Participatory testing and evaluation on drudgery reducing tools and implements

Most of the works performed by the farm women are tedious as well as time consuming. The farm operations like weeding, harvesting, digging, separation from pods winrowing, threshing, shelling seed cleaning/ preparation, etc. are done manually or by traditional tools. They are slow and cause considerable fatigue and drudgery. Also many of these operations are traditionally done in varying body postures and if done for long duration are not only inconvenient, but also cause body pain. All these factors result in physical and mental fatigue, monetary hardships, exploitation, pain, economic stress, etc. In addition, women are also exposed to several diseases.

The institute is having a good number of tools and implement for crop production and processing specially for forage crops. These can easily be adopted by rural women. Their adoption will help in reducing drudgeries and fatigue from work; improving health, reducing injuries and accidents and enhancing economic status of household by increasing their productive capacity.

For this, the institute is conducting a study in three villages in the vicinity to acquaint the farm women with drudgery reducing tools and implements and also to explore their acceptability. The study also aims at assessing the gain in knowledge and skills of farm women.

The work done includes following
- Collection of secondary information on drudgery reducing hand tools
- Selection of appropriate hand tools
- Preparation of interview schedule
- Selection of 30 farm women from 3 villages completed.