

The Role of Women in Agricultural Sector in Haryana: A new vista

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Abstract

Women play a significant role in the agricultural sector and contribute substantially to farming, livestock management, post-harvest activities, and household food security. In Haryana, where agriculture remains an important component of the rural economy, women participate in a wide range of agricultural and allied activities, although their contributions are often inadequately recognized and valued. This paper examines the role of women in the agricultural sector of Haryana and explores emerging opportunities for strengthening their economic and social participation. The study focuses on women's involvement in crop production, seed selection, sowing, weeding, harvesting, storage, dairy farming, livestock care, and other allied activities. It also examines challenges such as limited access to land ownership, agricultural credit, modern technology, extension services, training, markets, and decision-making opportunities. Despite these constraints, increasing access to self-help groups, skill-development programmes, digital technologies, agricultural education, and institutional support can create new avenues for women's empowerment. The paper further highlights the importance of recognizing women as active agricultural workers and entrepreneurs rather than merely as family helpers. Strengthening women's access to productive resources, financial services, technological knowledge, and market linkages can contribute to improved household livelihoods and rural development. The study suggests that gender-sensitive agricultural policies and inclusive institutional mechanisms are essential for enhancing women's participation and leadership in agriculture. Empowering women in the agricultural sector can contribute not only to gender equality but also to sustainable agricultural development, rural economic resilience, and improved food and livelihood security in Haryana.

Keywords: Women in Agriculture, Haryana, Rural Development, Women Empowerment, Agricultural Labour, Gender Equality, Livelihood Security, Agricultural Entrepreneurship, Sustainable Agriculture