

Factor in Women's Participation in Family Farm Management

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Summary

Recently, it has been highlighted that among the younger generation, the diversification of women's farmer participation in management and the occurrence of disparities have occurred. This study analyzed the effects of learning opportunities, the diversification of agricultural management, family relationships, and the routes of family management on the participation of women in management. We conducted a case study of eight female farmers approximately 40 years of age.

We identified the following four points:

First, training experience in agriculture is not always a condition for participation in family farm management. Experience in the nonagricultural sector has been particularly useful in the diversification of sales channels and businesses. The accumulation of training experience at public institutions and experience in daily agricultural work promotes the participation of female farmers in management. Not all women who have participated in a network of female farmers participate in management. However, networks of female farmers could motivate female farmers and drive change in the division of family roles.

Second, the diversification of agricultural management has promoted the participation of women by creating new roles for them. Contrarily, when agricultural management is not diverse and has few changes, no new roles are created for women, and roles divided on the basis of gender tend to be fixed.

Third, the difference in the separation of housing and household finances from that of their parents, the expectations of women as successors and family-owned partners, and the changes in the division of roles with the change of generations have promoted the participation of women in family farm management. Conversely, the burden of housework and childcare as a result of living together for three generations, the stereotype regarding young women not being interested in agriculture, and the time lag due to the generational change between men and women have become barriers for women participating in farm management.

Fourth, the different routes of engaging in agriculture have influenced the participation of women in family farm management through the learning opportunities they have as farmers, the creation of room for change in farm management, and the parent-child relationship in households. This research elucidated the difference in factors for participation in management by the three types of female farmers.

Keywords: Female farmer, Gender equality, Participation in family farm management, Routes of engaging in agriculture, Family farm management