

PARTICIPATION OF FEMALE IN VARIOUS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN FAR WESTERN PART OF NEPAL

(A Case Study Of Kanchanpur District)

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture is back-bone of the Nepalese economy. A major part of the GDP comprises of that income which is generated by the agriculture and agro-base activities. Women are back-bone of the household economy and play a very significant role in agro-base activities in rural areas. This study consist of almost half of the population i.e. women- participation in agriculture. Women in rural areas performe all agriculture activities specially like land preparation, terrace keeping, preparing and applying organic fertilizer, applying chemical fertilizer, weeding, Harvesting and post harvesting, planting, irrigation, crop protection etc. In consequences, women provide more labour force to agriculture production than men. In this regard, male supplied only 119 labour days or 31% labour force in agriculture production where as female supplied 269 labour days or 69% labour force in total agriculture production. It is clearly seen that female spend 150 labour days more than male.

Keywords: Agriculture, Women's participation, Labour Day, Comparision, Farm Production, Animal Husbandry & Dairy Production

1. INTRODUCTION

Women constitute approximately half of Nepal's total population. Ninety percent of the economically active female population is engaged in agriculture (Majupuria, 1989). Some

studies on the status of Nepalese women have revealed that they not only play a major role in agriculture, but constitute the 'back bone' of agriculture in Nepal. (Axinn, 1977)

In recent years, Nepal's women, have become increasingly marginalized. In the last twenty years there has been a sevenfold increase in out-migration from the hill and tarai districts of Nepal (Gurung, 2010). This led the feminization in Nepalese agricultural sector and the decade long (1996 to 2006) armed conflicts and higher out migration of men-folks from rural areas of Nepal has not only severely increased the burden on women but has also increased feminization in agriculture sector.

Women have crucial role in the farming system in Nepal through their performance at various stages of farm production and agricultural management and in the decisions they make. Off course, women perform all of these roles as a natural process in the family farm and their economic contributions are not perceived by themselves or the men as a particular feature of the household economy or of the national economy.

According to the census report 2011, there is an increased participation of rural women in economic activities besides doing household duties, through participation of women in agriculture contribute a lot for the economic growth and progress of the country, their problems are shown least concern. Woman's role has biologically and socially combined to create four distinct functions that of mother, wife, homemaker and worker. the role of worker is equally important as that of other three roles. But the role as an active worker-producer is rarely acknowledged though it is significant for the family's survival.

In developing countries, women play a pivotal role in farm sector - as female agricultural labour, as farmers, co-farmers female family labour and (with male outmigration, widowhood, etc.) as managers of farms and farm entrepreneurs. 75 percent women workers in Nepal are engaged in agriculture. In rural areas, 90 percent women are employed in agri-sector as labourers and cultivators (Population census 20011).

In rural areas of Nepal, women participate in all the agricultural activities. The operations in which the women are mostly engaged are threshing, harvesting, horticulture, collection and preparation of organic manure, irrigation and miscellaneous agricultural activities. It is interesting to find that, although land preparation is generally considered a male task in Nepal, women actually spend more time at it than men in Bakundol village in Kathmandu valley. It was observed in Bulu, in Kathmandu valley that although men and women participated equally in harvesting of main crops (rice, wheat and corn) subsidiary crops (oilseeds, potatoes and others) were mainly harvested by women and hence the higher of women in this

operation. Seed selection and storing is also mostly done by women although men help in this activity. Pradhan et al. (1981).

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

1. Identify the various agricultural activities performed by women in the household
2. To compare the male and female labour input in agriculture production

3. METHODOLOGY

This research was applied both quantitative and qualitative methods , consisting of in-depth interviews (IDIs) and surveys. The surveys was conducted through purposive simple random sampling to include the households of different ethnic groups. For this purpose. A total of 75 households in Kanchanpur districts were interviewed through purposefully. In order to obtain the objectives of the study proposed, following methods, tools and techniques were applied :

3.1 Research Design

This research has attempted to analyse and explore the various works performed by rural women in the agriculture sector and working days of male and female in different agricultural activities. Hence descriptive and analytical research design was used in this study to get the desired purpose of the research.

3.2 Nature and sources of data

This study follows descriptive types of research design in nature. For the fulfillment of the objectives of the study, the data was collected from primary sources. The primary data was collected from field research. The collected data is both quantitative and qualitative in nature.

