The role of rural women in some activities related to the cultivation and service of the tomato crop in Al-Khardaniyah village / Al-Sharqat district

Maha Shada Juma’a

College of Agriculture \University of Tikrit
Email : maha.shada@gmail.com

Abstract The aim of the research to determine the role of rural women in some activities of the tomato crop in the village of Khardaniya, And then to determine of the relationship between the role of rural women in some activities of the tomato crop and each of the following independent factors: (age, job, social status, number of family members, household income, sources of information) And then determine the size of the problems that faced by rural women in some activities related to the cultivation and service / of the tomato crop. The study included all the rural women who worked in the cultivation and service of the tomato crop in the village of Al-Khardaniya (703), who took a random sample about (8%) in some activities related to The results showed that the general level of the role of rural women the cultivat and service of the tomato crop in the village of Khardaniya is medium tend to high. The results showed a significant correlation between (profession, number of family members, main family income) and rural women’s role is (0.01). The researcher concluded increasing of the role of rural women in this region by informing them about the developments in their field of work: The rural woman faced a number of problems in the cultivation and service of the tomato crop, particularly the high seed prices. The researcher recommends the presence of some agricultural extension workers in the research area to create trust between them and rural women. In order to benefit rural women from their experience in all agricultural aspects, The researcher also recommends that the agricultural equipment company provide the rural woman with seeds from reliable sources at subsidized prices.

Keywords: Rural Women, Cultivation and Service of Tomato Crops.

1. Introduction and Research Problem:

Real development is the rational exploitation of all human and material resources and rural women have an important role in that development, The obstacles facing them are facing the third world societies in general and the Arab world in particular. Among these obstacles are the psychological and social obstacles. (Al-Issa, 1988: 103) Therefore, the authorities, including agricultural extension, should be attention to rural women by educating them, raising their awareness, preparing them properly and enabling them to play their role by setting up special programs that are supervised and prepared by agricultural extensoinor specializing in agricultural and household fields In coordination and cooperation with local federations and organizations, because this is the best way for women to
take their role and natural place in society (Abdel Warka, 1989: 32). In agricultural countries, the vast majority of economically active women work in the agricultural sector, accounting for 92.2% of all active women, This can be explained by the fact that a large part of the Arab population resides in the countryside. Traditionally, women help their husband on the farm. Moreover, agricultural work requires education only through practice and experience (Salim et al., 1999: 21).

The success of rural women’s counseling programs can not be achieved through random activities and efforts because this leads to the loss of many resources, time and human resources, But must be done in a scientific and rational and thoughtful (Al-Badri, 1995: 2) , As the dissemination of extensinal messages without identifying the needs and knowledge of women These messages will not have a positive outcome in the near or long term where we must interact and recognize and respond to the needs of the person who interact with him (Keshta, 1981: 11).

Agricultural extension is mainly based on the elements of technology transfer and human development, which play a central and integrated role in achieving agricultural development, , As agricultural extension aims at acquiring and transferring the knowledge and new ideas needed by farmers to achieve technical and economic change in agricultural systems (Jubouri, 2000: 2-3). (Al-Rimawi, 1996: 35) In addition, the function of agricultural extension is to test the information obtained daily from scientific research and transfer it to the farmers and does not include aspects of technology, but to the conditions of life of farmers and their areas and the environmental conditions in which they work in its system (Nagarajan, 1996: 2).

Rural women play an important role in the production process through their participation in productive agricultural activities in the areas of crop cultivation, animal husbandry, food processing and conservation, Or directly manage non-agricultural economic activities in handicraft areas such as sewing and sewing, thus providing additional income for the family to improve their standard of living (Abbadi, 2010: 2).

A person in the countryside depends on his senses and his direct experience in making his knowledge.

The predominant nature of the knowledge of rural society is defined as a sensory knowledge that one can easily be convinced of, Members of the rural community, along with the predominance of sensory knowledge, have two advantages The lack of information available to individuals in the environment or the outside world on the one hand, and the non-spread of knowledge and circulation within the social system, but the circulation and inheritance within the family system on the other side (Dakla, 1979: 161).

