

1 **Decision making pattern of farm Women in different farm and non-farm activities**

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5 **ABSTRACT**

7 A woman is the nucleus of the family, she share abundant responsibilities to perform  
8 wide spectrum of duties both at home and outside the home. She takes care of the children  
9 and members of the family, their health, orientation and education and attends to various  
10 income generation activities. She manages all the household matters, looks after the family  
11 assets, produce agricultural crops, manages livestock and works for almost 14-16 hours a day.  
12 Despite their role in different farm and non farm activities they also take part in decision  
13 making. Therefore the present study was undertaken to study the decision making pattern of  
14 farm Women in different farm and non-farm activities with following objectives i) to study the  
15 selected personal and socio personal and socio-economic characteristic of rural women and  
16 ii) to analyze the decision making pattern of rural women in different farm and non farm  
17 activities The study was conducted in Six Districts of Assam. A purposive cum simple  
18 random sampling technique was adopted for selecting the respective samples for the study.  
19 Altogether 1500 farm women were selected for the present study. Data was collected  
20 personally by interview method. The findings reveals that farm women belonged to low  
21 socio-economic status, less than fifty per cent of farm women took independent decision in  
22 maintenance of house (35.25%), followed by buying food items for family consumption  
23 (34.17%) and crop harvesting and transporting (33.75%). majority (78.75%) of farm women  
24 took joint decision in purchase of household items, purchase of implements (73.66%)  
25 followed by selling of crops and where to sell (72.42%), buying of clothes for family  
26 members (67.25%).

**Comment [U1]:** It may be unnecessary writing. Omit it from the abstract part.

**Comment [U2]:** Sample size is not similar according to methodology

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28 **Key word : Decision making, Farm women, Farm activities and Non-farm activities**

35 **Introduction**

36 Women are the backbone of agricultural workforce and also make essential contributions  
37 to the agricultural and rural economies in all developing countries. Their roles vary  
38 considerably between and within regions and are changing rapidly in many parts of the  
39 world, where economic and social forces are transforming the agricultural sector. Compared  
40 to men, women are generally involved in a wider range in crops, livestock and agro-based  
41 activities. Despite their role in different activities of farming, their involvement in decision making  
42 process is still seems questionable. [The level of women participation in decision making process not  
43 only varies from region to region but also from one activity to another (Tipilda and Panhwar,  
44 2008). As we know decision making is the root of all human activities. Hence success and  
45 development of farming and family living depend upon how well the family makes its decisions and  
46 contribution of women in such decision as the manager of her family are valuable. Decision making  
47 capabilities of rural women leads to overall empowerment. Thus to throw light on the real picture of  
48 decision making pattern of women the present study was taken with following objectives

**Comment [U3]:** Need more justification and review work for the research.

- 49 i) To study the selected personal and socio-economic characteristic of rural women.  
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51 ii) To analyze the decision making pattern of rural women in different farm and non farm  
52 activities

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54 **Materials and Methods:**

55 2.1. Sample and sampling procedure

56 The study was conducted in three agro-climatic zones of Assam state in India : Upper  
57 Brahmaputra Valley Zone, Central Brahmaputra Valley Zone and North Bank Plain Zone. A  
58 multistage purposive cum- random sampling design was followed. From each selected agro-  
59 climatic zone two districts, (total six) were selected purposively. Again from each selected  
60 district one sub-division (total six) were selected purposively considering the involvement of  
61 farm women in agricultural activities. From each selected sub-division two blocks total  
62 (twelve) were selected purposively. From each selected block four villages were selected  
63 randomly. Thus 48 villages were selected for carrying out the study. [From each selected  
64 village 25 farm women, (total 1,200) were selected randomly.]

**Comment [U4]:** Sample is not similar to the abstract information

65 2.2. Variable and its measurements

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67 2.2.1. Socio-economic status

68 This refers to the position of the respondent in society and was determined by various social  
69 and economic variables such as caste, land holding, education, type of house, main family  
70 occupation, family type, family size, material possession and organizational membership of

71 farm women. The socio-economic status of farm women were measured by the socio-  
72 economic scale developed by (Trivedi,1963) with slight modification. On the basis of score  
73 obtained by the farm women they were categorized into the 3- three categories: Low with  
74 score range below  $\bar{X} - Sd$ , medium with  $\bar{X} - Sd$  to  $\bar{X} + Sd$  and high with above  $\bar{X} + Sd$ .

75 2.2.2 Participation of farm women in decision making in different farm and non-farm  
76 activities

77 Decision making is a thinking process. Nevertheless, farm women knowingly  
78 or unknowingly participate in decision making process in farming as enterprise, which is  
79 based on her long- standing field experience (Dube *et al.*, 1988). In the present study it refers  
80 to the decision in farm and non-farm activities.

