

---

## **UNIT 6 ACCESS TO RESOURCES, SERVICES AND INSTITUTIONS**

---

### **Structure**

- 6.1 Introduction
- 6.2 Objectives
- 6.3 Farm women's access to production resources
- 6.4 Farm women's access to land resources
- 6.5 Farm Women's access to credit facilities
- 6.6 Fram Women's access to institution
  - 6.6.1 Role of national dairy development board( NDDDB)
  - 6.6.2 Role of dairy co-operatives
  - 6.6.3 Role of BAIF in livestock development
- 6.7 Education, research and training
- 6.8 Extension and farm women
  - 6.8.1 Motivation rural women by supporting indigenous technical knowledge systems
  - 6.8.2 Emphasizing research into appropriate technologies for women in livestock production
  - 6.8.3 Improving market facilities and livestock process to enhance women's involvement
- 6.9 Direct Training and extension services for women involved in livestock production
- 6.10 Summing Up
- 6.11 Glossary
- 6.12 Answers to check your progress exercises
- 6.13 Reference
- 6.14 Questions for reflection and Practice

---

### **6.1 INTRODUCTION**

---

Women constitute about half the world's population, account for 60 per cent of the working hours , contribute up to 30 per cent of the official labor force, yet receive only ten per cent of the income and own less than one per cent of the worlds property (anon, 1980). Although, women represent bulk of the labor force especially in the developing countries of Asia, Latin America and Africa, they have not been actively involved in the main stream of development and there is hardly any appreciation and recognition of their extensive contribution, by and large, they have

remained as ``invisible workers``, the problems of integrating women in the development process are now engaging the attention of policy makers as well as Research and Development (R&D) agencies all over the developing countries of the world.

Rural women, besides, performing household work, have been traditionally and predominantly engaged in crop farming, Plantations, animal husbandry and dairying activities in developing economies. Attention to the problems of women in agriculture. Women have not been provided easy access to extension training in appropriate technology, services and inputs and credit facilities, institutions like cooperatives. Extension training centres, research establishments and commercial banks and other credit agencies have generally excluded them.

The modernization and mechanization of agriculture (crop farming) and some of the associated new technologies, is believed to have displaced rural women from many of the traditional activities. Though, many of the farm tasks performed by males are getting mechanized, the women continue to toil in labor intensive jobs like rice transplantation, and post harvest operations. However, there is considerable evidence to show that livestock raising and management related activities still continue predominantly rural women's responsibility and domain. As a matter of fact a large number of livestock related tasks like harvesting and transporting of fodder, chaffing of fodder, feeding of the animals. Cleaning of the cattle sheds, filling of manure pits, preparation of sales of milk products, poultry farming. Wool and other animal fiber production, etc. Are all done by rural women? Therefore, any livestock farming system must give specific attention to women's labor, skills, knowledge, opinions, needs, constraints, and potentials in these areas. This is best done by providing education, extensive training and services, income-earning opportunities and access to credit and cooperative institutions.

In India, the livestock production system currently contributes annually about 46 million tones of milk, 17000 million eggs, 200 million kg of meat from broilers and culled poultry birds, 1.2 million tones of meat from other species of livestock. 41 million kg of wool and 2.89 million tones fish and acts as a substrate to channelize energy of 35,70 million farm women to participate in the production process. This only goes to show the immense importance and potential of the livestock production system in improving the economy of rural women especially in the households of small and marginal farmers and landless agricultural laborers.

The participation of rural women workers in livestock production process varies from state to state and region to region in India. The size of holding i.e., large, medium, small, marginal and landless labor, exercises a commanding influence on work participation of rural women. Illiteracy, socio-economic constraints as well as lack of communication process pertaining to needs based livestock production technologies are some relevant factors contributing to extent of participation of women in livestock production process.

In traditional livestock production systems, Woman has been considered merely a supporting worker, she has been denied the responsibility and fruits of independent decision making and handling of livestock enterprise. With a view to elicit effective participation, farm women should have equal access to technical information and training and it is essential to create awareness among them about their role and they should be duly compensated with economic benefits of independent handling of livestock enterprise.

The above position necessitates creation and development of need based livestock production technologies aimed at increasing the participation of rural women and increasing their economic returns and improving their quality of life.

---

## **6.2 OBJECTIVES**

---

After studying this Unit, you would be able to

- discuss the issues related to access to resources, services and institutions; and
- examine the role of various institutions in livestock and dairying among women.