The study of rural women’s knowledge enables us to discover the knowledge available to rural women and to identify and consider their needs, Thus, the management and development of new social organizations and institutions can be improved; Ensuring that its services are provided to women in a democratic and participatory manner (www.fao.org). In spite of the important role of rural women on the one hand and the lack of extensional messages addressed to them on the other , The issue of attention to messages addressed to rural women is highlighted by preparing and directing rural women so that they can cover various aspects of rural life and improve their level to maximize their benefits. The work of rural women is influenced by many factors:

1- The type of environment in which you live: - In the preservation of traditions , we find that women are not allowed to work for fear of mixing, with men while in other environments, women work alongside with men.

2-The material need: - The high income for the family denies the need to fill the women of that family, while trying to poor families to do so.
3- Age of women: - The age of women affects the extent of their contribution to work. Women of young age are more likely to work and more eager to work compared to those with a large age (Hanbali, 121-12: 1983).

4- The openness of civilization: - The turnout of women to attend meetings and agricultural seminars increases the effectiveness of their contribution to productive activities. As well as the use of explanatory means to impart skills and experiences in meetings that are appropriate to the conditions of the countryside greatly facilitates the teaching of new skills and experiences. Especially after rural women demonstrated that they were more likely and willing than urban women to learn skills (10.5%) (Al-Daqouqi, 1985: 102).

With the importance of the role played by rural women in the various fields of development in terms of the weakness of their information on these areas on the other hand, it is necessary to know the weaknesses or shortcomings in the performance of the role played by it to build on the basis of development plans and programs aimed at providing them with the right knowledge and skills in some agricultural areas, such as: Animal husbandry, vegetable farming, food processing. In addition to its role in the field of family care in terms of: Babe's Health Care and Food Care for Family Members (Al-Hafez, 2005: 1-2)

Vegetables have a role in the prosperity of the national economy as well as the role of vegetable growers in the growth of the national economy. And provide employment for many workers in the production of vegetables such as shipping, transportation and marketing and the implementation of various agricultural machinery and fertilization and pest control and the realization of the processing of vegetables (Mohammad, 1982: 87) Agricultural crops are also an essential part of agricultural production in the country, given their high nutritional value. And because it is an essential element in the human daily diet. (Al-Mohammadi 1990: 161) Tomato is one of the most important vegetables and ranks first in terms of its contributions to nutrients in our food and it is consumed in very large quantities all over the world. (Hafez, 1992: 23) Tomato fruits are among the most widely used vegetable crops in the world and have high nutritional value. (1991: 163, Holland) The importance of the participation of rural women in the process of service and cultivation of tomato crop. The research idea came to answer the following questions: 1-What is the role of rural women in some activities related to the cultivation and service of the tomato crop in the village of Khardaniya / Sharqat district in general?

2- What is the relationship between the role of rural women in some activities related to the cultivation and service of the tomato crop and all the following independent factors (age, job, marital status, number of family members, household income, sources of information)?

3- What are the problems that facing rural women in some activities related to the cultivation and service of the tomato crop?

1.1. research aims:

1- To determine the role of rural women in some activities related to the cultivation and service of the tomato crop in the village of Khardaniyah / Al-Sharqat district in general.

2- To determine the relationship between the role of rural women in some activities related to the cultivation and service of the tomato crop and all the following independent factors: (age, profession, marital status, number of family members, household income, sources of information).

3- Determining the size of the problems faced by rural women in some activities related to cultivating and serving the tomato crop in Al-Khardaniyah village / Al-Sharqat district.

