

WOMEN IN ORGANIC FARMING IN GAMCHA VILLAGE, DADHIKOT VDC, NEPAL.

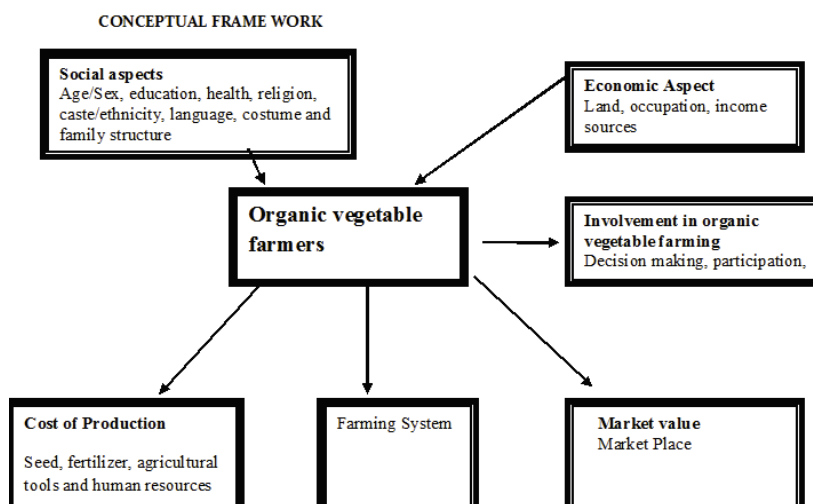
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Abstract: Organic farming is one of the major occupations for income generation for rural livelihood in Gamcha village, Dadhikot VDC, Nepal. More participation of women is seen in farming. Present study found the exclusive involvement of 81% of the female whereas only in 6% of the household, women were not engaged in agriculture. Majority of males are engaged in business, private and public service sector. Further the decision taken in respect of seed sowing, fertilizer application and harvesting and selling of vegetable is also contributed by women. Women are more involved in the decision making process, amongst all the activities, selling of the organic vegetables showed higher involvement of female (53.33%) and the lowest in selection of seed (43.75%) and fertilizer (22.91%) than other decision. Descriptive and analytical research designs were used involving tools like questionnaire and interview.

Key words: Organic farming, women, decision making, livelihood.

Introduction: How much we applied for contribution of inorganic fertilizer for increased productivity, its negative effect on soil and human health, increased cost of production can't be overlooked. Concept of organic farming using organic inputs in Nepal is a traditional practice particularly in remote villages. Even though the productivity under organic farming system is less, the loss can be compensated in terms of human health and higher return per unit produce. The organic production of vegetable especially in the periphery of city like Kathmandu is boon for the livelihood of the villagers. Involvement of women in organic vegetable farming in Dadhikot VDC, Gamcha village has brought about major prospects towards their upliftment and value addition in their living. Women are using their indigenous knowledge, belief, values and traditional concept in developing farming system in vegetable production (Pradhan, 2005). Women are coming forward for uniting together and engaged in agricultural activities. Women empowerment in agriculture is vital for development

of country like Nepal where women's are key player in agriculture sustainability. Keeping in view the above text, present study was envisaged to study about the socio economic condition of organic vegetable farmers and its impact on organic farming and to study about the involvement of women farmers in organic vegetable farming. **Material and Method:** The study was carried out at Gamcha village, Dadhikot VDC, Nepal to know the socio economic conditions of organic vegetable farmers and to assess the involvement of women in farming. The village selection was made through purposive random sampling method. The farmers cultivating organic vegetables for livelihood were considered for study. A total of 48 respondents were chosen randomly from 140 household of the village. The respondents were classified on the basis of age and sex for further analysis. Primary data were obtained by well-structured questionnaire and secondary data were searched at magazine, pamphlet and booklets of Dadhikot VDC and library of NGOs and Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal.



