

Original Article

Women's Participation in Allied Agricultural Activities and Its Socio-Economic Impact on the Aagri Community: A Study of Rural Areas of Thane District, Maharashtra, India

Dr. Bhuvanesh H. Bari¹ Ranjeet Tukaram Mhatre²

¹Research Guide/ Asst Professor, Department of Rural Development, St.Gonsalo Garcia College, Vasai

² Research Student, St.Gonsalo Garcia College, Vasai

Manuscript ID:
BN-2026-030222

ISSN: 3065-7865

Volume 3

Issue 2

February 2026

Pp. 119-122

Submitted: 15 Jan 2026

Revised: 27 Jan 2026

Accepted: 15 Feb 2026

Published: 28 Feb 2026

DOI:

[10.5281/zenodo.19849777](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19849777)

DOI link:

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19849777>



Quick Response Code:



Website: <https://bnir.us>



Abstract

Women's participation in allied agricultural activities has emerged as a critical factor in strengthening rural livelihoods and promoting inclusive development. In agrarian communities such as the Aagri community of Thane district, women play a significant yet often under-recognized role in sustaining household economies through dairy farming, fisheries, vegetable cultivation, poultry farming, and agro-processing activities. The present study examines the socio-economic impact of women's participation in allied agricultural activities on household income, decision-making power, and social status. The study is based on primary data collected from 100 women respondents selected from rural areas of Thane district using a structured questionnaire and personal interviews. Descriptive statistical tools such as percentages and tabular analysis were employed. The findings reveal that women's engagement in allied agricultural activities has resulted in a substantial increase in household income, enhanced participation in family decision-making, and improved social recognition. The study concludes that strengthening women-centered allied agricultural activities can serve as a sustainable pathway for rural development and aligns closely with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 5, and 8.

Keywords: Allied agriculture, Women empowerment, Aagri community, Rural development, Thane district

Introduction

Agriculture continues to be the backbone of rural India; however, increasing production costs, climatic uncertainties, fragmented landholdings, and market instability have reduced the viability of agriculture as a sole source of livelihood. In this context, allied agricultural activities such as dairy farming, fisheries, vegetable cultivation, poultry farming, and agro-processing have gained importance as supplementary income sources.

Women constitute a significant proportion of the agricultural workforce, particularly in traditional agrarian communities. The Aagri community of Maharashtra, especially in Thane district, has historically depended on agriculture and allied activities. Despite their extensive contribution, women's economic roles often remain invisible and undervalued. Recognizing and analyzing women's participation in allied agricultural activities is therefore essential for understanding rural livelihood sustainability and women's empowerment.

Review of Literature

Chambers and Conway (1992) emphasized the importance of diversified livelihood strategies, including allied agricultural activities, for achieving sustainable rural livelihoods. Ellis (2000) highlighted that income diversification reduces vulnerability among rural households.

Several studies (Desai, 2018; FAO, 2019) have established that women's participation in income-generating activities enhances household welfare, food security, and social status. NABARD (2021) reported that women-led dairy and Self-Help Group (SHG) activities significantly contribute to rural income generation.

Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)

This is an open access journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/) Public License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work noncommercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.

Address for correspondence:

Ranjeet Tukaram Mhatre, Research Student, St.Gonsalo Garcia College, Vasai

Email: ranjeetmhatre159@gmail.com

How to cite this article:

Bari, B. H., & Mhatre, R. T. (2026). Women's Participation in Allied Agricultural Activities and Its Socio-Economic Impact on the Aagri Community: A Study of Rural Areas of Thane District, Maharashtra, India. *Bulletin of Nexus Journal*, 3(2), 119–122. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19849777>

However, community-specific studies focusing on the Aagri community of Thane district remain limited. This study attempts to bridge this gap by providing empirical evidence on women's participation and its socio-economic impact.

Research Problem

Despite their active involvement in allied agricultural activities, women from the Aagri community face limited recognition, restricted access to resources, and inadequate decision-making power. The socio-economic outcomes of their participation are insufficiently documented, particularly at the micro-level.

Objectives of the Study

1. To examine the nature and extent of women's participation in allied agricultural activities.
2. To analyze the impact of such participation on household income.
3. To assess changes in women's role in household decision-making.

