APPENDIX A
QUANTITATIVE QUESTIONNAIRE

Part A

Profile of the Respondent:

a) What is your age?
   o 21–40
   o 41–600
   o 60 and above

b) What is your Education Status
   o Non-literate
   o School Education
   o Higher Education

c) Marital Status
   o Married
   o Unmarried
   o Widow
   o Divorced
   o Separated
   o Others

d) Head of Household (Breadwinner of the Family)
   o Male
   o Female
   o Both

e) Social Group
   o SC
   o ST
   o MBC
   o BC
   o Others

d) Religion
   o Hindu
   o Muslim
   o Christian
   o Others

e) Name of Your Village
   o Oravandhavadi
   o Aliandhal
   o Nammiyandhal
   o Gengampattu
   o Kuppanoor
o Yeripudur
o A.N. Mangalam
o Kullampatti

f) District you belong to
o Thiruvannamalai
o Salem

g) Source of Income to the Family
  o Agriculture/Animal Husbandry
  o Non-Farm Occupation

H) LAND HOLDING STATUS
  o Single Title in Your Name
  o Single Title in Spouse Name
  o Joint Title
  o Title Pending
  o Group Title
  o Pending Title (if common land)
  o Not applied for Title (if common land)

h) Size of the land holding
  o Landless HH
  o Below 1 acre HH
  o 1 to 2 acre HH
  o 2 to 4 acre HH
  o 4-10 acre HH
  o Above 10 acre HH

i) Nature of Land
  o Irrigated
  o Non-irrigated
  o Rainfed

j) Source of Land
  o Inherited
  o Government assigned
  o Purchased
  o Others
### FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION INDICATORS

**Question number** | Food and Nutrition Security due to access Land Holding | **Strongly Disagree** | **Disagree** | **Neither agree / disagree** | **Agree** | **Strongly agree**
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Control Over personal food consumption and nutrition decisions

<p>| 1 | My Land Access brings satisfies my food consumption needs |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | Am able to bring changes in the food consumption of my family to improve our nutrition needs using land |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 | My family food and nutrition expenses are under my control |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | My Kitchen Garden helps to supplement the food requirements |  |  |  |  |  |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question number</th>
<th>Identity and Dignity due to Land Access and being a Farmer</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neither agree / disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Working in Farm enables me to be a leader to fight hunger</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Am an active participant in land rights/farmers rights forum</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Am able to perceive myself as owner of the land and a farmer</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Not able to perceive anything</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Power From Within/Change’- Changing aspects in one’s life [Individual Level] – perceived changes in self-worth- Being an owner of a farm land or an agricultural labourer, how the do you perceive yourself?

1. Working in Farm enables me to be a leader to fight hunger
2. Am an active participant in land rights/farmers rights forum
3. Am able to perceive myself as owner of the land and a farmer
4. Not able to perceive anything

‘Power To/ Choice’: Ability to Household decision-making and domain-specific autonomy

5. Am the decision making person on the matters related to me in my family
6. Am able to take decisions on the education and future of my children?
7. I take independent decisions and act independently over family celebrations, customs, participate in the village festivals

Power With/ Community’: Changing aspects in one’s life [Community Level]

Resisting Violence against self/fellow women

8. Am able to resist any injustice against me in my family
9. Am also able to resist violence against other fellow women in our community
10. Am able resist inter-community violence
11. Am able to feel confident about my dignity and status in the society
## PART D
**ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT INDICATORS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question number</th>
<th>Economic Empowerment using Land Rights</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neither agree / disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Individual land ownership, access and inheritance rights</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>How access land lead to economic benefits for Self and Family?</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>I have full access to Land</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>My access to land is tokenistic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>I do not get any benefit out of Land</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>How do you Prioritise the Land Usage</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Land is a Food Security asset</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Land is a Financial Asset</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Land is a Livelihood Asset</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Land guarantees Housing</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Land give access to certain trees, plants, medicinal plants and herbs, inland fishing source,</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Do you know women have inheritance rights</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Do you feel that you have the land rights and inheritance right</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Will you be able to provide the land to your daughters using law of inheritance?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Have you got Ability to leverage land rights for loans, savings, insurance and other financial instruments</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Am able to put aside some cash savings out of the earnings from the land</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Am able to Mortgage our Land for getting Loan formally and informally</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Am able to purchase whatever basic need I have like purchasing a hoe, livestock/chicken, a fishing boat, a bicycle, a cell phone</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Am able to get insurance out of land holding and its produce</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Am able to promote my financial status using Land</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## PART E

### POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT INDICATORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question number</th>
<th>Political Empowerment using Land Rights</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neither agree/disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ability to participate/lead in public processes As a Farmer am a member of Farmers Forum/SHG/Land Rights Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>As a Farmer am able to be a member in any Forums</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>I Feel comfortable speaking up in public to help decide on infrastructure (like small wells, roads, water supplies) to be built in your community?</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>I feel comfortable speaking up in public to ensure proper payment of wages for public works or other similar programs?</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>I feel comfortable speaking up in public to protest the misbehaviour of authorities or elected officials?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to influence the policy makers/local governance and law enforcement authorities</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Am aware of the issues faced by the farmers / peasants with respect to land reform policies, subsidy loans linked with fertilizers and seed?</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>I have met our panchayat president and represented land rights related issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Am comfortable in attending public and political meetings and represent our concerns</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perceived Governance Opportunities participation through elections</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>I have the courage and confidence to contest in the local body election</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Being a member of a forum helps to participate in Elections</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perceived Governance Threats in participation in electoral politics</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>I see family is the major impediment in participating in electoral politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>I see Political Parties are the major impediment in participating in electoral politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>I see community/caste members are the major impediment in participating in electoral politics</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX B

Purpose: To identify rural women’s contribution to the sustainable use of lands and its positive impacts and to understand the process of empowerment and the available space for women to be empowered in relation to land rights in -- their family, household and village through negotiations, participation and struggles.

QUALITATIVE QUESTIONNAIRE

INTERVIEW

TRANSCRIPT 1

Woman Farmer Profile

Name: Rajakumari
Age: 40
Village: Alliandhalpalayam, ThiruvannamalaiDist
Social Group: BC
Land Access: 1.5 acres with Irrigation Support (through marital home inheritance)

The enabling and disabling conditions/factors in empowerment of women farmers in accessing land rights within and outside the household?

Social Empowerment

1. Have you got access to Land? How do you position yourself related to Land of your Household?

We got 1.5 acres of land as part of my husband’s family with a well and pump set. As farming is our major source of livelihood I co-operate with my husband to work in the farm. I so sell bangles for additional income. Family is everything for me.
2. **Are you capable of using Land Rights within your household?**

As Land belongs to my husband came through inheritance from his family, I do not possess any special rights. I co-operate and provide labour support.

3. **Are you capable of resisting violence within your family? if not what are the support system you got to survive to handle violence? Is your land rights helps in preventing violence?**

   *I was little independent in my parental family, but after marriage am confined to four walls and whatever earning I get I cannot spend without the permission of my husband*. I do get into quarrels with my husband, but most of the time I have to suppress my feelings as I depend on him for my survival.

**Economic Empowerment**

4. **Have you got self-sufficient economic life within a household related to Land Rights? What are the essential economic conditions prevail in your family to meet this need?**

   I do sell bangles to get additional income for myself and also family. income from the farm is the major source.

5. **Have you received Land from your Natal family? What are the other economic support you received from your natal family, which helps to determine your economic status within the marital family? How do you see the future of your daughter/s?**

   No, I got 15 sovereigns of gold jewellery from my natal family. I need to pass on this to my daughter. As I have 2 sons, Land will go to them. Its our community custom that girls will get only gold jewellery than land as our brothers need to support us during celebrations and festivals by giving ‘thaimaman seer’. So we women wont demand land though we work equally as male members of our family. my daughter also will have to follow the same tradition.

