

Manuscript ID:  
IJEBAMPSR-2025-020532

Volume: 2

Issue: 5

Month: October

Year: 2025

E-ISSN: 3065-9140

Submitted: 25-Sept-2025

Revised: 30 Sept-2025

Accepted: 25-Oct-2025

Published: 31-Oct-2025

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.17854293](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17854293)

Link:

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17854293>



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**How to Cite this Article:**

Jadhav, A. D. (2025). The Role of Women in Indian Agriculture Sector. *International Journal of Economic, Business, Accounting, Agriculture and Management Towards Paradigm Shift in Research*, 2(5), 174–177. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17854293>

# The Role of Women in Indian Agriculture Sector

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## Abstract

*India is an agricultural country. Even today, most people in India are engaged in agriculture. The highest proportion is women, and the proportion of women workers in the agricultural sector in developing countries is 43 percent. Women work in agriculture, but their work is not considered. They must work in agriculture as invisible workers. Women work in agriculture from sowing to threshing. Today, we see women working in every sector, so their role in the agricultural sector is very important. However, these have always been neglected. In rural areas, rural economies depend on women's work. However, their work is considered secondary. These were not included in the decision-making process. They were only considered for work. This study attempts to provide information on the role of women in the agricultural sector.*

**Keywords:** *agriculture, women, invisible, rural, developing. etc*

## Introduction:

Even today, many women are working in the rural areas of India. They are considered important components of the Indian economy. Today, many women work in agriculture. Of the total agricultural workers, the proportion of female workers was the highest. Women are seen as engaging in physical and intellectual work. To a large extent, women participate in various agricultural activities. In other words, women contribute the most to agricultural production in the country's economy. The role of women is very important in the development of the country; however, no one pays much attention to their work. They always worked as invisible workers. In rural areas, the largest number of women work in agriculture. While working in agriculture, they work more than normal and work for low wages. In rural areas, families run on the work of women who work in agriculture. They contribute a lot to the family, but their work is not even taken into account. They only work day and night and work for the development of the country; that is, to strengthen the country's economy. Of the total workers in the country, 84% are women. Women workers are working in various occupations related to agriculture. Similar to the forest department, there are no sectors such as fish farming, dairy farming, animal husbandry, or fruit production, and women are seen as secondary even though they do not work. Therefore, this study attempts has been made to explain the importance of women's roles in the development of the country's economy.

## Research Methodology:

Secondary data were used to prepare the research papers. This research paper was written on the basis of collecting information from various newspapers, magazines, books, and the Internet.

## Objectives Of the Study:

1. To study the role of women in different agriculture sectors.
2. To study the various obstacles to the growth of women in the agriculture sector and its related sectors.
3. To Analyze The Gender Differences In Roles And Activities In Agri- Culture Sector.

## The Participation of Women Workers in Various Agricultural Sectors Can Be Further Clarified by Going Through the Following Information.

### Women In Agriculture:

Women play a key role in the agricultural and rural economies of developing countries. Women work in agriculture as wage or cash workers in other fields and agricultural businesses as well as self-employed farmers and cash workers on family farms.

Their contribution to agriculture, which is rapidly evolving due to economic and social changes in the agricultural sector, varies greatly across regions. For example, the rise of contract farming and modern supply chains for profitable agricultural commodities provides unique opportunities and constraints for women compared to men. These differences arise from the different roles and responsibilities of women as well as the constraints they face. Women play a significant role in rural and agricultural economies worldwide. However, determining the exact types and amounts of their contributions can be challenging, with significant differences across countries and regions. This paper reviews research on women's participation in rural labor markets and agriculture. Gender distribution trends in rural communities were also examined, as they relate to demographic trends in such settings.

#### **Women In Forestry**

In India, women play an important role in forestry by contributing to various aspects of forest management and conservation. They also contribute to the preservation and conservation of forests, agroforestry, tree improvement, and watershed management. Their responsibilities encompass collecting firewood, fodder, and non-timber forest products that are essential for household use and income generation. Women often possess traditional knowledge of local flora and fauna, aiding sustainable forest utilization. Additionally, they engage in activities such as nursery management, tree plantation, and soil conservation to promote environmental sustainability.

#### **Women In Fisheries And Aquaculture:**

In India, approximately 45 million people were employed full-time or part-time in the world's major fishing industry in 2008. Women play an integral role in fisheries and aquaculture and contribute to various aspects of the sector's value chain. Their responsibilities include harvesting, processing, marketing and trading. In many coastal communities, women are involved in artisanal fishing using traditional methods or small-scale fishery activities, such as fish farming or shrimp farming. Women are increasingly involved in subsistence and commercial fishing from small boats and canoes in coastal and inland waters. For example, in West Africa, so-called "fish mamas" play a prominent role. In other words, women play a crucial.

#### **Women Workers In Rural Labour Markets:**

Female workers in rural labor markets play pivotal roles across various sectors, contributing to agricultural production, livestock management, agro-processing, and other rural industries. Their responsibilities encompass tasks such as planting, harvesting, weeding, and tending to livestock while engaging in non-farm activities such as handicrafts,

food processing, and small-scale entrepreneurship. However, women often encounter challenges, such as limited access to land, credit, and technology, as well as lower wages and inadequate social protection compared to men. Empowering women in rural labor markets through equitable access to resources, education, training, and supportive policies can enhance productivity, income generation, and gender equality, ultimately fostering sustainable rural development.