1.2. Statistical Hypotheses:

1- There is no significant correlation between the role of rural women in some activities related to the cultivation and service of the crop of tomato in the village of Khardaniyah / district and the age. 2-
There is no significant correlation between the role of rural women in some activities related to the cultivation and service of the crop of tomato in the village of Khardaniyah / district and the profession.  
3-There is no significant correlation between the role of rural women in some activities related to the cultivation and service of the crop of tomato in the village of Khardaniyah / district and the social situation. 
4-There is no significant correlation between the role of rural women in some activities related to the cultivation and service of the crop of Tamata in the village of Khadrania / district and the number of family members. 
5-There is no significant correlation between the role of rural women in some activities related to the cultivation and service of tomato crop in the village of Khardaniyah / district and the main income of the family. 
6-There is no significant correlation between the role of rural women in some activities related to the cultivation and service of the crop of tomato in the village of Khardaniyah / Sharqat and information sources. 

1.3. Procedural definitions: 

1-Rural women: rural women engaged in agricultural activities in the field of cultivating and serving the tomato crop in the research area. 
2-Number of family: Number of members of the family of the respondents who work in the cultivation and service of the crop of tomato. 
3-Sources of information: These are the sources from which information is obtained about how to cultivate and serve the tomato crop. 

1.4. Search area: 

The study included all the rural women who worked in cultivating and serving the tomato crop in the village of Al-Khardaniya (703) who took a random sample of (8%) Thus, the research sample (56) is investigated. 

1.5. Measuring Search Variables: 

1-Measurement of independent factors: The independent variables included in the study were measured as follows: 
A- Age: Measured by the number of years of age at the time of data collection 
B- Jobs: It was measured by the following alternatives: (housewife, employee). The following numerical values were given (2,1), respectively. 
D- Social status: Measured by the following alternatives: (Packer, Married, Widow). The following numeric values were given: (3,2,1), respectively. 
E- Number of family members: Measured by the number of family members working in the cultivation and service of the tomato crop. 
F- The main income of the family was measured using the following alternatives:(agricultural, non-agricultural). The following numerical values were given: (1,2), respectively. 
J- Sources of information: To measure this variable, the researcher used (7) sources and placed four alternatives in front of each source (always, sometimes, rarely, do not get). The numerical values were given (3, 2, 1, 0) respectively, Variable between (0 – 21). 

2-Measuring the role of rural women in some activities related to the cultivation and service of the tomato crop: 
The role of rural women was measured by (25) paragraphs with alternatives (Very large, large, medium, low, none) given values (4, 3, 2, 1, 0). Thus, the values expressed for this variable 0 - 100) degree.
1.6. Statistical Means and Method:

For the purpose of reaching the objectives of the research has been used many statistical methods and methods such as: Range, mean arithmetic, simple correlation coefficient (Pearson), Spearman correlation law, test (t), percentage.

2. Results and discussion:

2.1. The first objective: To determine the role of rural women in some activities related to the cultivation and service of the tomato crop in the village of Al-Khardaniyah / Al-Sharqat district in general.

It was found that the lowest value reflects the role of rural women (19) and the highest value (75) with an average of (54.28) and a standard deviation of (11.62) The respondents were divided into three categories using the range as shown in Table (1):

| Categories | the number | Percentage | Average |
|------------|-----------|------------|---------|
| Few ) 37 - 19 ( | 5 | 8.92 | 26.2 |
| medium ) 56 - 38 ( | 29 | 51.8 | 51.48 |
| Large ) 75 - 57 ( | 22 | 39.28 | 64.36 |
| Total | 56 | 100 % |

Table (1) shows that the highest value of the respondents was in the middle category, followed by the higher category. Therefore, the size of the role is described as an average tendency to rise. It may be that the best agricultural work done by rural women is proportional to their potential.

2.2. Objective 2: To determine the correlation between the role of women in some activities related to the cultivation and service of the tomato crop and all the following independent factors:

2.2.1. Age:

It was found that the age of the respondents was limited to (19-77) years, and the respondents were divided into three categories using the range as shown in Table (2).

| Categories | The number | percentage | Average role | The value of r |
|------------|------------|------------|--------------|----------------|
| 19 - years 38 | 28 | 50 | 50.71 | |
| 39 - years 58 | 25 | 44.7 | 57.48 | 0.19 |
| 5 - years 78 | 3 | 5.3 | 61 | G |
| Total | 56 | 100 % |

Table (2) shows that the largest age of the respondents was within the third age group and to find the correlation between the size of the role and age Pearson correlation coefficient was used as the coefficient of correlation (0.19) and to test the relationship between the two variables, (0.05). Therefore, the statistical hypothesis that there is no significant correlation between the size of the role of rural women in some activities related to the cultivation and service of tomato and age crops is accepted.
2.2.2. Jobs:

The subjects were distributed according to their occupation, as shown in Table (3).