Results:

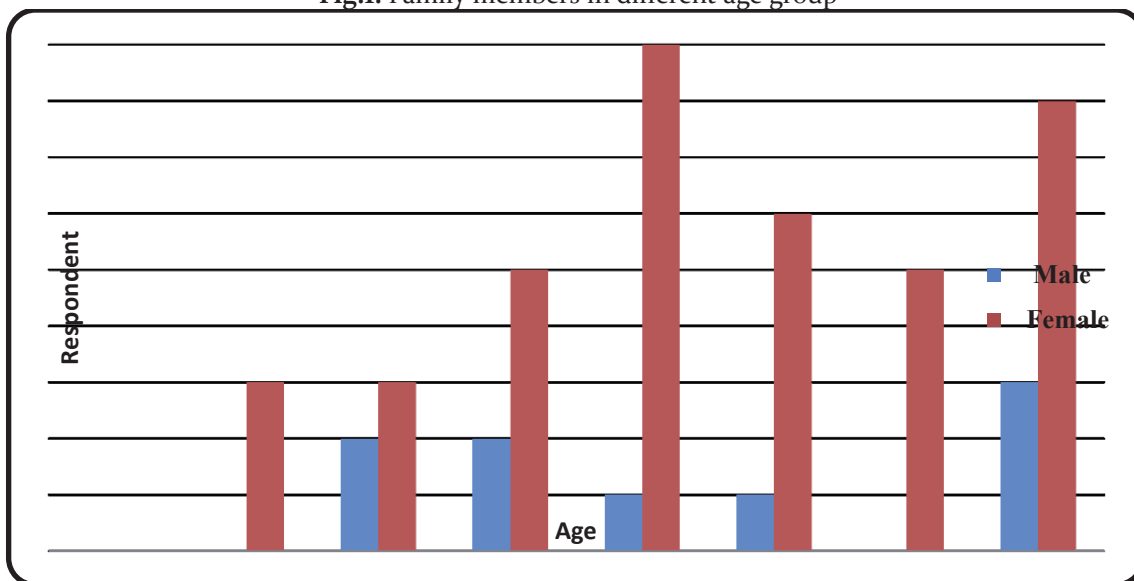
Family members with different age group in organic vegetable farming: Analysis of result (Table 1) showed that the maximum number of organic farmers were in the age range of >50 years (22.92%) followed by the age range of 35-40 years (20.84%). Though farmers of all age groups are engaged in organic farming of vegetables at Gamcha village. Organic vegetable farming is taken up by the person of age 35-40 years is quite imperative, since the organic farming is quiet technical and need to have

more knowledge on crop. Peoples at this age are of more learning nature and are more educated too. The interesting finding revealed by data (Table 1) shows that 81% of the farmers are female, which shows the active involvement of women in organic vegetable production. The involvement of women in agriculture is due to demographic shift in Nepal. It may be probably due to increased out-migration of working age Nepali men. The 2011 census revealed huge migration of Nepali men to abroad (Census, 2011).

Table 1: Composition of family members in different age in vegetable farming group.

Age group	Male	Female	Population	
			Total	Percentage
20-25	0	3	3	6.25
25-30	2	3	5	10.41
30-35	2	5	7	14.58
35-40	1	9	10	20.84
40-45	1	6	7	14.58
45-50	0	5	5	10.42
>50	3	8	11	22.92
Total	9	39	48	100.00

Fig.1: Family members in different age group



Women involvement in organic farming: Table 2 revealed that in 60.42% of the cases, agriculture was exclusively handled by the women. Whereas only in 6.25% of household women were not involved in organic vegetable cultivation. In 33% of the household, both men and women were involved in agricultural operation. It is due to the reason that women are mostly housewives and they had made an initiative to earn money through their kitchen garden instead of sitting idle at home and getting self employed.

