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# Socio-Economic Analysis of Women Commercial Farmer of Godavari Municipality on Lalitpur District of Nepal

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**Abstract:** Nepalese economy is dominated by agriculture; gross domestic product and national income volume are influenced by it. In agriculture sector gender issues have become a common area of concern at global, regional and national level. In the context of Nepal ownership of land as well as commercial farmer of women are very low to compare man. This research tries to analyze the socio-economic status of women commercial farming of the Godavari municipality. In Godavari municipality 4, Badikhel there are 30 women commercial farmer and they all were selected as sample for this research. Primary information was collected through the questionnaire survey method on the sample population. This study had used an explorative, descriptive and analytical framework to evaluate the impact of the commercial farming. Women's participation in vegetable farming has changed women's lifestyle in positive way. Women were more involved in plantation, weeding, collection and transportation than man. Women are involved in decision making for post vegetable cultivation as well as that helps to run the family smoothly through increase their household income and consumption. After engaging in the vegetable farming, it has improved in participation of women for domestic decision making.

**Keywords:** Socio-Economic, Women, Commercial and Farming

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## 1. Introduction

Nepal is predominantly an agricultural country where 78 percent population is still engaged on agriculture with 0.61 hectares of average land holding per family [2]. The share of GDP of this sector till (2010/11) was 38.34 percent. Census of 2011 revealed that 48.50 percent of total population was male while the female comprised 51.50 percent of the population. Men owned 90 percent and women owned 10 percent of the private land in the Nepal [4].

Gender issues in agricultural expansion have become a universal regional apprehension at worldwide, regional and national levels. In addition, women's understanding and skill in relative to agriculture have not been approved in the past [6]. Women in rural areas have traditionally less privileges and fewer income opportunities than men, time and again as patriarchal and conservative thinking, according to which the man is supposed as the key fruitful working force [11].

Agriculture (including forestry) in Nepal provides straight employment to six and a half million of the labor which is

four fifths of the whole cost-effectively energetic inhabitants. Four and half million laborers are self-employed, and over two million work as wage laborers. Almost half of the wage workers are part time workers, coming from marginal and small holdings. Another one million laborers are full time farm wage workers. These workers are landless and exist on wage income. Out of every 10 full time wage workers, 7 work as casual workers, and 3 work under a permanent labor relationship in general interlinked with acknowledgment and land associations [10].

In an ideal Nepalese farm, man generates income and his wife involve in family behavior. Conventionally, men are accountable to earn either through agricultural or during off farm service while women are responsible for child bearing/rearing, household tasks and attention animals. Increased male migration due to rural poverty and enhanced income opportunities in the urban and semi urban areas have resulted in greater than before work load for women. In addition to household chores, women have to achieve nearly all agricultural tasks apart from plough the fields. They donate sixty percent of the agricultural labor force. Except

for plough and transporting the final produce, which are almost completely male tasks, women play a major role in most other agricultural actions [7].

Over two-thirds of the Nepal's labor force is occupied in agriculture. However, for many, with 80 percent of those below the poverty line depend on this region for living. Furthermore, the argument is having a superficial collision on the agricultural sector, as land owner are displaced to urban areas and agricultural produce are displaced to rural areas.

Nepalese society is mainly patriarchal i.e. male subject culture. Women are major actors in agriculture but their contribution is restricted to fieldwork and reproductive activities, while men have power over judgment making and creative activities including marketing. Female household members conventionally own little or no land especially recorded [13]. The female farmers are not known as farmers, but they are referred to as farmer's wife, sister, daughter, or daughter in law, etc.; thus female farmers receive second hand information (if any), regardless of the fact that they contribute a great deal to agriculture. Male migration is also favored by gender inequity in the wage labor market, which favoritism men over women in terms of employment opportunities, and pays them higher wages still for the same work. Female farmer participate a significant and vital role in agricultural development and allied fields as well as in the main crop assembly, cattle production, horticulture, post-harvest operations, agro/social forestry, fisheries, etc. [14].

The National Living Standards Survey (2010/11) establish that landholdings are attractive smaller having compact from an average size of 1.1 hectares in (2003/04) to 0.8 hectares in (2010/11). Furthermore, the quality of agricultural land, water and forest assets is withdrawing, thus dropping food safety. On 28 percent of Nepal's area is cultivated as agricultural land (including grass land). The national sophisticated land property per capita in (2001) was 0.175 hectares. In the Teri region maximum percent of the population average per capita landholding in 2010 was 0.301 hectares. The 2011 National census of Agriculture found that about 75 percent of Nepal's cropped area is planted mainly with legumes, oilseeds and vegetables [4].

