

Given the rapid increase of feminisation of agriculture, discuss the problems faced by women farmers in India. & suggest measures to address these problems.

Feminisation in agriculture has resulted in increased participation of women. While it has empowered women in one aspect, it ~~has~~ is ~~encountered~~ riddled with several problems as discussed below—

a) Climate change issue: Poor families are already facing food insecurity. Now it is coupled with drought & agriculture fluctuations. As gender-based intra-family inequality is followed, the entire burden is disproportionately shifted on women.

~~b) Low status of women~~

b) Absence of ownership: While upto 80% of women are engaged in farm-related activities, only 13% of women actually hold lands under their name.

c) Inability to raise finance: No land ownership & absence of male owners have made institutional lenders inaccessible for women farmers. This results in debt trap or stagnant production ~~and~~ capability.

d) Wage disparity & less market price: By virtue of being a women farmer, they experience upto 25% wage disparity as compared to males.

e) Technology lag: Almost all the farm machines & equipments are designed keeping male as reference. Thus, women farmers find it difficult to use.



f) Lack of political voice: Despite 33% reservation for women in local bodies, the agrarian communities are under represented as one moves up from village to district level rural local bodies. Thus, decisions pertaining to agriculture is neglected.

Nonetheless, feminisation in agriculture has positively helped the dairy & livestock sectors. In this context, following suggestion can be followed -

- Model of "co-operative society" based on the lines of Part-IV of Indian Constitution.
- The use of climate sensitive budgeting will ease out the climate change issue faced in agriculture.
- State governments must overhaul the patriarchal laws & immediately identify women land owners as well as amend APMC act for better market prices.
- Manufacturers of farm machines must design their products according to demands of women farmers.
- Constitutional provision of reservation for women must be strictly implemented across all the three tiers of local bodies.

Identifying & addressing the problems associated with feminisation in agriculture will also help the government achieve the aim of "Doubling Income of Farmers" by 2022. as well as truly empowering the women.