3.3 Sample and sample size

For the proper and justifiable sample and it's size, the study area had taken with conveniently. The study was performed in one VDC of Kanchanpur district which lies in Tarai region of far western part of Nepal. Among the 19 VDCs of Kanchanpur, Pipaladi VDC was selected conveniently. For the fulfillment of the objectives of the study, the number and distribution of samples with respect to district, VDC and total household is presented in following table below:

Table No. 1: Sample of the study with respect to social groups (Kanchanpur)

S.N.	Social Groups	Pipaladi VDC	
		Total Hh %	Sampled Hh
1.	Chhetries	30.7 %	23
2.	Brahmans	24 %	18
3.	Dalits	16 %	12
4.	Janajatis	29.3 %	22
	Total	100 %	75

Source : Primary Field Survey 2072

Note: Hh implies Household

3.4 Tools of data collection

The questionnaire and In-depth interview were used for data collection. These tools were applied to collect information about women's labour engaged in the agriculture production from different household of various ethnic groups in the selected VDCs. The questionnaire was distributed to the sample respondents who have SLC and above education level. In case of illiterate and under SLC level respondents, the interview schedule was used for data collection, which had conducted by researcher himself.

3.5 Classification of Data

In the study area researcher classified the people specially in two profession i.e. agricultural profession and non – agriculture (other) profession. Researcher has classified those people in agriculture profession who are purely engaged in agriculture activities or whose prime profession is agri. The people who are engaged in two or more than two profession, they are classified in their prime profession only. The researcher classified in dependent category of those people in study area whose age is under 14 years and above 60 years. The people who are employed in agri. activities at the age of 14 years to 60 years are classified in agri. labourer.

4. RESULTS

4.1 A comparative analysis of active population engaged in agriculture by male and female of selected household of Pipaladi VDC

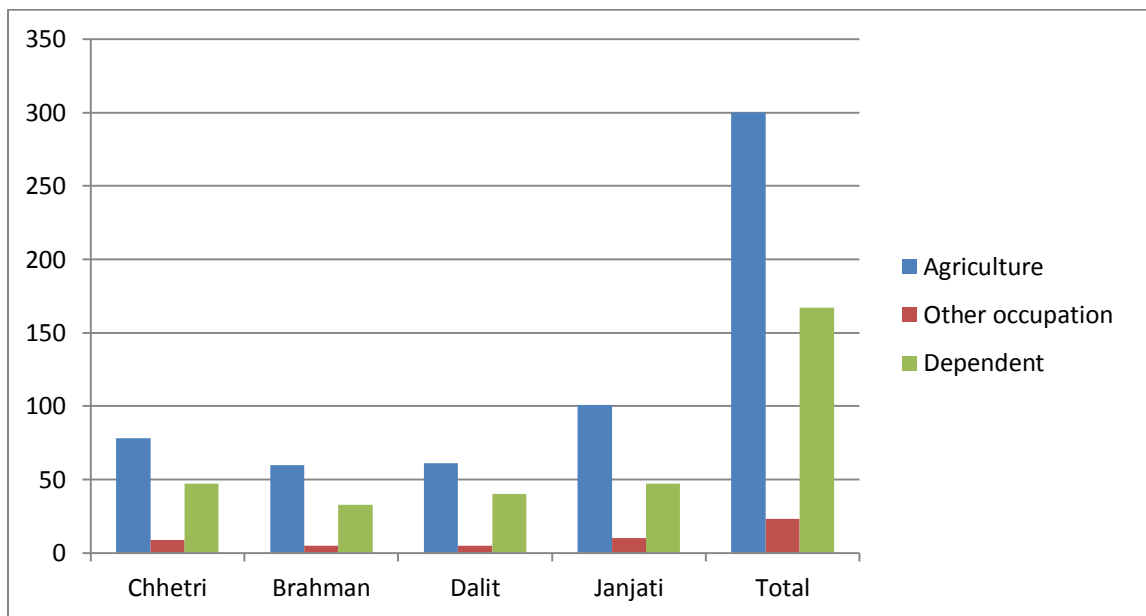
Table No.2

In percentage

	Chhetri	Brahman	Dalit	Janjati	Total
Agriculture	78 (58%)	60 (61%)	61 (57%)	101 (64%)	300 (60%)
Other occupation	9 (7%)	5 (5%)	5 (5%)	10 (6%)	29 (6%)
Dependent	47 (35%)	33 (34%)	40 (38%)	47 (30%)	167 (34%)
Total	134 (100%)	98 (100%)	106 (100%)	158 (100%)	496 (100%)