4. To evaluate the overall socio-economic empowerment of women.

Research Methodology

- **Study Area** - The study was conducted in selected rural villages of Thane district, Maharashtra, predominantly inhabited by the Aagri community.
- **Sample Size** - A total of 100 women respondents engaged in allied agricultural activities were selected using simple random sampling.
- **Data Collection** - Primary data were collected through a structured questionnaire and personal interviews. Secondary data were obtained from books, journals, government reports, and NABARD publications.
- **Tools of Analysis** - Percentage analysis and descriptive interpretation were used.
- **Ethics Statement** - All respondents participated voluntarily, and informed consent was obtained. Photographs and information were used solely for academic purposes.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Socio-Economic Profile of Women Respondents.

Sr. No	Indicatoe	Category	Percentage (%)
1	Age	18-30 Years	28
2		31-45 Years	46
3		46 Years & above	26
4	Education	Illiterate	22
5		Primary	38
6		Secondary & above	40

Interpretation:

The majority of respondents (46%) belong to the economically active age group of 31–45 years. A relatively higher level of education among 40% of women has positively influenced their participation in allied agricultural activities.

Table 2: Distribution of Women by Allied Agricultural Activities

Sr. No	Agriculture Allied Activities	Percentage (%)
1	Dairy Farming	32
2	Vegetable Cultivation	26
3	Fisheries	18
4	Poultry Farming	14
5	Agro-Processing	10
Total		100

Figure 1: Distribution of Women Respondents by Allied Agricultural Activities (Pie Chart) Pie Chart Data (Use directly in journal software):

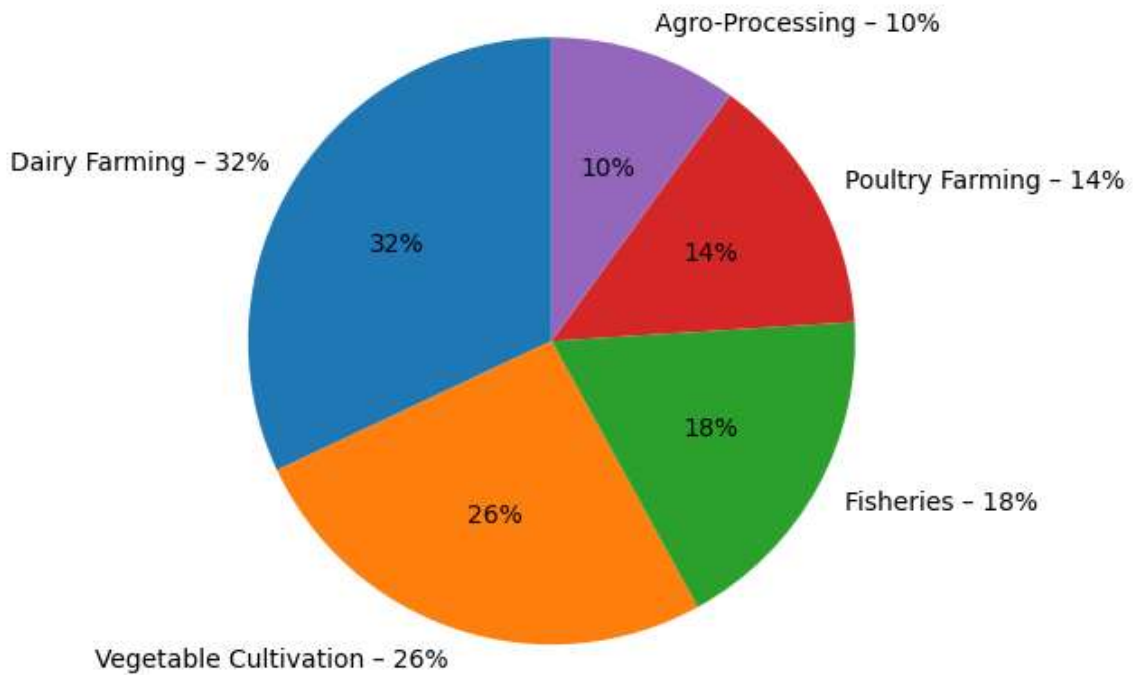


Figure Caption:
Figure 1: Distribution of Women Respondents by Allied Agricultural Activities
Interpretation:

The pie chart indicates that dairy farming and vegetable cultivation account for the highest participation among women. These activities are locally resource-based, require relatively low capital investment, and allow women to balance household responsibilities with income-generating work.