#### **Environment For Farm Women**

The sociocultural and technological context impacting rural women's involvement in agriculture is constantly evolving. Despite significant changes, rural women continue to encounter deep-rooted sociocultural barriers that hinder their ability to make independent social and economic decisions. These barriers, originating within the family and community, pose challenges to women's mobility and aspirations for socioeconomic advancement, especially as smaller family sizes become more common. Balancing various roles, including reproductive, community, and productive duties, presents a complex challenge for women striving for holistic development.

#### **Women As Food Producers**

Sustainable food production is the primary pillar of food security. Millions of women work as farmers, farm workers, and natural-resource managers. In doing so, they contribute to the national agricultural output, maintenance of the environment, and family food security.

#### **Role Of Women Self-Help Groups In Agricultural Development:**

Organizing women into self-help groups is an accepted method of empowerment. Self-help groups are an effective means through which women can build self-reliance, solidarity, and self-confidence as well as contribute to the overall development of their families and society. Belonging to a group gives women a sense of identity, status, and security, and gives them access to credit and institutional support services that they would not have had individually. Self-help groups have bargaining power and the ability to make key decisions for their development. Self-help groups require skills such as group formation, conflict resolution, and leadership development, and KVKs act as facilitators to assist in group formation, training, and entrepreneurship development. They also provided guidance on relationship building, social structure analysis, livelihood and local resources, group formation, group planning, participatory monitoring, and participatory evaluation.

Choice of Industries Many women trained under various programs have started new industries as individuals and groups and can significantly increase their income from these activities. However, choosing the right industry type is very

important. The choice of industry mainly depends on the time available to the women, their risk-taking capacity, cost of inputs, cash flow, market, and so on. The capacity of women's groups to understand the potential outcomes of various industries and to help them decide which industry is right for them can be developed through appropriate training by KVKs. Women farmers need activities that are not time-consuming, not labor-intensive, and will generate income for them. In other words, women's development is important.

#### **Policy And Strategies**

In India, women from all castes, classes, and religions participate in agriculture. Women work in agriculture to a large extent, and their participation in production varies according to the type of crop or cropping system and family's social and economic status. The most important distinction needs to be made between women's participation as agricultural workers and their participation in agricultural work in their own fields. In affluent areas, land is in large quantities and owned by them. Most of the work is done with the help of the machinery. Women played a minor role. Women from poor families worked as community workers. Women workers from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities make up a very large proportion. However, although landless women do not own land, their role in agriculture is important. This is because they work in 85 percent of the agricultural businesses in India. Landless women rent the land for agriculture. Animals, dairy farming, poultry farming, poor farming, farming families, and agricultural laborers are important sources of income. Therefore, agricultural training programs for women should not be neglected. They do not have land and do not fall under the umbrella of small and marginal farmers. The problems faced by tribal women are very different from those of other rural women. A completely different approach is required to overcome some of these difficulties.

Therefore, a different approach is required. It is necessary to identify the different categories of female farmers and their needs in agriculture and develop appropriate policies to help them. For example, trained women are required to reach out to farmers in India. In some areas, trained women may be needed only as motivators; in other areas, women may need to disseminate technology. If women are empowered by increasing their awareness, knowledge, skills, and technology, they can farm more effectively.

For this, planners, social welfare organizations, or organizations working for women's development should be given a proper place. At the same time, if some things are imposed on women, it is necessary to support them to free them from them. Therefore, it is important to address this issue. It should save labor, adopt techniques to reduce labor, generate

new income, and increase productivity. It should also be publicized and encouraged to be used through practical extensions. Therefore, women have become more prosperous, and there is a need for changes in government goals and policies. The government needs to change the policy, keeping in mind female workers.

#### **Conclusion:**

Today, women's empowerment in agriculture is not just a matter of gender equality; it is essential for women's labor, sustainable development, and food security. Rural women contribute significantly to the agriculture and related sectors. Their work ranges from crop production to household and family care, to transport water, fuel, and fodder. Rural women are crucial for driving economic development, increasing food and nutrition security, and reducing poverty. Rural women are at the forefront of increasing economic growth and environmental sustainability, making significant contributions to agricultural production, livestock management, forestry, fisheries, and rural labor markets. Despite their important roles, women face formidable sociocultural barriers and limited access to resources and opportunities. Therefore, it is essential to focus on women's agricultural workers.

#### **Acknowledgment**

I express my sincere gratitude to all those who supported me in the completion of this research paper titled "*The Role of Women in Indian Agriculture Sector.*" I am deeply thankful to the women agricultural workers whose contributions and lived experiences form the core of this study. Their dedication, resilience, and hard work in various agricultural and allied sectors have inspired and enriched this research.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to Sahakarbhushan S.K. Patil College, Kurundwad, for providing continuous encouragement, academic support, and a conducive environment for pursuing this work. I am especially grateful to my colleagues, mentors, and the college administration for their valuable guidance and motivation.

I also acknowledge the authors, researchers, newspapers, magazines, books, and online resources that provided essential secondary data and insights which strengthened the conceptual and analytical framework of this study.

Lastly, I express my warm appreciation to my family and well-wishers for their constant support, encouragement, and understanding throughout the preparation of this research paper.

#### **Financial support and sponsorship**

Nil.

#### **Conflicts of interest**

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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