Vegetable farming is labor intensive; consume more labor than any other farming practices. In accumulation to their household chore, women work 10.8 hours a day as compare to 7.5 hours by men. New behavior and enterprise, such as vegetable farming, horticulture, sericulture, and dispensation of farm and forest produce, have improved household incomes, but women's workloads have frequently increased [4].

Women are forever concerned in household chores and agricultural actions even they are involved commercially, their works and assistance are always unnoticed due to patriarchal civilization [15]. Nowadays, women are also empowered and qualified to make their existence self-governing [8]. They have implicit the value of being self-regulating because enslavement has always created the social

crimes as well as gender inequity. Agriculture is the main occupation of the Nepalese people and it is unobserved on the study area. From the agriculture, people are sustaining their life and take it commercially. Men's involvement towards the agriculture are always praised and seen more than they do but the women do more and they aren't respected and count [9].

Women entrepreneurship brings a encouraging revolutionize in attitudes and behaviors of family members and civilization towards them [1]. Civilization and diverse religions, e.g., Islam and Hindu, are most important sources of constraints for the instruction and financing of female entrepreneurs in Asia. Family unit occupy enlightenment position in the leadership manner of female entrepreneurs in Asia [5]. Government as well as private subdivision has a most important accountability to encourage entrepreneurship enlargement of women. Different instructions as well as monetary support of women help to increase the women entrepreneurship [12]. Entrepreneur judgment becomes manipulate on community mobiles for female entrepreneurs in developing countries [3].

Main objective of this research has to analysis socio-economic impacts of women involved in commercial farming in the sample area.

## 2. Data and Methodology

To complete this research various step were acceptable as follows.

### 2.1. Research Design

This paper aims to analyze the socio-economic impacts to the respondent with the help of the some determinant variable: impact of commercial agro farming by the women related to their income consumption pattern, self-decision making power, etc related to the economic activities.

The study is design in an explorative and analytical framework to evaluate the impact of the women commercial farming. Both primary and secondary data were used in this research. Semi-structural questioners were used for the primary data collection. Both qualitative and quantitative methods were used for data analysis.

### 2.2. Sampling Design

This study is socio-economic analysis of the rural women commercial farmer of the Godwari Municipality-4, Badikhel of the Lalitpur district. The research is based on the socio-economic study of the women commercial farmer in sample area. This study is designed in an explorative, descriptive and analytical framework to evaluate the impact of the commercial farming.

### 2.3. Sample Size

Godawari Municipality-4, Badikhel is selected for this study, which area is one of the vegetable farming areas where most of the people depend on agriculture resources. It is

highly occupied by the vegetable farmers and they have been taking benefits from vegetable farming. Information provided by the Godawari Municipality-4, offices there are 30 women commercial farmer in that area. All of them were used as the respondent of this research through the senses method of the size of population selection. The information had been taken from the sample household's survey and these inputs has been using Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) Software and analyzed by the used of the descriptive statics.

### 3. Result and Discussion

The major role of women is everywhere but it is not expressed and seen. This research study analyzed the role of women in the various work of farming. They are commercially involved in the vegetable farming and it explains about their contribution of women in the farming. Involvements of women in production, marketing and benefit sharing express as follows.

#### 3.1. Production of Different Crops on Sample Area

Besides vegetable, other crops such as paddy, maize, and wheat are grown on Baikhal. Among all crops, vegetables has high yield per unit area and plays significant role in the economy. Though, respondents are cultivating different crops as per the season to feed their family members so that their expenditure on buying the food will be reduced. Respondent provided the information at the time of the questioner survey at the study area commercial women farmer of their different crops cultivation shown as the following table.

Table 1. Production of Different Crops.

Crops	No. of Respondents
Vegetable	30
Paddy	12
Maize	10
Wheat	8
Barley	5

Source: Field Survey, 2019.

Table 1 show that the people produce different crops in a year. Among the different crops, vegetables are produced by every respondent. Besides that, various crops such as paddy, maize, wheat and barley are mostly grown in this area as per the household need. Here, only 12 respondents cultivate paddy and rest of the respondents buy the rice and utilize that land in vegetable farming as they see more profit in vegetable farming. Very few farmers were farming Maize, wheat and barley for their own used.