6. **What are the economic benefits of possessing land?**

   Land gives everything, from food to money. It is also future reserve for our children. To maintain the family security through supporting my husband I preserve our land for transfer to our sons.
Political Empowerment

7. Are you part of any public forums? Did you get time to participate in such processes? Have you raised issues related to land rights and women farmers rights in your forum?

Family is everything for me. I wont participate in any public forum. My husband represent in farmers forum. I do share my concerns in farming like lack of seed availability, electricity issue to my husband as I spend most of the time in our farm than my husband. He take part in vivasayigal sangam (farmers union) and Grama Committee (village council).

8. How do you position yourself in political participation? What are the enabling conditions you got in your household/community/society to participate in political process?

I never participate in politics except go for voting. In my family women are not allowed to go in public. I do sell bangles and earn money and come back. Sometimes, I do chat with my neighbors. But I wont get time as household work and farm work will take most of my day.

9. What is your view about women’s representation in political decision making bodies? How do you perceive freedom of political participation of rural women?

Nowadays after seeing no progress in our life, I do feel it is important for women to participate in politics. Men are insensitive to our issues. For them they need food and leisure whenever they need. Women takes all burden to organise family, taking care of children and their future. Economically also we equally contribute. But Land is in their name and we cannot claim. It restricts our entry into any public forum and also resist the pressure from family in participating in public forums. But I feel it may not be possible in our lifetime.
INTERVIEW
TRANSCRIPT 2

Woman Farmer Profile

Name : Selvi
Age : 52
Village Name : Kuppanoor, Salem Dist
Social Group : BC
Land Access : 2.5 acres with Irrigation Support (through marital home)

The enabling and disabling conditions/factors in empowerment of women farmers in accessing land rights within and outside the household?

Social Empowerment

1. Have you got access to Land? How do you position yourself related to Land of your Household?

   My husband got 2 and half acres of land from his family and I received 20 sovereigns of gold from my parent’s house. We got two sons. Land belongs to my husband, but I do work equally with my husband. My sons also help us in farm activities whenever they get time from their studies. Land is more valuable than gold today. It is our livelihood security. So am playing the role of guardian to our land.

2. Are you capable of using Land Rights within your household?

   We do paddy cultivation and also got coconut plantation. Due to drought our income got affected. I help my husband’s decision and am not independent decision maker in our family. at home front I take all decision, but land is my husband’s property.

3. Are you capable of resisting violence within your family? if not what are the support system you got to survive to handle violence? Is your land rights helps in preventing violence?

   My family is my only support so I abide by them, as i face lot of difficulty in where to go and how to go. I am given the responsibility of protecting the family, so I adjust with all domestic issues. For me my only goal is to raise our sons and create a family of their own by finding a suitable bride.
Economic Empowerment

4. Have you got self-sufficient economic life within a household related to Land Rights? What are the essential economic conditions prevail in your family to meet this need?

Due to drought for the last 4-5 years, our farm income has been reduced largely. So I had to mortgage my jewellery to get education for our sons. We manage with minimum income from the farm as that is the only occupation we know.

5. Have you received Land from your Natal family? What are the other economic support you received from your natal family, which helps to determine your economic status within the marital family? How do you see the future of your daughter/s?

I got 20 sovereigns of gold jewellery from my natal family. I have no daughters. I give all my jewellery for my 2 sons education.

6. What are the economic benefits of possessing land?

As we have bore well irrigation, our land is cultivable throughout the year, but during drought even the bore well won’t help. Land is a livelihood security and property asset for our sons. We do sell the produce of paddy, coconut and get good income sometimes, nothing sometimes depends on the weather condition. But it gives us security of life.

