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# RURAL WOMEN POULTRY KEEPING AT FATEHJANG

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**APRIL 1992**

**PARC • USAID • MART • WINROCK**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Development of a nation depends on men and women. The majority of rural women in Pakistan are untutored, unskilled and tradition bound. However, they contribute much to agricultural and rural development. In spite of all their involvement women are not recognized and have been by passed in many developmental programs. Women should be given due importance while planning development projects especially in rural areas.

Immediate steps are being taken through FSR to provide village women education and training in different technologies at two villages, Hastal and Jeender, in Fatehjang.

## **BACKGROUND**

Fatehjang Tahsil headquarters is located 45 Km from Islamabad. Rain is the major source of water. Small acreage is irrigated from reservoirs locally structure to store rain water. The growth rate of population is 2.18% per annum. (Source: Rural Women in Farming Systems Research Fatehjang, 1989).

The mean age of the sample population is 28 years with 43 percent under 15 and 6% over 65 years. Average household size is seven (Farzana Masood W.FSR Fatehjang 1989). Social hierarchy exists according to ethnic relationships. Five ethnic groups have been recognized as Awan, Melyar, Mughal, Mochi and Syed. Literacy level is very low.

In this area average farm is 4.9 hectares, and average land holding is 3.1 hectares. Family of tenancy is 42%. Subsistence farmers predominate. Male members have migrated to cities or outside Pakistan for services and jobs.

Studies in the Barani area report the major crops as wheat, maize, mustard, millet, sorghum and groundnut. Farmers practice intercropping. Livestock also play an important role in the Farming Systems of rained area (Sheik et al; 1988 and Farrukh et al 1988).

Income from livestock is particularly important for small farmers and provides security against uncertain events (Farrukh et al; 1989). Women of Fatehjang Barani area fully participate and are extensively engaged in farm operations. Crop production and livestock management activities, such as weeding, fodder cutting, livestock management and post preharvest are largely women's activities (Table 1 and 2).

GENDER-WISE DIVISION OF LABOR IN CROP PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES

Operation	Male %	Female %
Seed preparation	6.5	93.5
Tilling	99.9	0.1
Sowing	98.5	1.5
Ploughing	99.7	0.3
Sealing	99.3	0.7
Collecting Farm Yard Manure	7.0	93.0
Applying Farm Yard Manure	61.0	39.0
Spreading Chemical Fertilizer	99.1	0.9
Taking off fodder	47.5	52.5
Weeding	51.5	48.5
Harvesting	62.0	38.0
Threshing	74.0	25.5
Drying	48.0	52.0
Preparing Storage	27.0	73.0
Storing food for home	33.5	66.5
Storing fodder	78.6	21.4
Selling produce	98.1	1.9

Source: Rural Women in FSR at Fatehjang 1989, PARC

Table 1 shows that the rural women are extensively involved in crop production activities including, seed preparation, collecting of farm yard Manure and its application, weeding, drying and grain storage.

Operation	Male %	Female %
Building and maintaining shed	98.3	1.7
Cleaning sheds	9.3	90.7
Cleaning animals	50.0	50.0
Grazing animals	88.8	11.2
Watering	66.2	43.8
Bringing fodder	47.5	52.5
Milking	32.6	67.4
Preparing ghee	0.00	100.0
Egg collection	13.0	87.0
Manure collection	7.0	93.0
Care of birthing animals	52.8	47.2
Care of sick animals	76.0	24.0
Selling produce to villagers	5.9	94.1
Selling produce to agents	87.3	12.7

Source: Rural Women in FSR (Fatehjang) 1989, PARC

## Table 2

Table 2 clearly indicates the degree to which women participate in different livestock operations. Their participation in cleaning shed, cleaning animals, bringing fodder, milking, preparation of ghee, egg collection, manure collection and selling produce to villagers is considerable. Livestock is the most important income generating activity for the rural women.

Women also have decision making authority regarding livestock and income expenditure. Home crafts are made and sold by women as an acceptable form of off-farm industry. Lack of marketing facilities to retail the home produced crafts limit income from home crafts.

To improve the status of rural women PARC under MART/FSR Project developed a Project specifically for their self improvement. The goal was to precisely understand the various roles women contribute to farming operations and to define interventions which could increase productivity and improve their circumstance.

In this regard a national workshop was organized at NARC January 12-14, 1988. The main purpose of the workshop was to examine the potential role of rural women in Farming Systems Research which could lead to increased crop and livestock productivity and raise income for the farm families.

Target areas were selected based on diagnostic surveys conducted by multidisciplinary teams. Fatehjang, Punjab, and Peshawar, NWFP, were chosen as FSR Barani target areas.

Major objectives of the project were as follows:

- To involve rural women in the assessment of their problems and needs in agriculture.
- To integrate women's productions and management strategies for identification of promising technologies.
- To suggest intervention in problems areas that would increase productivity in agriculture and introduce income generating activities for women.

On the basis of recommendation of workshop and survey results training programs in improved poultry husbandry and pest management of household grain storage were carried out. These programs were developed in collaboration with the Poultry Research Institute, Rawalpindi, and Entomological Research Lab, NARC, at FSR target area Fatehjang. This training aimed:

- To assist rural women to analyze their problems in poultry production and marketing and
- To enhance the skill and knowledge of the rural women in poultry farming and

- To accelerate among rural women the adoption of improved poultry husbandry and to improve their family welfare.

## **METHODOLOGY**

To achieve these objectives 6 month training sessions were arranged one day a week in two villages to develop among rural women knowledge and skills in improved poultry husbandry.