---

## **6.3 FARM WOMEN'S ACCESS TO PRODUCTION RESOURCES**

---

The need for studies on the role of gender in technical fields is a priority in India. The lack of detailed understanding of women's role in livestock production has been the common theme throughout the country. It is accepted on all hands that women play crucial roles in production, storage and processing of food in most societies. But as swaminathan (1985) observes, "despite their importance to agricultural production, women face severe handicaps. They are, in fact, the largest group of landless laborers, with little real security in case of break-up of the family through death or divorce; inheritance laws and customs discriminate against them.

Land reforms and settlement programmes usually give sole title and hence the security needed for obtaining production credits to the husband. Agricultural development programmes

are usually planned by men and aimed at men. Mechanization, for example alleviates the burden of tasks that are traditionally men's responsibility leaving women's burdens unrelieved or even increased. The excess burden of work on women ("the double day") of the farm work plus house work also acts as a stimulus to have many children so that they can help out with chores from an early age. Extension workers, almost exclusively male, aim their advice at men and at men's activities and crops. In some regions, this bias may depress production of subsistence food crops (often women's crops) in favor of increased production of cash crops (often women's crops) so that family nutrition suffers".

All agricultural services still have sex bias in favor of men. Women are generally bypassed in development effects. For instance, group discussion meetings are usually held in villages involving mostly men. Further, the venue and timing of such meetings are inconvenient to women and hence even most needy women are not able to attend. So is the case with training. While designing a training programme for women, their dual rather triple burden over child rearing, farm work and house hold responsibilities is not given consideration. Its venue, timing, duration, content and methodology are not very appropriate for women.

It is mostly held at centres which lack necessary facilities for women and infant child-care facilities are not considered as an essential component of women's training programme. Similarly, information regarding home and farm innovations is often communicated through channels like radio, TV, pamphlets and like which are inaccessible to women. Notwithstanding all this discrimination and unfair deal, women play a vital role in agricultural development and for that matter, in any field. But they have visibly been side-tracked in so far as their contribution to agricultural development and access to development and access to development resources and services are concerned. Technology and credit are among the most crucial inputs for any enterprise. But although women's significant contributions to agricultural development more than justify their being given access to productive resources, their eligibility to receive technology and credit is questioned on the ground that they are not asset holders and do not have the status of a producer.

Moreover, the extension approaches and strategies usually followed for transfer of technology to women are not in keeping with their specific needs and problems. Similarly, the existing loaning procedures are exceedingly cumbersome and prohibitive for women. Thus, they have little or no access to new home and farm technologies and other necessary inputs including,

among others, credit that the present –day modern capital-intensive agriculture calls for. In nutshell, women have access neither to agricultural information and services nor to production assets. They have also no control over their earnings. This does affect their motivation to engage in different types of income-generating activities.

---

#### **6.4 FARM WOMEN’S ACCESS TO LAND RESOURCES**

---

Land-grabbing, privatization and uncontrolled agricultural expansion are serious issues. These lead to land degradation and pastoral displacement, uncontrolled settlement and marginalization. They are also becoming serious issues in the range areas of Latin America and Asia. Land tenure laws need to be modified to protect the rights of communities. Policies should recognize the dependence of women and poor households on common land, and their hardships when land resources are degraded or scarce.

Women’s traditional land rights to both private and common land should be protected and, in the case of allocation of new lands, their equal accessibility to the land ensured. In most countries, women are denied access to land within the modern land tenure system, which seriously affects their ability to increase agricultural production and income. A good strategy is to allocate new land to a group of women, with internal mechanisms in place to ensure equal access to the land by all women in the group.

Some requirements for enhancing women’s rights to land are: adequate data and understanding of local land tenure systems; participation of both men and women and community leaders in the process of land allocation and project planning and implementation; provision of supplementary assurances in the loan agreement with the Member Country to ensure borrowers’ commitment to support women’s land rights; and monitoring of the implementation process.

Although there are various cases where women have been able to benefit from commercialized livestock production, in most cases this is not so. Part of the blame is placed on the fact that the rights of women are not protected in the process. Projects and policies that promote commercialization should be sensitive to the impact on women and should devise rules and procedures for mitigating adverse results. Possible solutions are to work with women’s groups or to build in benefits for men in order to prevent them from taking over women’s activities.

Government livestock development strategies should be modified to encourage and recognize women's increasing roles in livestock production. Single-objective projects or programmes can never answer to local people's needs. Multiple objectives that recognize women's milk-based strategies, their concerns for household nutrition and income and their need for income-generating activities should become the norm in all livestock development projects in pastoral areas.

### **Check Your Progress Exercise 1**

**Note:** i. Use this space given below to answer the question.

ii. Compare your answer with the one given at the end of this Unit.

