Assessing the impact of promotive programs on rural women's participation in agricultural activities (Case Study: Northern Astarābād Dehestan, Gorgan County)

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1. INTRODUCTION

Studies and observations of rural women show that farmer women enjoying local knowledge and experience in the field of food products play an important role in agriculture. Women farmers make up the majority of subsistence farmers of the world, producing 50 to 60 percent of the world's food. Education as an essential element of development is a key activity in development of rural women. In this regard, agricultural training programs if properly implemented, can play a great role in qualitative and quantitative increase in agricultural products and the income of rural households as well. Rural training programs can have a major impact on increasing the efficiency and cost effectiveness of development activities for rural women. The main research questions are “What is the participation rate of rural women in different agricultural activities, including animal husbandry, horticulture and agricultural activities? What are the factors affecting the participation of rural women in agricultural activities? To what extent can training and promotive programs be effective in increasing the participation of rural women in agricultural activities?”

2. METHODOLOGY

The present study is an applied research conducted in a descriptive-analytical method. Data were collected through library research and fieldworks. Questionnaire was the main research tool, and validity of its items was approved by the faculty members. The study area was Northern Astarābād Dehestan, in Gorgan County. As most women in this

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area were involved in agricultural activities, this area was thought suitable for research purposes. 206 questionnaires were completed by the rural women.

3. DISCUSSION

Today, more than ever, planners are well aware of women’s role in economic and social activities. Women can help to produce food for consumption and sale. To support women in agricultural activities can increase their efficiency and also raise their families’ and their own living standards. The main research questions were “What is the participation rate of rural women in different agricultural activities, including animal husbandry, horticulture and agricultural activities? What are the factors affecting the participation of rural women in agricultural activities?” T-test and Anova test were used to address the research questions.

4. CONCLUSION

The research findings show that rural women have a very important role in food production, agriculture and the production of 50 to 60 percent of the food in the world. Distribution of women participation in various activities in Northern Astarābād Dehestan shows that mean value of women's participation in agricultural activities, animal husbandry and horticulture was about 2.04. T-test results suggest that since the participation of women in agricultural activities is less than 3.0, therefore, women's participation rate in various activities is less than average. In other words, young rural women who have more education are less likely to participate in agricultural activities. Moreover, old-age is one of the country's problems in agricultural sector and proper precautions should be taken to tackle this issue. Positive relationship between family size and extent of women's participation in agricultural problems also confirms this claim.

Keywords: rural women, training and promotive programs, participation of rural women in agricultural activities, northern Astarābād Dehestan.

References (in Persian)


References (in English)