#### 3.2. Types of Vegetable and Production

In the study area, there are various types of seasonal and off seasonal vegetable production in the green house Such as cabbage cauliflower, tomato, radish, carrot, green leaf. the table. Respondent had provided the information at the time of field survey such types of vegetable production express from the help of the table 2 follows.

Table 2. Vegetables Production and Income.

Vegetables	Production in K. G. & Amount in Rs			
	Production	Respondents	Price/K.G.	Amount
Tomato	100,000	20	50	50,00,000
Cauliflower	30,000	25	40	1200,000
Spinach Leaf	50,000	20	40	20,00,000
Cabbage	10,000	15	30	150,000
Raddish	5,000	7	30	150,000
Cucumber	1,200	5	40	48,000
Green Beans	800	8	30	24,000
Carrot	1000	10	30	30000

Source: Field Survey, 2019.

Table 2 shows the information about the eight different types of vegetables and its production in kg and income. Every seasonal vegetable are grown according to the season but only the seasonal vegetables are not enough to earn the money and during the season they are not much demanded in the market. Respondents are using green house for the production of off seasonal vegetables. From the respondent provided information maximum quantity of tomato produced and also maximum income. The volume of Radish, Cucumber and Green Beans were minimum and also its income minimum. The maximum respondent had to produced Tomato, Cauliflower and Spinach Leaf.

#### 3.3. Involvement of Women in Production

Role of women has increased after starting the vegetable cultivation. Before vegetable cultivation, they produce vegetables only for household consumption. Women role in vegetable farming is important as they involved in plantation, collection and selling. It helps women economically for solving family problems. Life standard of women is improved after they started vegetable farming commercially.

Table 3. Respondents involvement in Vegetable Farming.

Particulars	No. of Respondents
Land Preparation	15
Plantation	30
Weeding	30
Collection	30
Transportation	10

Source: Field Survey, 2019.

Table 3 shows the women involvement in vegetable farming. Women are physically weak for such physical hard works like land preparation so females are less involved as they hire the male labor to plough the field. Only 15 respondents involved the land preparation. For plantation, weeding and collection work 30 respondents were involved. Only 10 participants involved for the transportation work of the farming. On this way women involved in the various types of labor work that are necessary for the production of vegetables.

#### 3.4. Types of Manure for Production

There is various type of manure in the study area such as compost, chemical and both are used for the production of vegetables. The compost may be kitchen wastages, animal's and chicken dings that are especially prepared compost for

plants to produce organic vegetables.

**Table 4.** Distribution of Respondents Used of the Manure.

Types of Manure	No. of Respondents
Compost Only	8
Chemical Only	7
Both	15
Total	30

Source: Field Survey, 2019.

Table 4 express that the respondents uses both compost and chemical for the good production concerning about the health of farmers, consumers and agriculture. From the total respondent 15 used both compost and chemical manure used, 8 participant used only compost and 7 participant used only chemical manure.

### 3.5. Marketing of Vegetables

Lalitpur and Kathmandu are the nearest market center from the study area. Mainly, vegetables are supplied in the big-vegetable markets of Lalitpur and Kathmandu i.e., Lagankhel and Kalimati. Farmers carry the bamboo basket by themselves to carry vegetables to reach to the market. Respondents also have to spend the time on marketing to sell their products which are given the table 5.

**Table 5.** Distribution of Respondents by Daily Marketing Hours.

Marketing Working Time	No. of Respondents	Percent
Up to 2 hours	15	50
2-3 hours	7	23.33
3-4 hours	5	16.67
4-5 hours	2	6.67
More than 5 hours	1	3.33
Total	30	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019.

Table 5 shows the time spend by the respondent for the vegetable selling in the market delay. From the total respondent 50 percent spend up to 2 hour, 23.33 percent spend 2 to 3 hour, 16.67 percent spend 3 to 4 hours, 6.67 percent spend 4 to 5 hours and 3.33 percent spend more than 5 hours time for their vegetable selling in the market.

### 3.6. Vegetable Marketing Training

Training is essential for farmers for systematic marketing for produced vegetable products. Without marketing, production of vegetable cannot be meaningful. So, training of marketing is essential for commercial vegetable farmers in the study area. The training situation of the responds expresses from the help of the table 6 follows.

**Table 6.** Distribution of Respondents by Marketing Training.

Training	No. of Respondent	Percent
Yes	6	20
No	24	80
Total	30	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019.

Table 6 expresses the situation of the marketing training for the vegetable sales in the sample area population. From the total respondent 20 percent agreed that they had got such types of training and 80 percent disagreed that they had got any training for the vegetable marketing. Its shows that they were marketing and selling their vegetable production own knowledge.

