

Participation Pattern of Farm Women in Post Harvesting

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ABSTRACT Post harvesting is an important component of farm activities and is mostly performed by women. They play a vital role in subsequent processing and storage of the produce. In order to understand the present participation pattern of farm women in post harvest activities an attempt was made under the Extension component of All India Coordinated Research Project on Home Science. The study conducted on 2999 farm families in rural Punjab represented by five agro-climatic zones and five distinct landholding categories clearly indicate an active participation of women in most of the selected activities in the area of post harvesting. The results varied between zones but the women were found to contribute substantially in drying, storage and cleaning. In other activities majority of the women were working with male members. However, least participation was reported in processing and marketing. Study points towards a need to technically arm women in post harvest know-how so as to help in reducing losses during storage. This shall not only reduce economic losses but help in maintaining family food security.