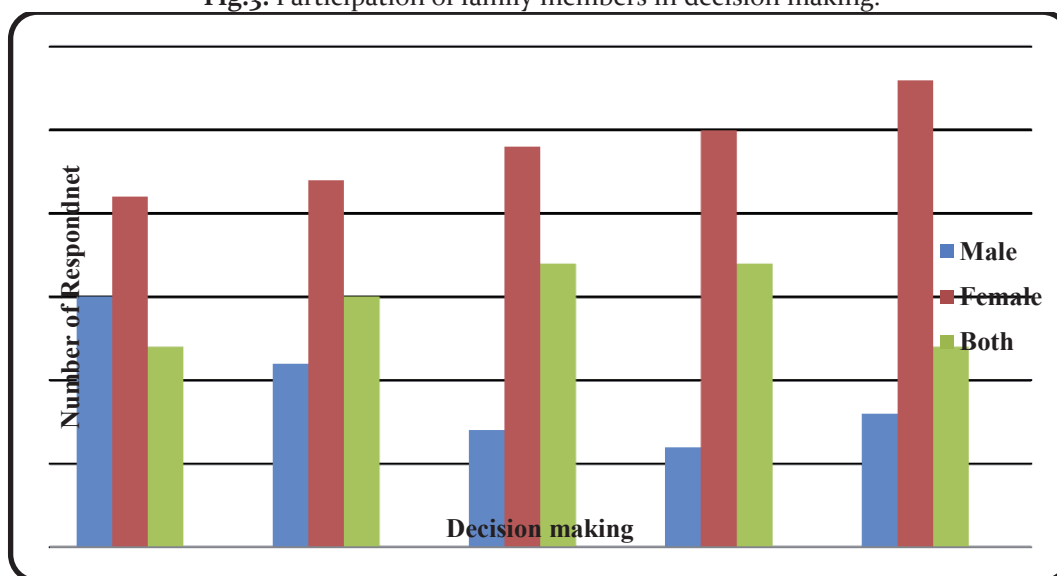
Decision making: Decision is made by male and female in agricultural activities in aspect like choosing seed, use of fertilizer, harvesting, storage and selling of the produce. The detail is clearly depicted in Table 3 and Fig.3. It revealed that women contribution is more in all the activities compared to male. Amongst all selling of the organic vegetable showed higher involvement of female (53.33%) and the lowest in selection of seed (43.75%) and fertilizer (22.91%) than other decision. As per the decision making perspective, every aspect was dominated by women though men are also

contributing. Such trend is may be due to the initiatives of women to be self-employed for raising income for family.

Table 3: Respondent participation in decision making

Description	Male	Female	Both	Total
Seed	15	21	12	48
Fertilizer	11	22	15	48
Harvesting	7	24	17	48
Storage	6	25	17	48
Selling	8	28	12	48

Fig.3: Participation of family members in decision making.



Economic aspect on Organic farming: Women farmers are quite inquisitive with the farming practices being implicated in their own kitchen garden. It was analysed through survey that majority of them (40%) were earning Rs 10,000 and even more during the growing period. It has also been utilized in own consumption, social function, education of children and even house construction and purchasing of land. Further analysing the utilization of amount they earn from vegetable farming, 30% women utilized money in their child education while 28% in social function, 21% in consumption and 9% in land purchase and house construction.

Income generation of the farmers had obtained through livestock rearing, job, business along with organic vegetables production. It was analysed that 80% were dependent on vegetable growing for their income and sustaining their livelihood while 11% in job and least members(4%) in livestock rearing as a source of earning.

The income aspect has to go through cost of cultivation and it includes aspects like purchasing of seed which showed that less than Rs 500 is governed by 55% of them for seed purchase and that of 34% bears Rs 500-1000 for it. It also seems that they seldom purchase agricultural tools. However it was

found that 88% spent Rs 500-1000 for buying and repairing the implements.

Farming includes addition of fertilizer for increasing production. They used cow dung manure; cow urine and dry leaf for it. However 18% of them use bone meal, rice bran and till cake along with house manure which governs less than Rs 500. In field human labour had been implied for growing. The number of frequency may go to ten times of applying and each cost Rs 1000-1500. (Pradhan *et al.*, 2013)

Main aspect of growing lies in selling. All the farmers sell their produce in AAA women’s cooperative which supplies the produce in the restaurants and hotel in Kathmandu (AAA Bulletin, 1996).

Conclusion: Organic vegetable farming is done in Gamcha village where women are mostly involved in production and other decision making as seed, fertilizer, harvesting, storage and selling of the produce. The women farmer sells their produce in nearby market. It has uplifted their socio economic condition as well as made them more confident and decision maker at home. It had brought an alternative source of livelihood along with male in the house. They had been able to utilize their money in several activities at home and had developed confidence by raising income.

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