Training was imparted through:

- Lectures
- Practicals/hands on training
- Movies
- Audio-Visual aids
- Regular follow-up

The training was very practical. Special emphasis was on how women can exploit available resources. Knowledge regarding poultry diseases, poultry hygiene, preventive vaccination, treatment of parasitic infections and treatment of simple ailments was imparted. Fumigation techniques applicable for grain storage, preventive measures for insects and rodents, use of pesticide and Neem oil was also provided. Women have been trained in the utilization of traditional methods to save and protect stored grain.

As part of the training program, the women trainees were provided a poultry unit consisting of 10 hens and 2 cocks (Fumi breed) by the poultry Research Institute, Rawalpindi.

### **Results:**

Project evaluation revealed that trainees responded well to the adoption of new technologies in poultry keeping. Increased income in poultry raising has provided an incentive. Indeed other women who had not been given any training have acquired skills from course trainees and also adopted improved poultry husbandry.

Among the 25 women interviewed in each participating village it was noted that before training 10% of the women did not possess any hens (Table-1) while 78% had less than 5 hens each. Whereas after training, (table-2), all women had some hens. Twelve percent having 1-5 hens individually, 46% possessed 6-10 hens and 42% had more than 10 hens each.

TABLE-1 HENS BEFORE TRAINING

No. of Hens	No. of Female	Percentage %
0	5	10
1	10	20
2	16	32
3	8	16
4	5	10
5	4	8
7	1	2
12	1	2

TABLE-2 HENS AFTER TRAINING

No. of Hens	No. of Female	Percentage %
.0	0	0
1-5	6	12
6-10	23	46
11-15	15	30
15-20	4	8
20 Above	2	4

The results suggest that 42% trainees now have increased their flocks to more than 10 hens individually. In other words trainees have not only learned poultry techniques but translated the knowledge into self hatching schemes. Cost benefit analysis from the training program has been conducted.

#### Cost and Return

It was found that on the average, each female owned 11 fumi hens and 3 desi hens. These fumi-hens provided the rural women with a handsome income over desi poultry husbandry (Table-3). The profit margin in desi breed was only Rs. 2 in six month, where-as with in Fumi hens the benefit was Rs. 92 per bird. This net income represents a 5:1 cost benefit ratio. Rural women in adjacent villages appear to be upgrading their village poultry enterprise based on those ladies already trained in improved technology.

**Table-3**

Costs and Returns of "Desi" and "Fumi" Poultry Rearing by Sample Women at FSR Fatehjang Target Site of Barani Pothwar, Punjab.

	3 Desi Layers (AV)				11 Fumi Layers (AV)		
	Unit	Qty.	Rate	Amount	Qty.	Rate	Amount
Eggs	dozen	12	8	96	154	10	1540
Gross Income	Rs.			96			1540
Total Costs							
Feed							
Wheat grain	Kgs.	12	2	84	158	2	316
Maize grain	Kgs.	-	-	-	34	2	68
Conce. feed	Packs	-	-	-	10	7	70
Chicks	Nos.	3	2	6	11	6	66
Vaccination	Times	-	-	-	55	.10	6
Production Cost							
Per flock/H. hold	Rs.			90			526
Per bird	Rs.			30			48
Net Income							
Per flock/H. hold	Rs.			6			1014
Per bird				2			92
CBR/Bird 1:5							

Due to proper management the marketing of eggs has also increased. The table-4 shows the comparison of marketing of eggs before and after training.

The status of marketing indicated that before training 50% village women were not marketing any eggs due to low production. Now 42% of village women were selling within the village and 8% were selling to village shops. After training only 4% were not involved in marketing. Presently 46% of the women get considerable income from marketing with-in the village, and 28% market eggs in nearby villages. Only 4% are selling at market shops.

**Table-4**

**Marketing of Poultry Eggs Before and After Interventions  
in the Target Site of Barani Pothwar**

Market Place	Desi Eggs	Fumi Eggs
No Surplus	50%	4%
Own Village	42%	64%
Nearby Village		28%
Market	8%	4%

Feedback information has revealed that rural women have started to extend improved poultry husbandry to other village women folk including proper vaccination and control of poultry diseases. Poultry keeping has become an income generating activity. Women have started to sell eggs in the market. Demand for follow-up, training in other interventions, that will result in generating income is now being requested. FSR women's program in Fatehjang strongly supports more training programs for rural women.

**RECOMMENDATIONS AND FUTURE PLAN**

1. Greater attention to and support for women in agriculture could improve their efficiency and productivity as well as raise family standard of living.
2. More determined efforts are needed to encourage women, to be trained in animal husbandry. In this way they can contribute to the planning and implementation of livestock projects.
3. Upgrading of women's skills and knowledge to diagnose and to treat common diseases of poultry are needed.
4. Development of a complete package that upgrades poultry husbandry, health and marketing should be initiated.
5. Establishment of a village center for women and small credit schemes should be made available to women in the agricultural sectors.
6. Improved facilities and opportunities to provide for expanding female education should be initiated.
7. Training program for other interventions such as kitchen gardening and bee keeping deserve urgent consideration.

8. Rural women can take part in preservation of fruits and vegetables, in areas where fruits and vegetables are produced.
9. Planners and policy makers should include women in all agricultural development programs at all levels.

**Expansion of Women/FSR Program in other areas:** It has been decided to expand W/FSR to other FSR target areas including Kanak in Balochistan. Dr. A. H. Bajoi, Director, Agricultural Research Institute, Sariab, Quetta and other collaborating agencies are planning diagnostic surveys. These will be followed by introducing income generating interventions appropriate for that particular area. The help of Sociology Department, Balochistan University will assist in collaboration with provincial Director, Quetta.