Source : Primary Field Survey 2072

Diagrametical presentation of above statistics is shown by following bar diagram



In total of 75 household of Pipaladi VDC, there are 496 people exist in selected household which shows 6.6 member are per household exist. In total of 496 people, the highest percentage (60%) engaged in agriculture and lowest (6%) are in other sectors . Among them 34% people are dependent in Pipaladi VDC.

4.2 A comparative analysis of active male and female engaged in agriculture in selected household of Pipaladi VDC

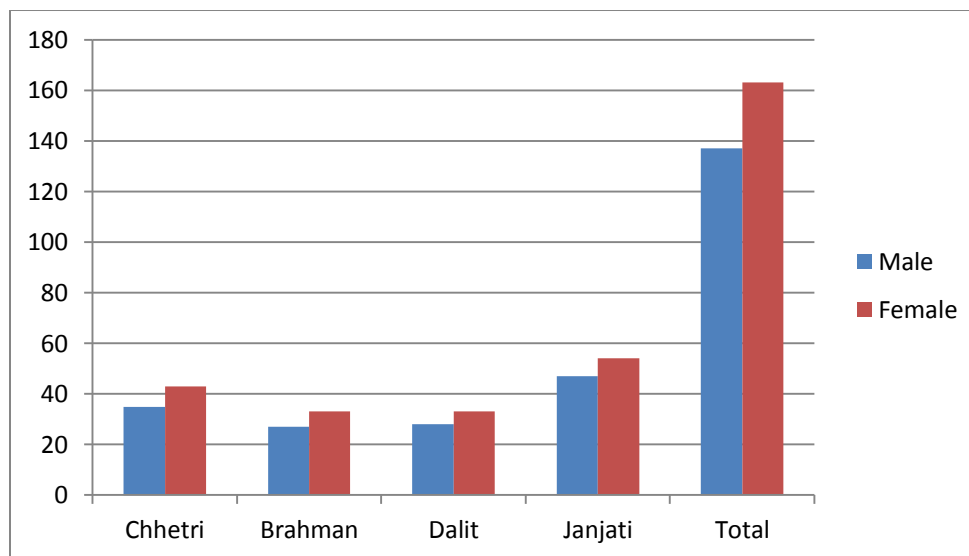
Table No.3

No. of people & In percentage

Gender	Chhetri	Brahman	Dalit	Janjati	Total
Male	35 (45 %)	27 (45 %)	28 (46 %)	47 (47 %)	137 (46%)
Female	43 (55 %)	33 (55 %)	33 (54 %)	54 (53 %)	163 (54%)
Total	78 (100%)	60 (100%)	61 (100%)	101 (100%)	300 (100%)

Source : Primary Field Survey 2072

Diagrametical presentation of above data



In above table and figure , it is depicted that, out of 300 people of 75 household, 46% are male and 54% are female engaged in agri. activities in Pipaladi. It is depicted that 8% female are more than male employed in agri. sector in this VDC.

4.3 Average time spend by a male and a female in different operations of farm production in the selected household of Pipaladi VDC in the last year