Table (3) shows the distribution of female students by profession

| Categories | The number | percentage | Average role | The value of rs |
|------------|------------|------------|--------------|----------------|
| Housewife  | 46         | 82.1       | 56.30        |                |
| Employee   | 10         | 17.9       | 45           | 0.35 **        |
| Total      | 56         | 100%       |              |                |

** Indicates that the relationship is significant at level 0.01

Table (3) shows that the highest value of the average role was in the first category. To find the correlation between role size and profession, use the Spearman correlation coefficient. The correlation coefficient is 0.35. In order to test the relationship between the variables, the law of (t). It has been found that it is significant at the level of (0.01) and therefore reject the statistical hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis which states (there is a significant correlation between the role of rural women in some activities related to the cultivation and service of the tomato crop and the profession) Cultivating and serving the tomato crop as opposed to female employees for non-agricultural work.

2.2.3. Social status

Respondents were distributed according to social status to three categories, as shown in Table (4).

Table (4) shows the distribution of female students by social status

| Categories | The number | percentage | Average role | The value of rs |
|------------|------------|------------|--------------|----------------|
| Not married| 6          | 10.7       | 10.7         |                |
| Married    | 40         | 71.4       | 71.4         | 0.14           |
| Widow      | 10         | 17.9       | 17.9         | G              |
| Total      | 56         | 100%       |              |                |

Table (4) shows that the majority of female respondents fall into the category of married women. To find the correlation between role size and social status, use the Spearman correlation coefficient as the correlation coefficient is 0.14. In order to test the relationship between the two variables, the law of (t) was found to be non-significant. It accepts the statistical hypothesis and rejects the alternative hypothesis which states that there is no significant correlation between the role of rural women in some activities related to the cultivation and service of the tomato crop and the social situation.

2.2.4. Family Members:

The number of families of the interviewees was between 2 and 9 individuals. The subjects were divided into three categories using the range, as shown in Table (5).

Table (5) shows the distribution of female students according to the number of family members

| Categories | The number | percentage | Average role | The value of rs |
|------------|------------|------------|--------------|----------------|
| Individual | 2 - 4(     | 22         | 39.2         | 59.27          |
| Individual | 5 - 7     | 20         | 35.8         | 57.05          |
| Total      | 56         | 100%       |              |                |

** Indicates that the relationship is significant at level 0.01
Table (5) shows that most of the respondents fall into the first category followed by the second category. To find the correlation between role size and number of family members, Pearson correlation coefficient was used. The correlation coefficient (-0.49) indicates an inverse relationship between the two variables. For a moral test of the relationship between the variables, use the law (t). It was found to be significant at (0.01). Therefore, it rejects the statistical hypothesis and accepts the alternative hypothesis which states (there is a significant correlation between the role of rural women in some activities related to the cultivation and service of the tomato crop and the number of family members). This may be due to the fact that the more members of the family, Rural areas due to the lack of need for their efforts in accomplishing the agricultural work of cultivating and serving the tomato crop.

2.2.5. **Main income of the family:**

The respondents were distributed according to their main income, as shown in Table (6):

| Categories       | The number | percentage | Average role | The value of rs |
|------------------|------------|------------|--------------|----------------|
| Agricultural     | 32         | 57.1       | 60.43        |                |
| agricultural-Non| 24         | 42.9       | 46.08        | 0.61 **        |
| Total            | 56         | 100%       |              |                |

**Indicates that the relationship is significant at level 0.01**

Table (6) shows that the highest value of the average role was in the first category. To find the correlation between role size and family income, use the Spearman correlation coefficient. The correlation coefficient (0.61) in order to test the relationship between the variables, the law (t). It was found to be significant at (0.01). Therefore, it rejects the statistical hypothesis and accepts the alternative hypothesis which states (there is a significant correlation between the role of rural women in some activities related to the cultivation and service of the tomato crop and the main income of the family). This may be due to the fact that respondents who rely on agriculture as a main occupation of family income increase their agricultural activities, especially in the cultivation and service of the tomato crop to secure family income.