Table 3: Change in Household Income After Women’s Participation

Sr. No	Income Change	Percentage (%)
1	Significant Increase	68
2	Slight Increase	22
3	No Change	10
	Total	100

Interpretation:

Nearly 68% of households reported a significant increase in income after women’s involvement in allied agricultural activities, highlighting the strong economic contribution of women.

Table 4: Women’s Participation in Household Decision-Making

Sr. No	Decision Area	Yes(%)
1	Household Expenditure	72
2	Children's Education	66
3	Business Related Decisions	54

Interpretation:

Women’s economic participation has translated into greater involvement in household decision-making, particularly in expenditure and education-related matters, reflecting enhanced empowerment.

Linkage with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

SDG 1 (No Poverty): Increased household income through allied activities

SDG 5 (Gender Equality): Enhanced decision-making power and social status

SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth): Promotion of rural women’s entrepreneurship

Conclusion

The study clearly demonstrates that women’s participation in allied agricultural

activities has a positive and multidimensional impact on the socio-economic conditions of the Aagri community in Thane district. Increased income, improved decision-making power, and enhanced social recognition collectively contribute to women's empowerment and sustainable rural development. Strengthening institutional support, access to credit, training, and market linkages can further enhance the role of women in allied agriculture. The study provides valuable insights for policymakers, development agencies, and researchers working in the field of rural development and gender studies.

Acknowledgement

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who supported and guided me in completing this research study titled *"Women's Participation in Allied Agricultural Activities and Its Socio-Economic Impact on the Aagri Community: A Study of Rural Areas of Thane District, Maharashtra, India."*

First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt thanks to my respected guide/supervisor for their valuable guidance, continuous encouragement, and constructive suggestions throughout the research process. Their academic insight and constant support greatly contributed to the successful completion of this study.

I am grateful to my institution and faculty members for providing the necessary academic environment, research facilities, and resources required for conducting this study. I also sincerely acknowledge the contribution of researchers, authors, and government agencies whose published reports, articles, and statistical data helped in understanding women's participation in allied agricultural activities and their socio-economic role within the Aagri community.

Special thanks are due to the women participants, farmers, and members of the Aagri community in the rural areas of Thane district who generously shared their time, experiences, and valuable information during fieldwork. Without their cooperation, this study would not have been possible.

Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper

References:

1. Chambers, R., & Conway, G. (1992). Sustainable rural livelihoods: Practical concepts for the 21st century. IDS Discussion Paper.

2. Desai, N. (2018). Women and rural development in India. Sage Publications.
3. Ellis, F. (2000). Rural livelihoods and diversity in developing countries. Oxford University Press.
4. FAO. (2019). The role of women in agriculture. FAO, Rome.
5. NABARD. (2021). Annual report. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.
6. UNDP. (2020). Human Development Report. United Nations Development Programme.
7. Gatha Agri Sanskrutichi (The Saga of Agri Culture), Author: Mr. Anant Raghunath Patil; Publisher: Janiv Prakashan, Vashi, Navi Mumbai – First Edition: 2007.
8. Agri Lokgeete ani Parampara (Agri Folk Songs and Traditions), Author: Mrs. Sunanda Modkharkar; Publisher: Janiv Prakashan, Vashi, Navi Mumbai – First Edition: 2004.
9. Amchi Umbay (Our Mumbai), Author: Mr. Anant Raghunath Patil; Publisher: Janiv Prakashan, Vashi, Navi Mumbai – First Edition: 2013.
10. Agrayan, Author: Mr. Chandrakant Narayan Patil; Publisher: Janiv Prakashan, Vashi, Navi Mumbai – First Edition: 2011.
11. "Prashant Agri Kola" (Talented Agri-Koli People), Editor: Mr. Rambhau Patil; Publication Date: January 2010 (First Edition); Publisher: Prompt Enterprises; Page No. 27.
12. "Agri Samajacha Itihas" (History of the Agri Community), Author: Bharat Krishna Chikankar; First Edition: November 2022; Publisher: Rangatdar Prakashan, Thane; Page Nos. 25 and 30.
13. "Agri Samaj Jivan" (Agri Community Life), Author: Mr. Anant Govind Shisve; Publisher: Sankalp Bahuuddeshiya Samajik Sanstha, Nilje, Kalyan, District Thane; First Edition: December 3, 2011; Page No. 4.