

# Role of Women in Agriculture

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Women contribute significantly to the agricultural and rural economies of all developing countries. Their roles differ significantly between and within regions, and they are rapidly changing in many parts of the world where economic and social forces are transforming the agricultural sector. Rural women frequently manage complex households and pursue multiple sources of income. Rural women everywhere play an important role in achieving food and nutrition security, generating income, and improving rural livelihoods and overall well-being. They benefit agriculture and rural businesses, as well as local and global economies. In India, 85% of rural women work in agriculture, but only about 13% own land. Women contribute to agriculture in a variety of ways, including cultivators, entrepreneurs, and laborers. Women's participation in agricultural practices improved organic fertilizer and bio-pesticide adoption, but it had no effect on agroforestry adoption. This confirms that women are more likely than men to be concerned about agricultural sustainability.

Weeding, hoeing, grass cutting, picking, cotton stick collection, separation of seeds from fiber, livestock keeping and its associated activities such as milking, milk processing, ghee preparation, and so on are all performed by rural women. Women in agriculture are frequently subjected to gender-based violence, such as sexual harassment, assault, and exploitation. Gender-based violence in agricultural settings must be addressed in order to protect women's human rights, promote their safety and well-being, and allow them to fully participate in agricultural development.

## Problems faced by women farmers in India

In every sector woman face many problems. In agriculture too they face many problems like they are not equally treated like men in the wage distribution and allotment of work. Sometimes they have work load, but due to the availability of the machinery they

do not get their employment. Women almost never have access to land, financing, markets, agricultural training and education, safe working conditions, or equal treatment. All of these issues place the majority of female farmers at a significant disadvantage. 'Even after 75 years, the situation of women farmers remains precarious. Farmers' poverty and illiteracy prevent them from making large-scale capital investments and adopting scientific farming methods. Small land holdings as a result of rapid population growth, which causes land fragmentation in rapid succession.

## Why women should be empowered in agriculture?

If women had equal access to productive resources as men, they could significantly increase farm yields, reducing the number of hungry people around the world. The empowerment of women ensures that they have an equal voice in decisions that affect their communities and way of life. Women's self-esteem grows, and they make strides toward contributing to the nation's growth. Women's social status is rising, and they are better recognized and appreciated. They can make their own financial decisions and become financially independent. Equal opportunities for women in India would enable them to contribute to the economy as productive citizens.

Women can thrive economically and rise out of poverty with higher literacy rates and equal pay for equal work. Gender equality is critical to achieving food security, nutrition, and all of the Sustainable Development Goals. 2. Many developing countries' agriculture sectors are underperforming, and one reason is that women do not have equal access to the resources and opportunities they require to be more productive.

## Conclusion

Agriculture has contributed significantly to society. However, it has its own set of advantages and disadvantages that we must consider. Furthermore, the government is doing everything possible to aid in the growth and development of agriculture; however,

something needs to be done to address agriculture's negative impacts. Women are the backbone of the agricultural workforce, but their efforts are mostly unrewarded around the world. She performs the most laborious and back-breaking tasks in agriculture, animal husbandry, and households. A growing

number of women are receiving a good education. However, true women's empowerment will be realized when gender inequality is eliminated. We must provide equal opportunities for equal pay and equal respect for women as we do for men.

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