1. Why do farm women lack access to resources, services and institutions?

---

---

---

---

---

### **6.5 FARM WOMEN'S ACCESS TO CREDIT FACILITIES**

Credit is a must for any enterprise. It is as important for women as for men. Farm women need credit to increase their work productivity and income through expanded investment and to raise the living standard of their families through increased consumption of goods and services. Farm women's significant contribution to agriculture more than justifies their access to institutional credit. The existing policy and procedures of loans, whether in the cooperative or other sectors, do not favor women in their own right to receive loans in their individual capacity as procedures. They also have unequal access to extension services which provide information and technical assistance in obtaining credit. Their credit eligibility is questioned mainly on the ground that they neither hold assets in the form of a house, land or other property. Nor have otherwise control over these economic resources.

Property, particularly individual land titles, is usually in the name of male household heads. This makes women's independent access to credit extremely difficult. Another, major factor that restricts farm women's access to institutional credit is credit institutions do not have programmes that are responsive to the types of work done by farm women. Even if some credit institutions like banks are prepared to help them, the amount of loans offered is too meager to meet the capital needs of farm women. Over and above, the terms of loans as well as the

repayment regulations in respect of timing, frequency and duration are prohibitive. Besides lack of their control over economic resources and non monetized nature of their activities, social customs and illiteracy are other factors responsible for farm women not taking advantage of institutional credit. In view of their significance role in agriculture, their credit worthiness should not be decided on the basis of the assets they hold or what activities they undertake, but on their productivity capacity. It is equally important that the existing highly cumbersome loaning procedures are simplified to suit the convenience of farm women who are mostly illiterate. Cooperatives for women should be set so that they may have easy access to credit, input supplies, marketing and savings. Cooperatives run by women will also provide them incentive to be more productive.

Credit needs to be provided directly to women, cutting through cultural barriers wherever they exist. This will require policy reform, training in literacy and business management for women and changes in credit procedures. Indigenous systems of credit can be utilized, making sure that women are allowed access to the system. Often credit is the major constraint for women, but not necessarily always. Sometimes it has to be accompanied or preceded by the development of technical and managerial skills, or entrepreneurial spirit, and the existence of ongoing entrepreneurial activities or supportive markets. Targeting credit to women requires a 'client' rather than an 'institutional' approach, i.e., women has to be contacted and encouraged individually. Instead of assuming that women will benefit through the same procedures as those used for men, project designers must introduce special procedures to target them.

For example, smaller loans must be allowed, bureaucratic procedures must be simplified and made easy for the illiterate, the terms of repayment must be made more flexible to account for the slower rate of return on livestock, and adequate follow-up should be provided for investment control to ensure that the loan is being properly utilized. Other innovations that can be considered are mobile banking, convenient opening hours to accommodate women's schedules, and appropriate and innovative savings schemes. In addition, mechanisms are needed to reduce risks associated with livestock production. Without such mechanisms, there is a danger of latent indebtedness, where women fail to repay their loans as a result, for example, of animal loss. Such risks can be reduced through flexible procedures, such as: repayment in kind and installments, relevant grace periods and accompanying measures such as insurance, access to markets, adequate training, appropriate technologies in animal husbandry and feed resources and

veterinary services where land for collateral is not available, women should be given access to credit using group collateral or alternative forms of collateral.

Access to credits has shown considerable success in breaking social barriers against credit for women. The group approach remains the most successful strategy in areas where there are major social and cultural constraints affecting women. The group approach also has the advantages of being less costly administratively (at least until such time as the group expands into an institution with fixed capital costs) and of increasing women's confidence in undertaking income-generating activities.

---

## **6.6 FARM WOMEN'S ACCESS TO INSTITUTION**

---

The following institutions playing significant role in providing services to the farm women.

### **6.6.1 Role of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)**

To meet the wide ranging and urgent manpower requirements for the growing dairy industry, the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) setup in 1979, the institute of Rural Management (IRMA) at Anand. Earlier 1971 in NDDB established Mansingh Institute of training at Mehsana in Gujarat for middle level manpower. NDDB also setup three other Regional Demonstration and Training Institute at Erode, Jalandhar and Siliguri. These centres develop manpower to milk producers Cooperative societies.

With the initiation of `operation flood` in 1970 by NDDB, a very efficient system of collection, processing and marketing of milk has been evolved and replicated with success in different states of India. This is the Anand pattern of dairy cooperatives. The village cooperative and the district unions and state federations. However, are made up of and mainly manned by men. Women have been largely kept out of these formal dairy organizations. However, pilot projects organized in Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat with all women dairy cooperatives have made some interesting relations and given positive insights for bringing rural women into mainstream of dairy development. For an effective contribution in milk production and animal husbandry rural women must have greater access to dairy extension, technology, credit and cooperatives.