81 Chart 1. The categorization and scoring was done as follows:

Category	Score
No participation	1
Joint participation	2
Independent participation	3

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83 Chart 2. Similarly, according to the maximum obtainable score and scores  
84 obtained by the farm women they were classified as follows :

Category	Score Range
Low	Below $(\bar{X} - Sd)$
Medium	$\bar{X} - Sd$ to $\bar{X} + Sd$
High	Above $\bar{X} + Sd$

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86 **Analysis of data**  
87 The collected data were coded, tabulated and analyzed in accordance with the  
88 objectives of the present study by using appropriate tests and techniques.

89  
90 **3.Results and Discussion**

91 **3.1 Socio-economic status of farm women**

92 Majority 55.08 per cent of farm women of the study areas belonged to middle age  
 93 group i.e.30-40 yrs. Large majority (91.66%) of farm women were married. 44.75 per cent of  
 94 farm women belonged to general caste. 41.33 per cent of farm women belonged to the  
 95 category of marginal farmer. 38.50 per cent of farm women had education up to middle  
 96 school. 46.42 per cent farm women had mixed type of house. 46.50 per cent of the farm  
 97 women's family occupation was farming. Majority (77.89%) of farm women belonged to  
 98 nuclear family. The data reveals that majority (63.95%) of farm women belonged to small  
 99 family. Cent per cent of farm families possessed hoe and hand tools, followed by desi plough  
 100 (99.08%) and bullock (98.25%). Majority 60.91 per cent of farm families possesses two  
 101 wheelers. 87.08 per cent of farm families possess mobile followed by television (70.42%).  
 102 Large majority (95.42%) of farm families possess traditional chullah. 64.09 per cent of farm  
 103 women were member of one organization. 52.60 per cent of farm women belonged to low  
 104 socio-economic status.

105

### 106 3.2 Decision making pattern of farm women in different farm and non-farm activities

107 Empowerment of farm women in decision making is a need of the time in  
 108 agrarian country like India, where farming is a family occupation. Farm women who are  
 109 associated with their husband in various activities have greater role in decision making  
 110 process. Thus timely and judicious decision making ability of the farm family have a direct  
 111 bearing on the development of agriculture sector. The farm women of Assam though  
 112 deprived of getting timely extension service, they were contributing a lot to the agricultural  
 113 development in the selected regions. It is therefore imperative to assess the participation of  
 114 farm women in decision making in different farm and non-farm activities.

115 **Table 1. Distribution of farm women according to decision making pattern in different**  
 116 **farm and non-farm activities N=1200**

Sl. No.	Decision making activities	Decision making pattern					
		Independent participation		Joint participation		No participation	
		f	%	f	%	f	%

**Farm activities**

Sl. No.	Decision making activities	Decision making pattern					
		Independent participation		Joint participation		No participation	
		f	%	f	%	f	%
1	Purchase of land for cultivation of crops	36	3.00	628	52.33	536	44.67
2	Purchase of Implements	73	6.03	884	73.66	245	20.41
3	Selection of crop varieties	42	3.50	745	62.08	413	34.42
4	Amount of manure and fertilizer to be purchased	21	1.75	421	35.08	728	63.17
5	Plant protection	9	0.75	351	29.25	840	70.00
6	Crop harvesting and transporting	405	33.75	753	62.75	42	3.50
7	Hired labour for transplanting	146	12.16	623	51.92	431	35.92
8	Retention of grain for consumption	93	7.75	677	56.42	430	35.83
9	Selling crops and where to sell	71	5.92	869	72.42	260	21.66
10	Seeking loan for farm resources	10	0.83	564	47.00	626	52.17
11	Buying and selling of livestock and poultry	312	26.00	645	53.75	243	20.25
12	Buying food items for family consumption	410	34.17	471	39.25	319	26.58
<b>Non-farm activities</b>							
13	Children's education	175	14.58	704	58.67	321	26.75
14	Buying of clothes for family members	204	17.00	807	67.25	189	15.75
15	Purchase of household items	35	2.92	945	78.75	220	18.33
16	Maintenance of house	423	35.25	511	42.58	266	22.17
17	Saving of money	310	25.83	571	47.58	319	26.58

