pattern for extent of knowledge about different practices of rice production.

Table – 1 Distribution of respondents according to extent of knowledge about rice production technology

Categories	Respondants	
	Number	Percentage
Low (up to 17)	19	19.00
Medium (18-34)	66	66.00
High (above 34)	15	15.00
Total	100	100.00

Mean = 25.43, S.D. = 8.55, Range – Min = 8, Max = 43

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Table – 2 Extent of knowledge of the respondents about different practices of rice production.

S.No.	Practices	Extent of knowledge (Percentage)
1	Land preparation	37.00
2	Variety	78.00
3	Seed Rate	52.00
4	Seed treatment	22.00
5	Sowing time	44.00
6	Nursery area	25.00
7	Manure and fertilizers for nursery area	12.00
8	Manure and fertilizers for field crop	25.00
9	Seedling age	61.00
10	Seedling used per hill	61.00
11	Transplanting distance	52.00
12	Intercultural operations	65.00
13	Use of weedicides	3.00
14	Time of top dressing	34.00
15	Irrigation	44.00
16	Insect name	52.00
17	Insect control	49.00
18	Disease name	6.00
19	Disease control	5.00
20	Khaira control	46.00
21	Rat control	49.00
22	Moisture percentage in grain during harvesting & storage	67.00

It is obvious from the finding pertaining to extent of knowledge of different agricultural practices presented in Table –2 and depicted in figure-1 that out of 22 agricultural practices of rice production, knowledge about selection of variety ranked at first (78.00%). The practices like moisture percentage in grain during harvesting and storage ranked at second (67.00%), intercultural operation at third (65.00%)

followed by seedling age and seedling used per hill both at fourth (61.00%), seed rate and insect name both at fifth (52.00%), transplanting distance at six (52.00%), insect control and rats control both at seventh (49.00%). Khaira control at eighth (46.00%), sowing time and irrigation at ninth (44.00%) and land preparation at a rank tenth (37.00%). The other practices viz. time of top dressing, manure and fertilizer for field crop and nursery area (both), seed treatment, disease name, disease control and use of weedicides got rank positions of eleventh (34.00%), twelfth (25.00%), thirteenth (22.00%), seventeenth (5.00%) and eighteenth (3.00%) respectively with reference to the knowledge possessed by the respondents about rice production technological practices. The average extent of knowledge was calculated to be 40.45 per cent. Thus it can be seen from the table that respondent had very poor knowledge about use of weedicides, disease name and disease control. Almost similar findings, have been reported by Malathi (1989) and Hoque et.al. 1988.

Conclusion :

The maximum percentage of the respondents (66.00%) were noted having medium level of knowledge followed by 19.00 per cent and 15.00 per cent respondents who had low and high extent of knowledge respectively about rice production technology. The mean of scores of knowledge was calculated to be 25.43 with the range of 8 and 43 as minimum and maximum respectively. Out of 22 agricultural practices of rice production, knowledge about selection of variety was ranked at first (78.00%) followed by moisture percentage in grain during harvesting and storage (67.99%) and intercultural operation (65.00%) got rank second and third respectively. The poorest extent of knowledge was reported for use of weedicides (3.00%), disease control (5.00%) and disease name (6.00%). The overall extent of knowledge about rice production technology was observed to be 40.45 per cent. It has been observed that women had poor knowledge about rice production technology.

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