The current women's empowerment approach by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) differs from earlier women in development (WID) perspective, which was popular in the 1970s, in which development programs were focused on women as target audience. Unlike the WID perspective the current approach to women's empowerment by NDDB involves women playing a more active role in their liberation from patriarchal system. Women have also come to



play an increasingly important role in dairy cooperatives as members, as leaders and as employees. The control over the income earned from the daily sale of milk contributes to woman's self esteem. Women participation in the affairs of the cooperatives broadens her knowledge of the world she lives in. She becomes increasingly empowered as a partner in the household with a voice in its decisions.

#### **6.6.2 Role of dairy co-operatives**

The basis for starting a cooperative organization is to satisfy the common economic needs of people (members) by self help and through mutual help among themselves. Cooperation is a socio-economic organization of the members for the members and by the members, and is intended for their long term economic welfare. They are acting as the agents of social change and development in the society from traditional to modern life. In order to facilitate this process, cooperatives provide training programmes to the members on aspects related to administration and management. They also act as means for avoiding concentration of wealth in a few hands with the motive of service and uplift of living standard of people together with desirable social development.

Dairy cooperatives, in India play a key role in improving the standards of living and socio-economic prosperity of people, as self-governing organizations functioning with an objective of sustainable development of rural areas in India with three tier-structures at State, District and Village levels. Dairy cooperatives have been organized on the basis of 'Anand', a successful model in Gujarat State. The 'Anand' model has been simulated in about 200 Districts by covering over 1,01,000 villages in the country. The special features of "Anand model" are protection of the interest of milk producers through payment of milk on the basis of fat content, shift of milk from rural producers to urban consumers, focus on urban marketing in order to get better price for milk and its products, supply of required inputs to members at their doorsteps and incorporation of women into dairy development network.

The primary milk producer's cooperative societies at the village level have been formed, with the help and guidance of milk producers union of the concerned District, to eliminate the major role and the illegitimate dominance of middlemen in milk production and marketing of milk in rural areas. These cooperatives continuously ensure fair price and regular market for milk and milk products of its members including women. Each

society has its own milk collection centre where members bring their milk every day morning and evening. They also elect the Board of Directors from among themselves through cooperative elections.

The elected Board of Directors will guide the societies in the day today management and administrative activities. A person who is living in a village, having a milch animal and willing to subscribe a share to a milk producers cooperative society can become a member of that dairy cooperative. The primary dairy cooperatives at present have more than 12.4 million farmers as members. While the primary milk producers' cooperative societies protect the interest and concerns of weaker and downtrodden members in the villages, District cooperative milk producers unions at the District level serve the interest of urban consumers by supplying quality milk and milk products with required quantity in time, that too under reasonable rate.



This structure presents the clear depiction of dairy cooperatives in India. The PMPCSs are the foundation and backbone of dairy cooperative movement. At present in India 1,17,575 PMPCSs are functioning for the well-being of rural masses, especially for women, by providing income and employment generation opportunities. The PMPCSs can retain the existing members and attract new members by providing fair price to their milk and milk products. The DMPCUs is an association of PMPCSs at the District level. In India about 170 DMPCUs are collecting milk and milk products from PMPCSs within their Districts. DMPCUs process and supply milk and milk products to the consumers in urban areas. In some of the locations DMPCUs also have their own shops and stalls.

The SCMPF is the State level highest federation of dairy cooperatives. It is a federation of all DMPCUs in the State. As on date, 15 SCMPFs are working and providing financial and technical assistance to DMPCUs within the States and monitoring the whole business transactions through its machineries. The NDCFI is the national level organization for the growth and development of dairy cooperatives in the country and is composed of all SCMPFs in the nation. It is providing necessary assistance to SCMPFs in the whole country in terms of finance, technical, career guidance, services etc. The Government of India is also providing all kinds of support for its long term development.

A cooperative organization is a voluntary and democratic association of human beings, based on equality, equity, and mutuality for the promotion of their common interest as producers or consumers. It directly serves its members' interest by meeting their basic needs and wants. Cooperatives emerged in the country as an alternative to capitalism and industrialism, and have received great momentum through different five year plans of the Central Government in India. They aim at ensuring the ultimate development of people by means of their participation in the business activities and transactions of cooperatives.

In rural India women have traditionally been ignored both as the subject and the object of growth. Nevertheless, they participate in a range of economic activities to generate more income and thereby support their families. Rural women play a pivotal role in agricultural, animal husbandry and its related activities, and about 54 percent of them are involved in these marginal occupations. Though rural women are vulnerable both economically and socially, they share a major responsibility and play a development role in their family. They constitute half of the population of the country, and their active participation in productive actions is not in proportion to their numbers. Under the backdrop, Dairy cooperatives are playing a significant role for the advancement and uplift of rural women. They provide equal opportunity to women in rural areas to participate in day today business transactions and regular production activities.