### 3.7. Source of Information to Cultivation

Information is important for vegetable farmers. Related information is useful to all the farmers to implement it into the good production. To get information it is not necessary to be educated; they simply can imply that information by consulting with their family, JT, JTA and other source. The information sources are given in the table 7.

**Table 7.** Distribution of Respondents by Source of Information.

Source of Information	No. of Respondents	Percent
Self	4	13.33
From family	20	66.67
JT, JTA and NGO	6	20
Total	30	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019.

Table 7 express the sources of information about the agriculture related crops, fertilizer, seeds plantation time etc. From the total respondent 13.33 percent respondent had got self information, 66.67 percent respondent had got the information from the family, 20 percent had got information from the JT, JTA and NGO. It shows that there are not reliable and proper sources of information about the method and the resources of the commercial farming in the community.

### 3.8. Benefit Sharing of Vegetable Income

Utilization of income included the expenditure in various household activities. Farmers are utilizing income primarily in food, children's education and daily required goods. As their earning increased, they utilize it in other sectors such as improve the housing conditions, built toilets etc. they earn more by investing into productive sectors like expenditure in business and industry as well as saving in bank. The earning of women helps in the family expenses and it decrease the social crimes related to the women. The table 8 expresses the utilization of the women income from the commercial farming.

**Table 8.** Utilization of Vegetable Income.

Area of Expenditure	No. of Household
Food & daily use expenditure	30
House construction improvement	24
Health & Sanitation	20
Children education	19
Bank balance	5
Social function required	10

Source: Field Survey, 2019.

The table 8 shows that every family utilizes the income in food, cloth, education, and daily activities use expenditure. The entire respondent agreed that they used that income for the food & daily use expenditure. From the total respondent 24 had used for house construction & improvement, 20 had used health & sanitation, 19 had used for children education, 5 respondent had bank balance and 10 respondent had used for social function required.

### 3.9. Change in Life Style of Women After Farming

The changing in life style of women from commercial vegetable farming was found good in the study area. Their economic and social status has been improved from vegetable farming. The income and expenditure level has been increased with this the level of savings and expenditure on education of their children also increased. Table 9 expresses the change in life style of the women from the commercial agriculture farming.

*Table 9. Change of Life Style in Society after Farming.*

Change in	Increased	Decreased	Constant	Total
Level of expenditure	26	-	4	30
Level of Income (savings)	27	1	2	30

Source: Field Survey, 2019.

Table 9 shows that utilization of income in the various area of the expenditure. Women are utilizing their income primarily on household expenditure activities like food, cloths, children, education, and daily required goods. Table shows that from the total respondent 26 had increase their level of expenditure in household activates and 4 respondents had constant their activities. Like same from the total respondent 27 had increase the level of income, 1 respondent had decrease the level of income and 2 respondents had const level of income after the commercial farming.

### 3.10. Decision Making Role of Women

Before, women did what their family members ordered to do. Now, women are empowered, independent and educated so they could decide on the vegetable farming. They have taken various trainings, interaction programs and now the various agriculture related programs, success stories of women can be easily seen so they are motivated and inspired to do their own lead in the family to do the best to earn enough. Table 10 expresses the decision making role of the women in the household before and after the commercial farming.

*Table 10. Role of Women in Decision making before and after Vegetable Farming.*

Duration	Themselves	Husband	Both	Total
Before Vegetable Farming	8	12	10	30
After Vegetable Farming	15	5	10	30

Source: Field Survey, 2019.

Table 10 shows that the decision making power of the household before and after the vegetable farming. From the total respondent 8 had them self, 12 had husband and 10 had both play the role of the decision making for their household before vegetable farming and 15 had themselves, 5 had husband and 10 had both play the role of the decision making for their household after vegetable farming.

pesticides to all the living beings. After engaging in the vegetable farming, it has improved in participation of women for domestic decision making.

## 4. Conclusion

Women's participation in vegetable farming has changed women's lifestyle in positive way. Women were more involved in plantation, weeding, collection and transportation than man. Women are involved in decision making for post vegetable cultivation as well that helps to run the family smoothly.

It was observed that the vegetable cultivation is one of the income generating sources and it was started from 5 to 8 years ago in Badikhel. Survey Research shows that there are improper uses of chemical pesticides for controlling vegetable from pests. There should be aware of the improper use and handling of chemical fertilizer and pesticides too. The farmers should be made aware negative impact of

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