

Dietary Status of Farm Women with Different Work Status

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ABSTRACT The present study was directed towards determining the dietary status of women representing commercial and subsistence farming but with different work status. The study covered a total number of 141 farm women selected from a random population of 285 households located in 17 villages belonging to Bijawara mandal of Devanahalli Taluk in Bangalore rural district of Karnataka State in India. The selected women represented three different work status viz. employed women (EW), partially employed women (PEW) and unemployed women (UEW). Results of the study indicated that women engaged in farming related activities have a larger amount of time devoted to work leading to a high energy output than women who were unemployed. Thus the limiting factor on the neutral effect observed on the nutrition of the women in both employed and partially employed having earned an additional income to their families appears to be the net increase in the physical labour resulting in increased energy expenditure consequently increasing the energy requirement. Thus participation in the cash economy did not appear to have translated into improved nutrition for the women themselves.