### **6.6.3 Role of BAIF in livestock development**

BAIF's mission is to create opportunities of gainful self-employment for the rural families, especially disadvantaged sections, ensuring sustainable livelihood, enriched environment, improved quality of life and good human values. This is being achieved through development research, effectively use of local resources, extension of appropriate technologies

and up gradation of skills and capabilities with community participation. BAIF is a non-political, secular and professionally managed organization.

Increasing demand for milk and a large number of low productive bovine population owned by the weaker sections of the society, have been compelling factors for expansion of BAIF's dairy development programme. The programme has been providing doorstep breeding services and other support services to over 5.26 million families spread over 88,272 villages in 12 states namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand states.

Our efforts to transform dairy cattle development programme into a self sustainable model, have made a significant headway. 100 cattle development centres in Eastern parts of Uttar Pradesh and 100 centres in Central Bihar, implemented with the support of SGSY Special Programme of the Government of India, could be successfully completed over a period of seven years while creating a corpus of Rs. 5-6 lakhs per centre to sustain the programme without further financial assistance. This model is now being presented to other donors particularly various State Governments for adoption in the future.

Active involvement of women as service providers and mentors in livestock development, was initiated with the support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation through 158 cattle development centres in Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh states. The project has successfully completed its second year of operation by reaching 49% of the poor through gender integration through 7718 women members and 399 women groups. 1125 dairy interest groups are engaged in adoption of new technologies and organizing collection and marketing of milk.

Based on the successful experience in implementing an eco friendly goat development programme in West Bengal benefitting 10,000 families, the programme has been extended to tribal regions of Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Orissa and Tripura. Reduction in mortality rate from 40% to 4%, increase in weight of newly born kids and growing stock, have enabled the goat keepers to increase their average annual income from Rs. 2400 to Rs. 8000-10,000.

The focus is on promotion of small flock with genetic improvement, feed supplementation, minor health services such as deworming and vaccination, castration of the kids, and selling goats on weight basis. While 3000 families in Vidarbha region are using Osmanabadi breeds for upgrading their nondescript goats, 4025 families in Udaipur area in

Rajasthan, are using Sirohi breed. The farmers in desert areas of Barmer, have adopted Desi Sindh breed of goat which is hardy. Over 30,000 families in Jharkhand, 2000 families in Tripura and 25,000 families in Orissa, are using Black Bengal breed.

1. Dairy Husbandry: 3 Cows / Buffaloes yielding 8 litres /day, generate an annual income of Rs. 35,000 – 45,000 (Gestation: 3.5 to 4 years).
2. Goat Husbandry: 8 – 10 goats generate an annual income of Rs. 25,000 – 30,000 (Gestation: 12 – 18 months)

#### Coverage of a Centre

1. 12-15 Villages; 1000-1500 families;
2. 1500-2000 breedable cattle and buffaloes
3. A.I. at doorsteps
4. Conservation of native breeds
5. Close follow up and monitoring
6. Support services: Vaccination, Health care,
7. Advice on Nutrition and Forage production
8. Focus on poor beneficiaries
9. Development of Local Organizations

#### Outcome

1. No. of Centres: 3749 in 16 states, covering
2. 5.26 million families in 88,000 villages
3. No. of A.I. carried out: 2.5 million/year
4. Cows/Buffaloes in production: 1.0 million
5. Value of Milk produced: Rs.4000 crores / year
6. Programme is Self-Sustainable after initial support for 5-7 years

**Table-6.1 State wise Performance of Cattle Development Programme**

State	Districts	Centres	Villages(Cum.)	Families(Cum.)	Total (2010-11)
MITTRA Maharashtra	19	285	3533	94054	218701
GRISERV Gujarat	23	219	3500	384568	146177

BIRD-K Karnataka	21	226	3842	466082	180586
RRIDMA Rajasthan	18	422	7920	596646	414643
BIRD-UP Uttar Pradesh	75	1043	38713	2788022	1053583
BIRD-Uttarakhand	12	120	2783	246435	66517
BAIF Bihar	15	252	5403	175000	233826
BIRVA- Jharkhand	24	710	14000	303345	169251
SPESD M.P.	19	120	3663	40452	42506
BIRD- A.P.	11	152	2189	100728	118504
BAIF Orissa	10	100	1920	24964	29120
BAIF Punjab	5	100	806	42815	107038
<b>Total</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>3749</b>	<b>88272</b>	<b>5263111</b>	<b>2780452</b>

Source: BAIF website

Under the South Asia Pro-Poor Livestock Policy Programme (SAPPLPP), as a Partnering Institute for India, BAIF has contributed to over 15 Good Practices for improving the productivity of livestock and community pastures.