Political Empowerment

7. Are you part of any public forums? Did you get time to participate in such processes? Have you raised issues related to land rights and women farmers rights in your forum?

I participate in self-help group, but only savings and government schemes are talked about there. I didn’t receive any support from the government or any other agency.

8. How do you position yourself in political participation? What are the enabling conditions you got in your household/community/society to participate in political process?

My sons motivate me to attend public meetings in our village. But I have household work and farm work to do. So sometimes, if my SHG group meetings I participate, but no other forum exist in our village for women to participate in political meetings.

9. What is your view about women’s representation in political decision making bodies? How do you perceive freedom of political participation of rural women?

I feel women should participate in all positions of politics. But our family will not allow us to go beyond the village. Our participation in SHG helps us to come out, but that is not enough. We are not having any forum to talk about our issues.
INTERVIEW
TRANSCRIPT 3

Woman Farmer Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Paarparammal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village Name</td>
<td>Oravandhavadi, ThiruvannmalaiDist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Group</td>
<td>BC (Christian)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Access</td>
<td>1 acre with open well system (through marital home inheritance)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The enabling and disabling conditions/factors in empowerment of women farmers in accessing land rights within and outside the household?

Social Empowerment

1. Have you got access to Land? How do you position yourself related to Land of your Household?

   I got 1-acre land from husband’s family. Additionally, I got 4 cows and 8 goats. I decide on the usage of land as my husband is bedridden.

2. Are you capable of using Land Rights within your household?

   Yes. Am the decision maker in my family. I decide on what to do and how to do. I participate in dalit women’s movement and understood what is land rights. The awareness helped me to take control of our family land. Now we are doing collective farming in my land by forming a group.

3. Are you capable of resisting violence within your family? if not what are the support system you got to survive to handle violence? Is your land rights helps in preventing violence?

   Since, am active in the women’s movement, am able to take decisions in my family land and influence my family members. During olden days I had difficult time handling violence by my husband. Now I do not have time to quarrel, as am busy in our women’s movement meetings and farm work. I have a daughter who got married.
Economic Empowerment

4. Have you got self-sufficient economic life within a household related to Land Rights? What are the essential economic conditions prevail in your family to meet this need?

As we got support from an NGO called RWDS for buying cow, goats and training on organic farming with collective and preparing natural manure our family economic life has been improved. Now I repaid the loan I have taken, so other women got the loan support as part of rotation system. Without this support I would have suffered a lot.

5. Have you received Land from your Natal family? What are the other economic support you received from your natal family, which helps to determine your economic status within the marital family? How do you see the future of your daughter/s?

I didn’t receive any support from my parent’s family as we were very poor and making me getting married was the biggest task for my family. my daughter is also suffering with 3 children and her husband goes for work in Bangalore city. But I couldn’t help her anyway except providing food grains from our land like ragi, millets and some vegetables whenever I get.

6. What are the economic benefits of possessing land?

Land is our food security. We may not get good cloths or other items, but we never go sleep hungry. We eat and also share with others. More importantly, we get place to sleep and do whatever we want. What else you need in life?

Political Empowerment

7. Are you part of any public forums? Did you get time to participate in such processes? Have you raised issues related to land rights and women farmers rights in your forum?

Yes. Am one of the leaders in the collective farming group and also leader in dalit women’s movement. We do submit petitions with collector and hasildhar asking for allocation of waste land in women’s name. but no response. I am good speaker in public forums. I got training to speak as attended many trainings and meetings conducted by RWDS NGO. We also formed a struggle group to protest against Jindal Company, which was allowed to mine our Kavuthymalai-Vediappamalai hills in the year 2005-2011. As women leaders from 51 villages gathered together and conducted struggle at collector office more than 10 times, the company was banned. If the company was allowed all our lands will go waste and ground water will be completely depleted. Those hills are the source of water for all our agriculture and housing.
8. **How do you position yourself in political participation? What are the enabling conditions you got in your household/community/society to participate in political process?**

Am one of the leader in our women’s movement. At home no one is there to resist me as am the head of the household.