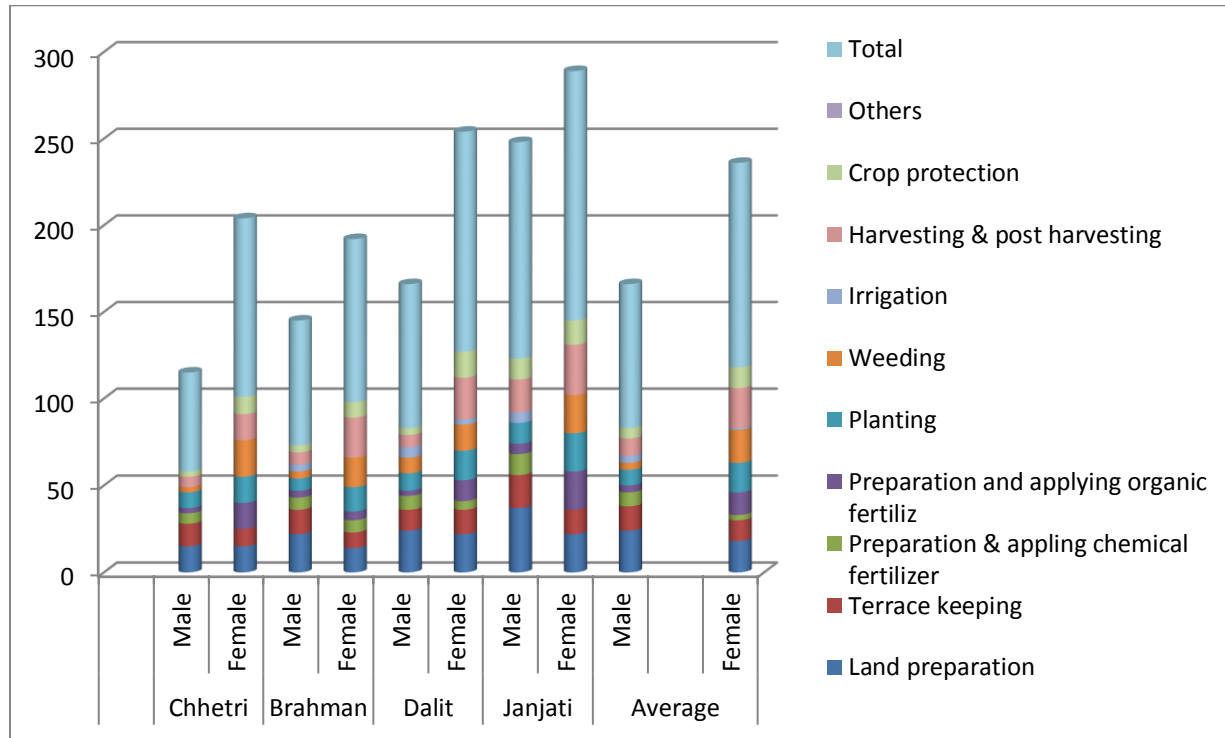
Table No. 4

Labour day/Yr

	Operations	Chhetri		Brahman		Dalit		Janjati		Average	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	Land preparation	15	15	22	14	24	22	37	22	24	18
2	Terrace keeping	13	10	14	9	12	14	19	14	14	12
3	Preparation & applying chemical fertilizer	6	0	7	7	8	5	12	0	8	3
4	Preparation and applying organic fertiliz	3	15	4	5	3	12	6	22	4	13
5	Planting	9	15	7	14	10	17	12	22	9	17
6	Weeding	3	21	4	17	9	15	0	22	4	19
7	Irrigation	0	0	4	0	6	3	6	0	4	1
8	Harvesting & post harvesting	6	15	7	23	7	24	19	29	10	23
9	Crop protection	3	10	4	9	4	15	12	14	6	12
10	Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Total	57	103	72	94	83	127	125	144	83	118
	Percentage									41%	59%

Source : Primary Field Survey 2072

Diagrametical presentation of above statistics is shown by following bar diagram



From the above table and figure it is depicted that, in Pipaladi VDC, the average time spend by a male and a female is 83 labour days and 118 labour day per year in various activities of crop production. It is clearly seen that a female spend 35 labour day more than a male in Pipaladi VDC. Among them a male spend the highest time i.e. 24 labour days in land preparation, 14 labour days in terrace keeping and 10 labour days in harvesting and post harvesting activities. Similarly 118 labour day of female, she spend the highest time i.e. 23 labour days in harvesting and post harvesting activities, 19 labour day in weeding activities, 18 labour day in land preparation activities and 17 labour day in planting activities.

