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Cultivation Practices in Groundnut
Production and Post-harvest Technologies by
Farm Women in Keelpenathur Block of
Thiruvannamalai District*

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Use of Farm Power and Livestock for Cultivation Practices in Groundnut Production and Post-harvest Technologies by Farm Women in Keelpenathur Block of Thiruvannamalai District

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Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy. Women play a vital role in building this economy. In India 60 per cent women are engaged in agricultural operations in rural areas, majority of the farm women performed the farm activities. Over the years, there is a gradual realization of the key role and participation of women in agricultural development and their vital contribution in the field of agriculture, food security, horticulture, processing nutrition, sericulture, fisheries and other allied sectors. Groundnut are often referred to as a “female crop” due to the significant roles women play in production and processing across many developing countries. Recognition of their crucial role in agriculture should not obscure the fact that farm women continue to be concerned with their primary functions as wives, mothers and homemakers.

The present investigation was designed to determine the Farm power possession and Livestock possession of farm women in participation with groundnut production and post-harvest operations, to analyze the participation of farm women. The study was undertaken in selected six villages from Keelpennathur block of Thiruvannamalai District in Tamil Nadu. A sample size of 120 was fixed for the study considering the limitations of time and other resources. Based on the proportionate random sampling method, one hundred and twenty respondents were identified for the study from selected six villages. Data collection was done with the help of well-structured interview schedule. The data were collected by the researcher by personally interviewing the respondents and the collected data were interpreted and

tabulated for appropriate statistical analysis.

Measurement of variables

Farm power

Years of farming experience	Category	Score
Up to 5 Years	Low	1
Above 5 and below 10 Years	Medium	2
Above 10 Years	High	3

It consists of mechanical and indigenous farm power. The scores obtained by an individual were summed up to arrive the total farm power possession with appropriate scoring procedure obtained to the individual. The scoring procedure followed by Manivannan [1] (2019) was used.

Livestock

Category	Score
Country plough	1
Bullock pair	2
Tractor	10
Iron plough	2
Power tiller	4
Bullock cart	2
Sprayer	2
Oil engine	4
Electric motor	4
Pump set	4

Category	Number	Score
Cow	1	50
Buffalo	1	45
Sheep	1	10
Goat	1	5
Poultry birds	1	2

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This referred to the number of animals possessed by the farmer. Based on approximate value of each animal, for every 100 rupees, a unit score was given. The scoring procedure adopted by [2] was followed by [3].

Farm power

Results on distribution of respondents according to their farm power possession are presented in (Table 1).

Table 1 Distribution of respondents according to their farm power possession (n = 120)

Category	Number of respondents	Per cent
Low	80	69.17
Medium	29	24.17
High	11	06.66
Total	120	100.00

It could be observed from the (Table 1), that more than three - fifth of the farm women (69.17 per cent) possessed low level of farm power, followed by 24.17 per cent of the farm women with medium level of farm power possession. Only 6.66 per cent of the farm women possessed high level of farm power status. The groundnut growers take agricultural operation in smaller proportion of their holdings. Hence it is not necessary to possess high-cost farm power equipment's. This might be due to the reason for the low level of farm power possession [4].

Livestock possession

Results on distribution of respondents according to their livestock possession are presented in (Table 2).

Table 2 Distribution of respondents according to their livestock possession (n = 120)

Category	Number of respondents	Per cent
Low	69	57.50
Medium	33	27.50
High	18	15.00
Total	120	100.00

It could be observed from the (Table 2), that little more than half of the farm women (57.50 per cent) possessed low level of livestock possession, followed by 27.50 per cent of the farm women with medium level of

livestock possession. Only 15.00 per cent of the farm women possessed high level of livestock possession. In general farm women possess only few livestock in their households. In order to concentrate on household activities and farm activities, the farm women might have less timing hence they possess low level of livestock [5-6].

On the basis of the major findings of this study, certain broad implication that may be useful for the improvement of the farm women in participation with ground production and post-harvest operations. low level of Farm power possession and Livestock possession was observed among the groundnut producing farm women. This might be due to intensive transfer of technologies by way of giving more training would help them to do them to participate more scientifically. They may also be given intensive training especially on post-harvest operations. Further they can develop technologies to enable the farming communities. To mould appropriate extension strategies so as to generate awareness among Farm power possession and Livestock possession farm women about the need for adoption of suitable technologies. The research and extension needs of farm women for sustainable agriculture may be studied.

SUMMARY

The present investigation was designed to determine the farm power and livestock of farm women in participation with groundnut production and post-harvest technologies. The study was undertaken in selected six villages from Keelpennathur block of Thiruvannamalai district in Tamil Nadu. A sample size of 120 was fixed for the study considering the limitations of time and other resources. Based on the proportionate random sampling method, one hundred and twenty respondents were identified for the study from selected six villages. Data collection was done with the help of well-structured interview schedule. The data were collected by the researcher by personally interviewing the respondents and the collected data were interpreted and tabulated for appropriate statistical analysis. The results of the study showed that majority of them were Low level of Farm Power and low level of livestock of farm women in groundnut technologies and post- harvest operations.

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