### Check Your Progress Exercise 2

**Note:** i. Use this space given below to answer the question.

ii. Compare your answer with the one given at the end of this Unit.

1. Write short note on National Dairy Development Board.

---



---



---



---

### 6.7 EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND TRAINING

Women's participation in agriculture is a multi-faceted area for research. It is difficult to have a clear understanding and real appreciation of their role and contribution unless all the major facets

are studied in depth following individually as well as a system approach in relation to each other. A critical look into the micro-level studies conducted so far revealed that, by and large, they have covered the following aspects;

1. Participation in agricultural and allied activities.
2. Decision making in farm and home related matters.
3. Impact of new technology on employment and income.
4. Time use pattern.
5. Access to development inputs and services including technology, credit and training.
6. Participation in rural / agricultural development programme.
7. Role expectation and role performance.

While there is much for generation of additional data, both quantitative and qualitative on the above aspects, there are a number of other aspects equally or more important, which have remained almost untouched. Some of these are;

1. Farm women's knowledge about, attitude towards and adoption of women-specific agricultural and allied technologies within and outside the home.
2. Participation of farm women in transfer of modern agricultural technology.
3. Participation of farm women in ongoing rural / agricultural development programmes like IRDP, T & V system and DWCRA.
4. Impact of poverty alleviation and economic assistance programmes on farm women.
5. Participation productivity, problems and priorities of female headed farm families.
6. Specific needs and problems of women cultivators and landless agricultural laborers.
7. Drudgery-reducing farm and household technologies, their merits and demerits.
8. Activity wise quantitative analysis of farm women's participation in non-monetized household activities.
9. Farm women's access to and control over family resources and income in general and their own earning in particular.
10. Profitability, social accessibility and sustainability of women specific promising agricultural and allied innovations.
11. Impact of modernization in agriculture on growth, equity, productivity, drudgery and social status of farm women belonging to different socio-economic strata.
12. Inhibitors and promoters of women's more productive participation in farming systems.

13. Effectiveness of legislative measures in safeguarding the interests of farm women.

14. Participation of the following categories of women labor in farm operations within and outside the home and their specific problems and priorities.

- ✓ Exchange labor.
- ✓ Permanent / attached labor.
- ✓ Migrant labor.

There is no denying the fact that in recent years, there has been a significant increase in knowledge and understanding about the key role of women in agriculture. The data base on their work is gradually improving but we still have very scanty information on many important issues concerning farm women's work. Ours is a big country having highly diverse agro-climatic and socio-cultural zones. It is unconceivable to have a true overall picture of women's participation in agriculture unless a series of cross-cultural comparative studies are made covering all the important aspects of their work and the major variables which determine the nature and extent of their participation and the problems they are faced with. Since new agricultural technology also brings to the fore new problems offering new opportunities and new avenues for research to social scientists, research on farm women has to be a continuous process.

The educational institutions offer training programs on following areas;

1. Selection of the animal
2. Heifer calf rearing
3. Artificial Insemination
4. Frozen semen handling
5. Fodder preservation
6. Feed mixing
7. Milk products preparation
8. Marketing strategies
9. Effluent treatment
10. Effective utilization of whey
11. Poultry rearing
12. Goat rearing
13. Piggery farm
14. Rabbit rearing



---

## 6.8 EXTENSION AND FARM WOMEN

---

The capabilities of farm women and their contribution to agriculture developments can be increased significantly through effective extension support. It is a happy situation that there appears to be lot of wide spread enthusiasm about increasing their capabilities and contribution but to make this a reality, the extension service have to be geared to better serve their specific needs and interest. Extension personnel have to make available the women specific technology to the user in a manner that is accepted and acted upon. Though the role of farm women in agriculture development has been much talked about, very little has so far been done to upgrade their knowledge, attitudes and skills regarding their technology in hand.

In the present era of scientific advancement a steady flow of technical know –how through appropriate extension approaches and media is a must to bridge the gap between the technology available and its adoption by the farm women. It is in this context that extension methods like method demonstration and result demonstration, field day exhibition, campaign, etc exclusively for farm women assume special significance. Likewise there is a need to introduce women specific programs on radio and TV so that they may take due advantage of the same. Normally the social customs and cultural norms don not prevent rural women to watch TV or listen to radio in presence of men.