9. **What is your view about women’s representation in political decision making bodies? How do you perceive freedom of political participation of rural women?**

Women should lead the country. Only women can do justice and treat everyone equal. So long only men are ruling the government and all political parties and they are not allowing their own family women to come out in public. If women participate in those forums, we can address the real issues faced by poor rural communities. many of us do not have adequate land or water support to irrigation. We need to toil 24 hours to get decent food. There is no government support for us we poor women farmers.
INTERVIEW  
TRANSCRIPT 4  
Woman Farmer Profile

Name : Thenmozhi  
Age : 39  
Village Name : Yeripudhur Village, Salem Dist  
Social Group : BC  
Land Access : 2.5 acres land with bore well system (through marital home inheritance)

The enabling and disabling conditions/factors in empowerment of women farmers in accessing land rights within and outside the household?

Social Empowerment

1. **Have you got access to Land? How do you position yourself related to Land of your Household?**

   We got 2 and half acres of land in my husband’s name from my in-law’s family. I received 20 sovereigns of gold jewellery and one lakh rupee as dowry from my parents. I got married at the age of 19. During that time both the value of the gold and land was the same, so I got respect. Now the value of Land is increased. But still I do support my husband in farm work.

2. **Are you capable of using Land Rights within your household?**

   My husband takes care of all decision related to using land. Land is in his name. at home I take care of household decisions.

3. **Are you capable of resisting violence within your family? if not what are the support system you got to survive to handle violence? Is your land rights helps in preventing violence?**

   Since, I didn’t get son, I had to face lots of problems in my family, but I managed all by going silent. I have 3 daughters, so they’ll support me in resisting any violence or issues within our family.
Economic Empowerment

4. Have you got self-sufficient economic life within a household related to Land Rights? What are the essential economic conditions prevail in your family to meet this need?

Drought is the major issue we face. I consider land as property with the value of money. If we couldn’t manage with the land as input costs is going up and agriculture is not profitable, we have to sell our land for the expenses of daughters’ marriage.

5. Have you received Land from your Natal family? What are the other economic support you received from your natal family, which helps to determine your economic status within the marital family? How do you see the future of your daughter/s?

Since, my parents didn’t give any land share to me, my brothers help me in difficult times. My jewellery is helping in emergency need. We want to get our daughters married to a well-educated person and employed. They should not face the difficulties that am facing.

6. What are the economic benefits of possessing land?

Land is our major source of livelihood now. We get our food and basic needs fulfilled due to our land. But beyond it, we couldn’t get any further profit out of it as farmers do not get fair price to our produce.

Political Empowerment

7. Are you part of any public forums? Did you get time to participate in such processes? Have you raised issues related to land rights and women farmers rights in your forum?

I do not aware of any land rights. Am aware government brought a law for women’s property rights. But it cannot be implemented in our culture as men holds all economic matters. We don’t have such forums in our village.

8. How do you position yourself in political participation? What are the enabling conditions you got in your household/community/society to participate in political process?

I don’t participate in any meeting except our self-help groups sometimes. My husband goes for farmers meeting at block level.

9. What is your view about women’s representation in political decision making bodies? How do you perceive freedom of political participation of rural women?

Yes, I do feel. But rural women do not have any family support for such participation. Government can bring a law, still the community, culture determines.
INTERVIEW
TRANSCRIPT 5
Woman Farmer Profile

Name : Rani
Age : 45
Village Name : Nammiyandhal, Thiruvannamalai Dist
Social Group : SC
Land Access : 3 acres rainfed land (Panchami land allocated by Government) (in Acres)

The enabling and disabling conditions/factors in empowerment of women farmers in accessing land rights within and outside the household?

