



## Transfer of innovative Agri-technologies for farmwomen through women empowerment cell, SKUAST-Kashmir

Poonam Sharma<sup>1\*</sup>, Kousar Javed<sup>2</sup>, Baseerat Binti Nabi<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Associate Professor, Division of Food Science & Technology, Sher-e Kashmir university of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, Shalimar, Jammu and Kashmir, India

<sup>2,3</sup> Research Scholar, Division of Fruit Science & Soil Science Sher-e Kashmir university of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, Shalimar, Jammu and Kashmir, India

### Abstract

Agriculture technology is changing rapidly and high lightening the importance of documenting innovative technologies in agriculture would help in accelerating the agriculture production and also in improving the socio-economic conditions of the farming community. Need based training programmes are being conducted by the State Agricultural Universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendra's in various disciplines such as horticulture, food processing, vermicomposting, apiculture, sericulture and others for farm women in J&K state. The study was carried out to collect the required information on various agro based technologies transferred and farm women response to the innovative technologies. It was revealed that Women empowerment cell, SKUAST-Kashmir is playing a vital role in disseminating agri-technologies and thereby helping the farm women to aware the latest technical knowledge and developing new skill related to agriculture and allied field.

**Keywords:** farm women, innovative technologies, agriculture, women empowerment

### Introduction

Agriculture constitutes a large share of national output and employs majority of the labour force in most developing countries. Women play an important role in economic welfare of the family and society. Agriculture being an important occupation for the rural people in Jammu & Kashmir region has potential for development. The state grows a variety of food crops like rice, maize, wheat pulses, oilseeds and has a monopoly of growing temperate fruits like apple, pear, peach, plum, apricot, cherry, walnut, almond and quince. The Horticulture industry serves as a major economic boost for the development of the state. Agro-based industry is regarded as the sunrise sector of the Indian economy in view of its large potential for growth and likely socio-economic impact specifically on employment and income generation.

Agro-based industry is regarded as the sunrise sector of the Indian economy in view of its large potential for growth and likely socio-economic impact specifically on employment and income generation. Studies revealed that the knowledge and practical approach of transfer of technologies in agriculture offers good opportunities for entrepreneurship and employment generation especially for rural youth and women. For transmitting the latest agriculture techniques to the farmers field orienting them to establish better relation with banks and adoption of latest agri-technologies. There is need to update the technical knowhow and to train the farmers, farmwomen and rural youth in scientific farming.

Therefore need arises to assess the knowledge of farm women on various technologies transferred and their acceptability by the farming community with beneficial impacts. Keeping in

view, this paper aimed at empowering rural women by promoting activities and livelihood security by way of adopting innovative technologies in agriculture.

### Material and method

Srinagar block was selected purposively due to higher number of agriculture and allied training programs organized by women empowerment cell in this block. Out of them 5 villages were purposely selected and a total of 160 rural women were trained by the women empowerment cell at Directorate of Extension, SKUAST-Kashmir during 2014-2017 on various aspects of agro based technologies. An interview schedule was used as the research instrument to collect relevant information from beneficiaries on various innovative technologies developed in agriculture and their transfer in rural villages for women empowerment. Data was analysed using statistical tools and techniques.

### Result and discussion

A number of approaches and interventions have been identified to increase women's participation in both extension and training. Improving women's access to higher agricultural education and opportunities to benefit from innovative agri-technologies is possible through education and capacity building of farmwomen. Through training, the potential of women farmers in contributing to development efforts could be developed and harnessed which also might result to an increase in their self-confidence and feeling of self-worth. Building their capacities is also a means of empowering them. Behera *et al.* (2014) <sup>[1]</sup> reports that there is an increase in

production of the different crops after adoption of the improved package and practices in the KVK adopted village. Agro based technologies provide opportunity to the individuals or group of skilled persons to become successful entrepreneur. It has been found that that the technologies

adopted result in higher productivity, enhanced incomes and reduction in drudgery and development of self confidence among women. Value added agriculture has attracted attention in recent years as a means to increase and stabilize farm income. (Poonam *et al.* (2017)<sup>[5]</sup>.