Considering the village situation, traditional media like puppet show, folk song and drama may prove to be very effective in transfer of technology. Transfer of technology per se may not lead to its adaptation by the users unless needed facilities, services and inputs made available to them. There are many sources from which all this can be available. Lack of awareness is one of the major reasons of non percolation of the benefits of women specific development programmes to the target groups. The extension personnel have to help them to derive the maximum benefits by conducting the programmes through audio visual aids, films, film strips, slide show etc.

Since a large number of farm women are below the poverty line minimum asset generation with them is essential to further multiply the economic gains. For promoting income generating activities among farm women basically through diversification in agriculture and agro based industries corrective work and cooperative marketing need to be promoted. Farm women will gain strength by forming viable associations like *Mahila Mandals*. This should also be a

source of leadership development among them. Such leaders should further be trained to serve as change agents in their respective communities.

The farmers (males) should provide opportunities to farm women for more interaction and contacts with outside agencies and groups. The women should get a lot of latitude and freedom in the decision making process in their families especially in the context of adoption of new technologies for improving production and productivity. For creating such environment, some of the old conservative cultural values, social customs and systems and taboos must give way to modern values and working milieu.

#### **6.8.1 Motivating rural women by supporting indigenous technical knowledge systems**

Women's indigenous technical knowledge should be used as a vehicle for promoting participatory development, and for enhancing communication between development workers and local people. Women's livestock production should focus on: animal health and nutrition, animal husbandry, feed production and management, water management and animal reproduction.

#### **6.8.2 Emphasizing research into appropriate technologies for women in livestock production**

Client-oriented research is needed in developing appropriate technologies for women in livestock production in order to increase production and incomes. Such research should take into account women's roles and responsibilities, as well as their workload. In addition, complementary work needs to be carried out to reduce burdensome chores such as water and fuel wood collection and lessen women's overall burden. Any time and energy-saving measures could lead to additional benefits, such as allowing women to take up income-generating activities in the livestock subsector. This is especially relevant where male migration causes labor shortages and increased workloads for women. Several issues should be considered in designing appropriate technologies for livestock production:

1. their implications for women's labor requirements and workloads;
2. their suitability in terms of consumption preferences;
3. their implications in terms of women's control over the means of production;
4. their expansion and use of women's indigenous knowledge;
5. the participation of women in their trials; and
6. the importance of incorporating women's physical, social and cultural assets when designing research activities.

Technology is normally directed at tasks where there is the most profit, e.g., large and highly specialized animal production units. But in these enterprises, women are generally nothing more than underpaid laborers. Appropriate technologies must be made to help women increase their own productivity at the small and micro level. Particular attention should be paid to improving the production of goats, milk and minor livestock (rodents, rabbits, bees, etc.) and other lesser-known animals traditionally used in many parts of the world. Research needs to focus on how to raise these species in captivity. Appropriate technology should focus on individual and groups of women with a low dependence on external inputs.

### **6.8.3 Improving market facilities and livestock prices to enhance women's involvement**

In many rural areas, market facilities are inadequate, and women often have little access to the information, equipment, auctions, etc. of regional or even national markets. Market facilities that should be improved in most cases are roads, marketplaces, tools and equipment, information networks, trees or structures for shade, clean water, etc. Market equipment given through credit might be a useful way to enhance women's access to markets. This equipment includes trays, scales, donkey carts, containers (e.g., for milk) and cool boxes to help preserve milk products. In addition, livestock and livestock produce prices are often low compared with those of other produce, which acts as a disincentive to improve marketing facilities.

---

## **6.9 DIRECT TRAINING AND EXTENSION SERVICES FOR WOMEN INVOLVED IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION**

---

More training and extension efforts need to be directed at women through training in literacy, business management and appropriate technologies for, in particular, small stock and minor animal production. The four main strategies for communicating new skills and technology to women:

1. extension;
2. basic education and literacy;
3. community-based vocational training; and
4. communication techniques for project-based activities.

Basic education and literacy are useful, but the pay-off in terms of time and effort invested may only occur in the very long term. In addition, women often do not have a chance to use the information earned through literacy training or basic education on a day-to-day basis. Success is greater if education focuses on functional literacy and managerial and/or numeracy

skills directly related to agricultural production (including accounting and bookkeeping), and serves both immediate and long-term purposes. Enhancing communication techniques for project activities is another useful approach, which needs to be accompanied by extension and vocational training. Pastoral women should be trained in their villages or transhumant camps, since they are often too busy, or not allowed, to leave their homesteads. Mobile extension and training services have had exemplary success in Asia and Africa and could be extended elsewhere.