Social Empowerment

1. Have you got access to Land? How do you position yourself related to Land of your Household?

I studied only upto 3\textsuperscript{rd} standard. I only know agricultural work. Since my husband left me in affair with other woman, am left in my parent’s house. Am doing cultivation along with my brothers’ family in the government assigned 3 acres Panchami land for my parents some 45 years back. Its in joint patta of my father’s family. I also do coolie work as our land is rainfed and have no irrigation support full year.

2. Are you capable of using Land Rights within your household?

I do joint work with my brother’s family in land. it’s a rainfed land, so we do seasonal crops only. There is nothing for me to decide as I depend on my family for land.

3. Are you capable of resisting violence within your family? if not what are the support system you got to survive to handle violence? Is your land rights helps in preventing violence?

Am not able to survive with the violence by my husband as he had an affair with another women. He deserted me, so I came to refuge in my parent’s family. I do not have land rights in my husband’s family so he abandoned me so easily.
Economic Empowerment

4. Have you got self-sufficient economic life within a household related to Land Rights? What are the essential economic conditions prevail in your family to meet this need?

The land given to my family by government is rainfed land with no irrigation support. Only during rainy season, we get crops. So, it is an asset. I do agricultural coolie work in other community fields to meet our needs. All of our family members are doing coolie work.

5. Have you received Land from your Natal family? What are the other economic support you received from your natal family, which helps to determine your economic status within the marital family? How do you see the future of your daughter/s?

Am working in my father’s land allocated by government under Panchami land scheme. My parent’s family is the only support system I got.

6. What are the economic benefits of possessing land?

Land is our life. As my father got land, I get equal share, so my brothers respect me, even if my husband deserted. It is an economic security for poor women like me.

Political Empowerment

7. Are you part of any public forums? Did you get time to participate in such processes? Have you raised issues related to land rights and women farmers rights in your forum?

In our dalit women movement we do talk about land rights. Government should give land to dalit women as we are the major contributing to agricultural labor force. In my village itself only dalit women go for coolie work. We submitted many, many petitions to thasildhar, collector asking for land allocation, but no response. I cannot fight with my own brothers to get land as they themselves struggling to meet their family needs. Government is the only source for us.

8. How do you position yourself in political participation? What are the enabling conditions you got in your household/community/society to participate in political process?

I do participate in our dalit women’s movement. I attend all the meetings, trainings on women’s rights. My family support me in participating is such event.

9. What is your view about women’s representation in political decision making bodies? How do you perceive freedom of political participation of rural women?

If women participate in political bodies, we can address our issues. But still our dalit women face different issues from poverty, to abuse, who can rightly represent our problems. Still I have no scope seeing in near future atleast my life time.
INTERVIEW
TRANSCRIPT 6

Woman Farmer Profile

Name: Govindammal
Age: 35
Village Name: Oravandhavadi
Social Group: SC
Land Access and source (in Acres): 0.5 acres (through marital home inheritance) + 0.5 acres through market purchase

The enabling and disabling conditions/factors in empowerment of women farmers in accessing land rights within and outside the household?

Social Empowerment

1. Have you got access to Land? How do you position yourself related to Land of your Household?

We got 50 cents (0.5 acre) land from our husband’s family as part of group patta. Additionally, we bought 50 cents from the savings of both of our agricultural collie and cattle rearing. I registered this land in my husband’s name. We are 5 members (3 adults and 2 children) depends on this land and our coolie work in others field.

As am living on my labour, I am able to share equal rights with my husband in all spheres of life.

2. Are you capable of using Land Rights within your household?

Yes, I share land rights with my husband. Our land is very meagre and no irrigation support so we keep it for seasonal crop.

3. Are you capable of resisting violence within your family? if not what are the support system you got to survive to handle violence? Is your land rights helps in preventing violence?

No violence I witnessed in my family except some family quarrels. My husband drink, but keep silent and I also help him by giving money. As am an equal breadwinner of the family, am able to buy land and register in my husband’s name so he respects me.
Economic Empowerment

4. Have you got self-sufficient economic life within a household related to Land Rights? What are the essential economic conditions prevail in your family to meet this need?