4.4 Average time spend by a male and a female in different operations of Animal husbandry & Dairy production in the selected household of Pipaladi VDC

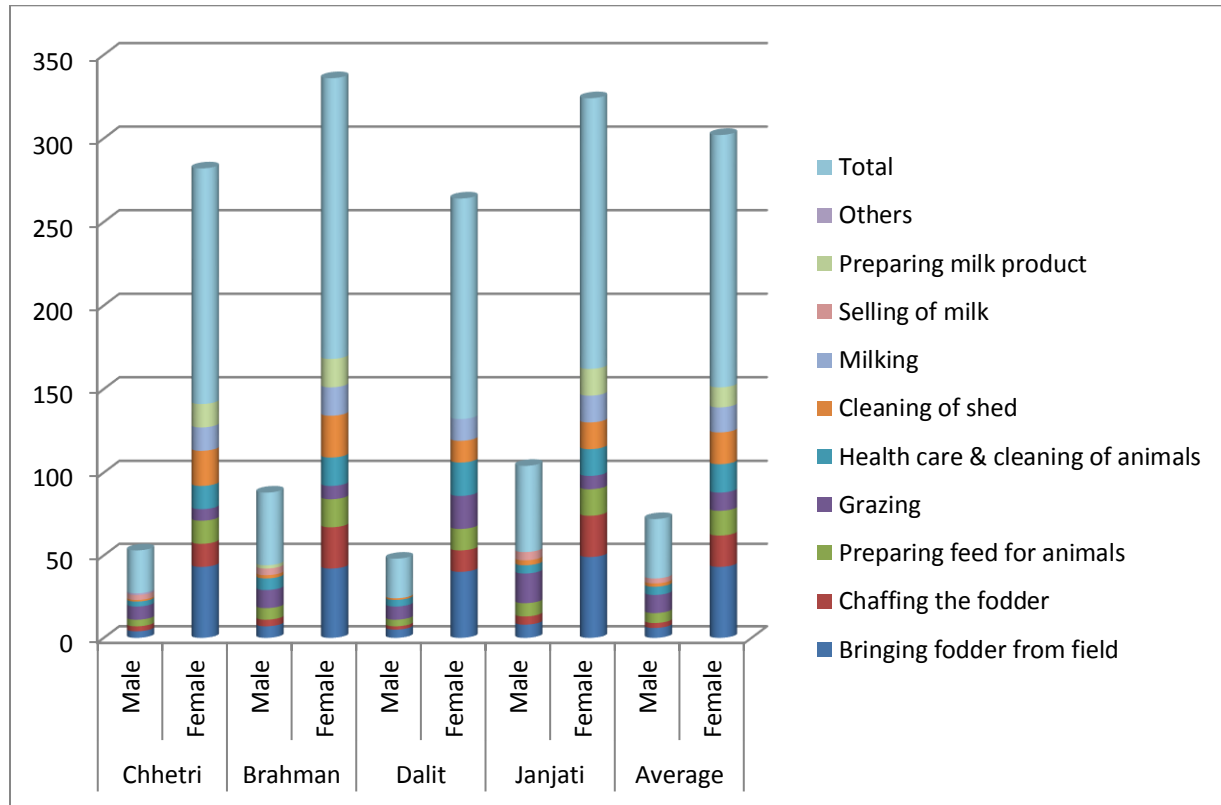
Table No. 5

Labour day/Yr

	Operations	Chhetri		Brahman		Dalit		Janjati		Average	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	Bringing fodder from field	4	43	7	42	5	40	8	49	6	43
2	Chaffing the fodder	3	14	4	25	2	13	5	25	3	19
3	Preparing feed for animals	4	14	7	17	4	13	8	16	6	15
4	Grazing	8	7	11	8	8	20	18	8	11	11
5	Health care & cleaning of animals	3	14	7	17	4	20	5	16	5	17
6	Cleaning of shed	1	21	2	25	1	13	3	16	2	19
7	Milking	0	14	0	17	0	13	0	16	0	15
8	Selling of milk	3	0	4	0	0	0	5	0	3	0
9	Preparing milk product	0	14	2	17	0	0	0	16	0	12
10	Others	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Total	26	141	44	168	24	132	52	162	36	151
	Percentage									(19%)	(81%)

Source : Primary Field Survey 2072

Diagrammatical presentation of above statistics is shown by following bar diagram



From the above table and figure it is depicted that, in Pipaladi VDC, the average time spend by a male and a female is 36 labour days and 131 labour day per year in various activities of animal husbandry and dairy production. It is clearly seen that a female spend 95 labour day more than a male in Pipaladi VDC. Among them a male spend the highest time i.e. 11 labour day in grazing animals, 6 labour day in each of bringing fodder from field and preparing feed for animals. Similarly 131 labour day of female, she spend the highest time i.e. 43 labour day in bringing fodder from field. Secondly 19 labour day in each of chaffing the fodder and cleaning the shed of animal. Similarly 17 labour day in cleaning and caring of animals. Preparing feed for animals and cleaning of shed consumed 15 labour day each after that.