2.2.6. **Sources of information:**

The values expressed in the sources of information were limited between (1-21). The respondents were divided into three categories using the range, as in Table (7).

| Categories       | The number | percentage | Average role | The value of rs |
|------------------|------------|------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1 - Few          | 7          | 35.8       | 52.55        | 0.10 G         |
| 2 - Average      | 431        | 55.3       | 55.06        |                |
| 3 - High         | 21         | 8.9        | 58.4         |                |
| Total            | 56         | 100%       |              |                |

Table (7) shows that the highest value of the average role was in the third category. Followed by Table (7) shows that the highest value of the average role was in the third category. Followed by the second category. To find the correlation between role size and information sources, use the Spearman correlation coefficient. The correlation coefficient (0.10) For a moral test, the relationship used (t). It was found to be insignificant at (0.05). Therefore, it accepts the statistical hypothesis and rejects the alternative hypothesis which states (there is no significant correlation between the role of
rural women in some activities related to the cultivation and service of the tomato crop and sources of information).

2.3. Objective 3: To determine the extent of the problems faced by rural women in some activities related to the cultivation and service of the tomato crop. The extent of the problems faced by rural women in some activities related to cultivating and serving the tomato crop was determined by descending order according to the average, as shown in Table (8).

Table (8) shows the extent of the problems faced by rural women in some activities related to the cultivation and service of the tomato crop descending.

| Problems                                | Average | Rank |
|-----------------------------------------|---------|------|
| High prices of seeds                    | 3.4     | 1    |
| Low price                               | 3.2     | 2.5  |
| The spread of disease                   | 3.2     | 2.5  |
| Lack of adequate irrigation water       | 3.16    | 4    |
| prices of pesticides in local markets Rising | 3.02    | 5    |
| High fertilizer prices in local markets | 2.98    | 6    |
| Spread of insects                       | 2.8     | 7    |
| Spread of bushes                        | 2.7     | 8    |

Maximum value = 4

Table (8) shows that the paragraph (high prices of seeds of good varieties) came first. This may be due to the lack of processing of the seeds with improved seeds by the agricultural equipment in the Department of Agriculture Shrkat and the purchase of seeds from private agricultural offices and high prices of high-productivity varieties. While the last rank (the spread of bushes) may be due to the use of the bush in the feeding of livestock, which increases the abundance of bush, making it ineffective on the crop in the search area.

3. Conclusions:

In light of the results of the study, we conclude the following:
- The results of the study showed that the general level of the role of rural women in some activities related to the cultivation and service of the tomato crop in the village of Khardaniya. The average increase in rural women in this region is based on their knowledge of developments in the field of tomato cultivation and service.
- The results showed a significant correlation between the role of rural women (profession, number of family members, main income of the family). We conclude from this that the housewives have sufficient information about the cultivation and service of the tomato crop unlike the female employees because they are preoccupied with other non-agricultural work. The higher the number of families working in the cultivation and service of the tomato crop, the less the role of rural women due to the lack of need for their efforts in the completion of agricultural work for the cultivation and service of the crop of tomato.
- Respondents face a number of problems in the field of cultivating and serving the tomato crop, particularly the high seed prices.

4. Recommendations:

In the light of the findings, conclusions the researcher recommends the following:
- The need for some agricultural extension workers in the research area to create trust between them and rural women, so that rural women benefit from their experience in all agricultural aspects.
- Attention to family awareness of agriculture and harvesting and how to resist agricultural diseases.
and irrigation and the preparation of crops for consumption and selection of improved varieties of high quality and production.

The agricultural equipment company to provide the researchers with seeds from reliable sources with subsidized prices.

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