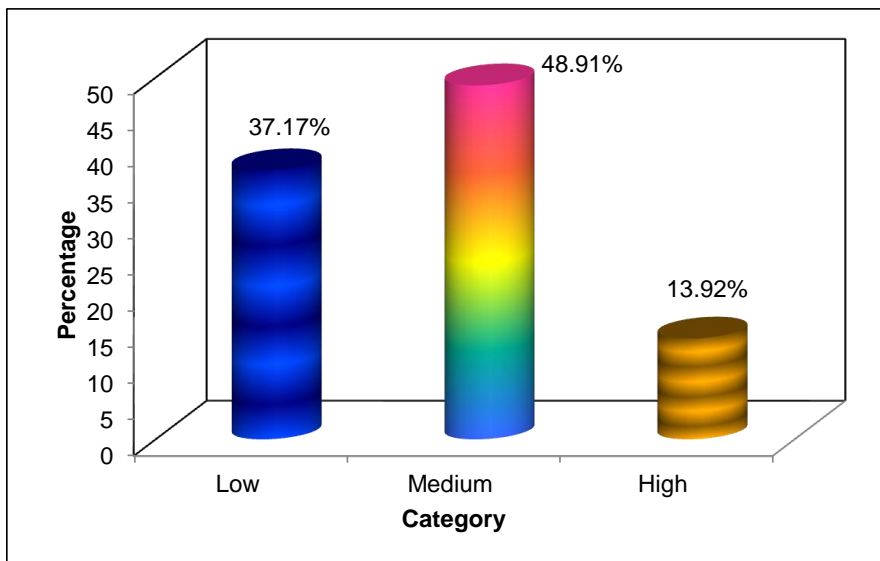
118 The data presented in Table 1 shows that less than fifty per cent of farm  
119 women took independent decision in maintenance of house (35.25%), followed by buying  
120 food items for family consumption (34.17%), crop harvesting and transporting (33.75%),  
121 buying and selling of livestock and poultry (26.00%) and saving of money (25.83%).

122 It is interesting to observe that majority (78.75%) of farm women took joint  
123 decision in purchase of household items, purchase of implements (73.66%) followed by  
124 selling of crops and where to sell (72.42%), buying of clothes for family members (67.25%),  
125 crop harvesting and transporting (62.75%), selection of crop varieties (62.08%), children's  
126 education (58.67%), retention of grain for consumption (56.42%), buying and selling of  
127 livestock and poultry (53.75%) and purchase of land for cultivation of crops (52.33%). This  
128 finding is in line with Sharma (1992), Premevati and Seetharaman (2002) and Saikia *et al.*  
129 (2013).

130 Equal participation of farm women in decision making process indicates that  
131 they have an important role in decision making which is an important aspect of  
132 empowerment.

#### 133 **4.4.1.1 Overall participation of farm women in decision making pattern in both farm** 134 **and non-farm activities**

135 Fig. 1. shows that 48.91 per cent farm women had medium level of  
136 participation in decision making followed by low (37.17%) and high level (13.92%)  
137 participation.



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 139 **FIG. 1. DISTRIBUTION OF FARM WOMEN IN OVERALL PARTICIPATION IN DECISION**  
 140 **MAKING**

141  
 142 From the literature reviewed, it is observed that, traditionally women had no  
 143 definite decision making role in majority of family affairs because of the dominance of male  
 144 members in the joint family system. The situation now seems to have changed owing to the  
 145 disintegration of this family system in the rural areas. Considering the data it is observed that  
 146 women farmers took active role in decision making both in farm and non-farm activities. It is  
 147 felt that farm women participation in farming decision might help in the adoption of  
 148 agricultural messages related to field crops received from the extension trainings. Moreover,  
 149 this finding might develop the awareness among extension personnel to include a  
 150 proportionate number of farm women in their planned extension activities along with other  
 151 clientele.

152 To sum up, farm women are socio-economically empowered to some extent  
 153 due to availing different extension services by them. It was observed that farm women had  
 154 ownership of economically important resource like milch animal, had access to credit,  
 155 majority of farm women saved money in between Rs. 1000 to 5000, enjoy liberty to some  
 156 extent in incurring the expenditure. It was further observed that farm women had little  
 157 exposure to communication media, sometimes had contact with extension agencies, had good  
 158 social exposure, low level of leadership ability and took part in decision making.

159 Empowerment is a complicated process, which comprises of short-term and  
160 long-term strategy. To empower the farm women there is need to increase their access to new  
161 information as well as to credit. Further, by increasing their social and institutional  
162 participation at all levels by strengthening training programmes for them, there should be  
163 long drawn strategy for increasing their access to and control over appropriate technology.

164 Less than fifty percent of farm women took independent decision in crop harvesting and  
165 transporting (33.75%) followed by as maintenance of house (35.25%) and buying food items  
166 for family consumption (34.17%). 48.91 per cent farm women had medium level of  
167 participation in decision making followed by low (37.17%) and high level (13.92%)  
168 participation.

169 **Conclusion:**

170 The findings indicate that decision-making patterns in farm work seem to be changing  
171 and women have increasingly become important members of the family as decision-makers,  
172 both on the farm as well as at home. This indicate that farm women were socio-economically  
173 empowered to some extent due to availing different extension services.

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