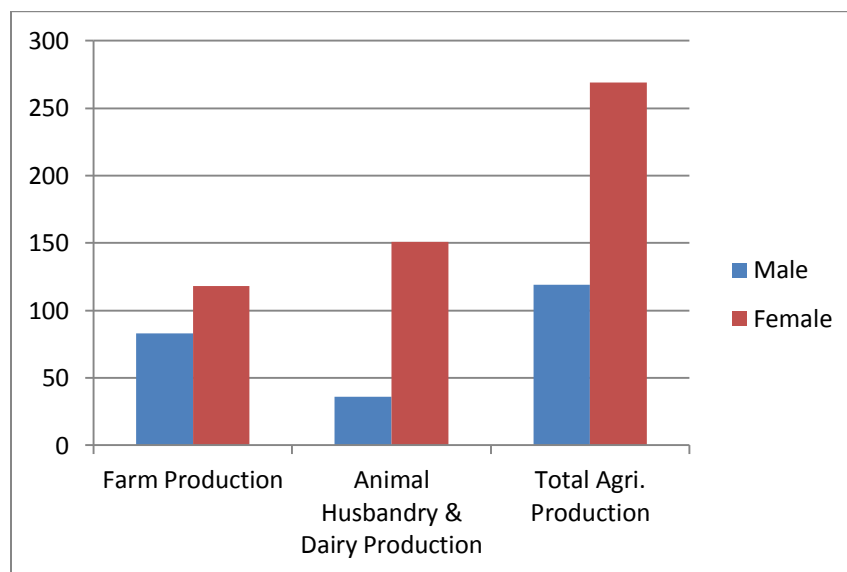
4.5 Total time spend by a male and a female for Agriculture production in the selected household of Pipaladi VDC, Kanchanpur

Table No. 6

Labour day/Yr

	Gender	Farm Production	Animal Husbandry & Dairy Production	Total Agri. Production
1	Male	83 (41%)	36 (19%)	119 (31%)
2	Female	118 (59%)	151 (81%)	269 (69 %)
3	Total	201	187	388

Diagrametical presentation of above statistics is shown by following bar diagram



From the above table and figure it is depicted that, in 75 household of Pipaladi VDC, the total labour required for agriculture production per household is 388 labour day. In which male supplied 119 labour day or 31% labour force and female supplied 269 labour day or 69% labour force in total agriculture production. It is clearly seen that female spend 150 labour day more than male in the study area of Pipaladi VDC in the last year.

5. SUMMARY AND SUGGESTIONS

From the above study it is clearly seen that, women of rural areas participated in all agricultural activities like land preparation, terrace keeping, preparing and applying organic fertilizer,

applying chemical fertilizer, weeding, Harvesting and post harvesting, planting, irrigation, crop protection etc. More than 2/3rd of agricultural work is being done by women in study area. From the above study the 69% of required labour force is provided by women in agricultural production. Women spend 150 labour days more than men in rural agriculture production per year. There is an increased participation of rural women in economic activities besides doing household duties, through participation of women in agriculture contribute a lot for the economic growth and progress of the country, their problems are shown least concern. Woman's role has biologically and socially combined to create four distinct functions that of mother, wife, homemaker and worker. the role of worker is equally important as that of other three roles. But the role as an active worker-producer is rarely acknowledged though it is significant for the family's survival. To reduce the excess burden of women and increase their labour productivity in agriculture production government should implement the following suggestions :

1. Improve Health facilities and provide hygienic nutrition
2. Provide basic education
3. Made familiar with Latest Means of Agriculture
4. Provide Land Ownership and Access to Credit Facilities
5. Make economic policy & reforms and teach techniques and skills
6. Undertake programmes to reduce the workload of women and promote provision of environmentally sound technologies designed and developed in consultation with rural women.
7. A system of gender based budgeting and auditing need should be introduced and practised.
8. An immediate action is recommended for policy linkage on feminization of agriculture and feminization of poverty.
9. The National Planning Commission must come with specific plan and allocate substantial national budget to uplift women.

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