



भारतीय कृषि एवं खाद्य परिषद्
INDIAN COUNCIL OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

National Round Table on
Role of Women in Eco Village Development for Sustainability
26th July 2017, IIC, New Delhi

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Women play a significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields. Despite such a huge involvement, her role and dignity has yet not been recognized. Women's status is low by all social, economic, and political indicators. Hence, a specific forum should be set up by the government or with public private partnership, which acts as a voice for women and provide them a platform in accordance to present their views on policies and practices in the agricultural sector of India.
2. Despite women's role as a backbone of food production and provision for family consumption in developing countries, women remain limited in their access to critical resources and services due to cultural, traditional and sociological factors. Thus, NGOs and government agencies should take initiatives for skill development and technical knowhow for women farmers and allocate a quota of funds for training of farm women.
3. There is a need for improving and redesigning training programmes for farm women. Theses should include, (a) allowing sufficient time to enable women to acquire new skills and adjust schedules to fit women's existing workloads, (b) Emphasize activities for which there is an actual income-generation potential, (c) ensuring the involvement and full participation of women from poorer and less educated backgrounds, (d) use trainers who are not only technically competent and up-to-date, but who empathize with the needs and aspirations of rural women and providing practical field experience in the use of innovations.
4. Currently, there are many programmes and initiatives taken by various NGOs, government agencies and other organizations, but there seems to be little cooperation



between projects administered by the same agency or between agencies, even where these agencies are under the umbrella of the same national government or development policy. The use of human and material resources could be managed more efficiently and with greater impact if development agencies would cooperate with each other. Moreover, in order to avoid duplicity, a database of various schemes or initiatives for women should be created and open for access to all.

5. Various legislative changes have been made in India to facilitate women's rights to inheritance and ownership of land, but in practice they still have great difficulty in realizing the benefits which should flow to them. Thus, women must be aware regarding their existing rights and should have access to judicial reliefs and redresses. This can be done by disseminating information to women by conducting workshops, seminars, counseling and etc. The government through its agencies can execute and earmark the funds for the same.

6. Private companies in food and agriculture sector or drawing input from agriculture sector should mark a part of CSR funds for development of farming community to improve their standard of living by executing training programs, workshops, seminars to enhance their technological knowhow and farming techniques.

7. Women should be encouraged to shift to entrepreneurship as it provides them greater recognition. Because of relative isolation, rural people tend to be more self-sufficient. However, resulting sense of independence may reduce likelihood of seeking support. Hence, there is a need for promoting women entrepreneurship at a broader scale, which involves assessment of needs such as skills, tools, technologies and understanding of importance of market demand. Therefore, government should arrange to provide entrepreneurship development training to farm women to ensure better success.

8. There are number of SHGs and FPOs for skill development, training and etc., which already exist. Thus, capacity building of existing groups should be strengthened, which can be more successful than forming a new group to which members are less likely to be committed. Moreover, women groups which are at passive stage or are adjourning should be revived or reorganized as dissolution of groups will demotivate the other farm women also.

9. Small efforts are already under way to alleviate the hardship faced by farm women, but the most effective way would be to customize the existing and new design tools and equipment to suit their needs. This is because; it will reduce the work load and improve efficiency in agricultural operations by women.