Our land is inadequate to meet our economic needs. We depend on coolie work. am able to say am active in public sphere, but socially and economically I am very weak compared to my neighbours. If any health ailments come to me or my husband, my family collapse.

5. Have you received Land from your Natal family? What are the other economic support you received from your natal family, which helps to determine your economic status within the marital family? How do you see the future of your daughter/s?

No. my parents’ family is extremely poorer than me. My parents was in bondage with dominant caste land and only recently we got relieved with the support of government.My daughters are going to school. I need to save money to secure their future.

6. What are the economic benefits of possessing land?

Land is a safety and social status in our community. as am having land am respected within and outside of the community. apart from it doesn’t give much economic benefit, except its value, when we sell.

Political Empowerment

7. Are you part of any public forums? Did you get time to participate in such processes? Have you raised issues related to land rights and women farmers rights in your forum?

Am a member of dalit women movement. I do participate in all trainings and meetings. Also participated in protest for demanding land rights- Panchami land for dalit women. We submitted many petitions to the thasildhar and collector to get land.

8. How do you position yourself in political participation? What are the enabling conditions you got in your household/community/society to participate in political process?

I participate when all are mobilised for any issue affecting women, particularly dalit women. My family always support me in participating in movement activities.

9. What is your view about women’s representation in political decision making bodies? How do you perceive freedom of political participation of rural women?

Dalit women should become leaders to address our issues, as Dalits are the most marginalised in agriculture and there is no space in the government and political parties to address our issues. We depend on government for all issues affecting our lives.
INTERVIEW
TRANSCRIPT 7
Woman Farmer Profile

Name : Maniammal,
Age : 46
Village Name : Gengampattu
Social Group : SC

Land Access and source (in Acres):

The enabling and disabling conditions/factors in empowerment of women farmers in accessing land rights within and outside the household?

Social Empowerment

1. Have you got access to Land? How do you position yourself related to Land of your Household?

The 3 acres of land my husband got from his family is our major support to live. I have two sons and a daughter to survive. I work with my husband and share the burden of taking care of the farm.

2. Are you capable of using Land Rights within your household?

Yes, due to my association with dalit women’s movement, I got training on land rights and I am able to influence my husband on land utilisation. My husband co-operate with me to implement the training skills I received on organic farming. I produce organic manure and share with other fellow women. I got 5000 out this sales this year. The remaining I use in my farm. To get natural organic vegetables, villagers visit my field. I also got cattles and support for land improvement from RWDS NGO. Though am not a vocal person to argue, am able to gain confidence due to my association with dalit women’s movement.

3. Are you capable of resisting violence within your family? if not what are the support system you got to survive to handle violence? Is your land rights helps in preventing violence?

We used to have quarrels at home, but never get into violence. Since I normally tend to co-operate with my husband and also got fellow women’s support in our community am able to withstand any issue in my family.
Economic Empowerment

4. Have you got self-sufficient economic life within a household related to Land Rights? What are the essential economic conditions prevail in your family to meet this need?

Our food security is guaranteed with the land. however, during drought condition we face problems. We go for loans from Self Help Group and other informal money lender to meet our family emergencies.

5. Have you received Land from your Natal family? What are the other economic support you received from your natal family, which helps to determine your economic status within the marital family? How do you see the future of your daughter/s?

No. my natal family is very poor and it was a big struggle to get me married. My daughter is studying and I want her to get better education and have better secured life than myself. Am dependent on my husband for everything, but I want my daughter to be independent.

6. What are the economic benefits of possessing land?

Possessing Land is essential for any rural family, as we know only farming. Farming gives us everything, food, housing, transportation and our children’s education too.

Political Empowerment

7. Are you part of any public forums? Did you get time to participate in such processes? Have you raised issues related to land rights and women farmers rights in your forum?