**Table 1:** Transfer of Innovative Technologies in agriculture for women empowerment

S. No	Agri-Technologies	Aware	Not aware
1	Saffron processing	0(0)	0(0)
2	Masala/Chilli grinding	137(85.6)	23(14.3)
3	Fruit and vegetable processing	140(87.5)	20(12.5)
4	Poultry farming	123(76.8)	37(23.1)
5	Mushroom growing	94(58.7)	66(41.2)
6	Fish farming and marketing	0(0)	0(0)
7	Dairy farming	83(51.8)	77(48.1)
8	Silkworm rearing	0(0)	0(0)
9	Commercial vegetable growing	82(51.2)	78(48.7)
10	Cut flower and medicinal plants production	78(48.7)	82(51.2)
11	Honey processing	0(0)	0(0)
12	Sheep and goat rearing	84(52.5)	76(47.5)
13	Walnut and almond processing	126(78.7)	34(21.2)
14	Underutilized fruit and vegetable processing	87(54.3)	73(45.6)
15	Vermicomposting	78(48.7)	82(51.2)

(Figures in parentheses indicate percentage of respondent farm women)

Awareness and practices about various innovative agriculture techniques is presented in Table1 showed that most of the respondents used integrated farming system and perform various intercultural activities. Findings revealed that respondents were aware of introduced technologies except few training programs. The major areas where respondent farm women carrying out their tasks using agri-technologies were fruit and vegetable processing (87.0%), masala paste (85.6%) walnut and almond processing (78.7%) poultry farming (76.8%) and mushroom growing (58.7%). The reason may be due to the fact that they are involved in production of fruits and vegetables food products after attending the training programmes in food processing, poultry farming, dairy farming, sheep and goat rearing and underutilized vegetables and fruits, mushroom growing and vermicomposting organized by the women empowerment cell. However the respondents were having little knowledge in agri technologies related to fish farming and marketing, honey processing silkworm rearing and saffron processing. This further indicates that the vocational training programs may be devised on these training aspects to make aware of farm women on the technical knowhow and capacity building.

It clearly shows that majority of women were interested in setting up of micro enterprises in food processing. Kadu *et al.* (2013)<sup>[4]</sup> the study conducted in Parbhani district of Marathwada region of Maharashtra state revealed that majority of respondents had medium level of participation in food processing and dairy management practices.

### Conclusion

Farm women empowerment is essential not only to increase their status but also to supplement their family income. Agro based enterprises like dairy cooperatives, vermi-composting, nursery rising of fruits and vegetables, processing and value addition to horticulture crops, mushroom cultivation, apiculture's sericulture, fish farming, poultry management

have greater potential to start microenterprise in agriculture. The ICAR and SAUs form a close network for agricultural research and extension education through All India Coordinated Research Projects, National Agriculture Research Project, KVKs, National Agriculture Extension Projects and deeper intervention of the ICAR have provided an umbrella to develop and demonstrate front line technologies to empower farm women. Coordination is to be made among technology generation, technology dissemination and technology receiving system. The empowering strategies would need to be further sharpened to make them effective and result-oriented.

### Reference

1. Behera SK, Maharana JR, Acharya P. Transfer of Technology through KVK for the tribal farmers in Hilly Areas of Koraput District in Indian J of Hill farmin. 2014; 27(2):34-37
2. Maruthesha AM. empowerment of rural women towards food security through agro processing activities PhD thesis in Department of Food Sci. and Technology at UAS GKVK Bangalore, 2014.
3. Tara N, Negi V. Rural women involvement in selected entrepreneurial activities. Adv. Res J Soc. Sci. 2012; 3(1):63-67.
4. Shweta S, Kadu RR, Kotikhane R. Empowerment of women's SHG through Food Processing and Dairy Management Practices in Indian Res. J Ext. Edu. 2013; 13(3):52-54.
5. Poonam Sharma, Monica Reshi. Agri-prenueurial avenues for women micro entrepreneurship development in Kashmir valley published in J of Pharmacognosy and phytochemistry, 2017, 663-664.