In the long run, there should be more training of women extension agents. However, in the short run, existing agents (both men and women) should be trained in gender analysis and gender-techno issues. Professional women need to be encouraged to join fields related to livestock production, especially by providing more employment opportunities for women in those fields.

---

## **6.10 SUMMING UP**

---

Livestock enterprises with appropriate production technologies offer immense potential for socio-economic transformation of rural women. However, dearth of improved breeds, poor genetic potential of existing stocks, high cost of investment and production inputs, improperly organized marketing of livestock products, inadequate credit facilities and lack of institutional support are exercising a constraining influence in the development of livestock. Provision of appropriate livestock technology, inputs and services training and extension education, organized marketing and credit and participation in cooperative institutions will result in raising the productivity, employment and income potential of rural farm women and in improving their socio- economic status and quality of life. Special attention is required to be given to improving existing skills of rural women through well planned and monitored training programmes.

---

## **6.11 GLOSSARY**

---

**Co-operatives:** A cooperative ("coop") or co-operative ("co-op") is an autonomous association of persons who voluntarily cooperate for their mutual social, economic, and cultural benefit. Cooperatives include non-profit community organizations and businesses that are owned and managed by the people who use its services (a consumer cooperative) or by the people who work there (a worker cooperative) or by the people who live there (a housing cooperative), hybrids such as worker cooperatives that are also consumer cooperatives or credit unions, multi-

stakeholder cooperatives such as those that bring together civil society and local actors to deliver community needs, and second and third tier cooperatives whose members are other cooperatives.

---

## **6.12 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS EXERCISES**

---

### **Check Your Progress Exercise 1**

1. Land-grabbing, privatization and uncontrolled agricultural expansion are serious issues. These lead to land degradation and pastoral displacement, uncontrolled settlement and marginalization. In most countries, women are denied access to land within the modern land tenure system, which seriously affects their ability to increase agricultural production and income. A good strategy is to allocate new land to a group of women, with internal mechanisms in place to ensure equal access to the land by all women in the group. Although there are various cases where women have been able to benefit from commercialized livestock production, in most cases this is not so. Part of the blame is placed on the fact that the rights of women are not protected in the process. Projects and policies that promote commercialization should be sensitive to the impact on women and should devise rules and procedures for mitigating adverse results. Possible solutions are to work with women's groups or to build in benefits for men in order to prevent them from taking over women's activities. Government livestock development strategies should be modified to encourage and recognize women's increasing roles in livestock production. Single-objective projects or programmes can never answer to local people's needs. Multiple objectives that recognize women's milk-based strategies, their concerns for household nutrition and income and their need for income-generating activities should become the norm in all livestock development projects in pastoral areas.

### **Check Your Progress Exercise 2**

1. To meet the wide ranging and urgent manpower requirements for the growing dairy industry, the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) setup in 1979, the institute of Rural Management (IRMA) at Anand. Earlier 1971 in NDDB established Mansingh Institute of training at Mehsana in Gujarat for middle level manpower. NDDB also setup three other Regional Demonstration and Training Institute at Erode, Jalandhar and Siliguri. These centres develop manpower to milk producers Cooperative societies. With the initiation of `operation flood` in 1970 by NDDB, a very efficient system of collection,

processing and marketing of milk has been evolved and replicated with success in different states of India.

---

### **6.13 REFERENCE**

---

Anne F. Stenhammer, *Rural women agriculture, forests and employment*, UN Women, [www.unwomensouthasia.org](http://www.unwomensouthasia.org)

Asif Javed, Saima Sadaf and Muhammad Luqman, *Rural Women's Participation in Crop and Livestock Production Activities in Faisalabad–Pakistan*, Journal Of Agriculture and Social Sciences, 1813–2235/2006/02–3–150–154.

S.P.Arora, *Appropriate Livestock technologies for farm women: Women in agriculture-Technological perspective*, Ed., C.Prasad and Shri Ram, Publisher IFWA, Pg: 307-314; 1990.

Humaira Akhtar and Bakht Baidar Khan, *Women: Dynamic partners in livestock production*, Review, *Pak. 1. Agri. Sci. Vat.* 37(3-4), 2000.

Prasad, C, Singh, R.P and Krishnan, K.S, *Review of research studies on women in agriculture in India- Implications for research and extension*, ICAR, 1988.

Sethi, Raj Mohini, *Women in Agriculture*. Rawat Publications, Jaipur, Rajasthan, 1991.

Seethalakshmi, M, *Women in dairy management*, Pavai Publication, 2008.

---

### **6.14 QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND PRACTICE**

---

1. Discuss the role of various institutions in providing services to farm women for dairying activities?
2. Explain the importance of Extension in empowering women in livestock and dairying.