Yes, I always participate in all the meetings of our dalit women forum and SHG. I make my time to participate by doing extra time work in my field. I raised Panchami land issue with our Dalit Women’s Movement and it got passed as resolution. Our Village Gengampattu has the most of Panchami Land assigned to dalit families during British, but most of the land is alienated. Now we demand our land back from encroachers. I raise this issue in our forums.

8. How do you position yourself in political participation? What are the enabling conditions you got in your household/community/society to participate in political process?

Am an active member of our movement. My husband always supports me for my public participation.

9. What is your view about women’s representation in political decision-making bodies? How do you perceive freedom of political participation of rural women?

Women need our due space in political organisations. But government should bring law to guarantee. Women farmers are not recognised by the government. There is no government scheme for us.
INTERVIEW
TRANSCRIPT 8
Woman Farmer Profile

Name : Amaravathi
Age : 50
Village Name : Kullampatty
Social Group : SC

Land Access and source : 2 acres (common land, applied for patta)

The enabling and disabling conditions/factors in empowerment of women farmers in accessing land rights within and outside the household?

Social Empowerment

1. Have you got access to Land? How do you position yourself related to Land of your Household?

   We are cultivating in a common land of 2 acres. We applied for patta, since we do cultivation since my in-laws time. But we did’nt get any response from government officials. I couldn’t get any government subsidy or crop loss compensation. Even I cannot mortgage my land for emergency needs.

2. Are you capable of using Land Rights within your household?

   As I do not have irrigation to the land, I do seasonal crops. As it is a common land and patta is not served I couldn’t utilise any land related rights.

3. Are you capable of resisting violence within your family? if not what are the support system you got to survive to handle violence? Is your land rights helps in preventing violence?

   Every day our life is full of violence. We struggle to get adequate food. We are not able to educate our children beyond school education. We are living in extreme poverty and working as agricultural labourers and depend on 100 days employment programme, which are not available nowadays.
Economic Empowerment

4. Have you got self-sufficient economic life within a household related to Land Rights? What are the essential economic conditions prevail in your family to meet this need?

No, we depend on agricultural coolie work in the dominant caste land in our village and neighbouring village. Our land is insufficient as no irrigation support available.

5. Have you received Land from your Natal family? What are the other economic support you received from your natal family, which helps to determine your economic status within the marital family? How do you see the future of your daughter/s?

My parent’s family is also poor, so they couldn’t support. My daughters are also doing agricultural coolie work to meet our family needs. i couldn’t foresee any future different from now.

6. What are the economic benefits of possessing land?

I see land as our security for livelihood. If proper irrigation is provided our land could yield good benefits.

Political Empowerment

7. Are you part of any public forums? Did you get time to participate in such processes? Have you raised issues related to land rights and women farmers rights in your forum?

We do not have any forum for dalit women in our village.

8. How do you position yourself in political participation? What are the enabling conditions you got in your household/community/society to participate in political process?

My family survival itself is a big struggle, I cannot participate in any meetings.

9. What is your view about women’s representation in political decision-making bodies? How do you perceive freedom of political participation of rural women?

Dalit women cannot dream any political ambition. Our life is at stake until we get our land rights in full and get support from the government for irrigation and loan provisions. We cannot even claim any loss from crop loss scheme as land is not titled in our name.
INTERVIEW
TRANSCRIPT 9

Woman Farmer Profile

Name : Muniammal
Age : 55
Village Name : Yeripudhur
Social Group : SC
Land Access and source (in Acres) : one and half acre (purchased)

The enabling and disabling conditions/factors in empowerment of women farmers in accessing land rights within and outside the household?

Social Empowerment

1. Have you got access to Land? How do you position yourself related to Land of your Household?

   I got one and half acre land. out of this one acre we purchased with our hard earned money. Myself and my husband travelled to Mumbai and worked as garbage collectors. There we stayed for more than 5 years and saved the money. With that we purchased this land. I feel land is dignity. Dominant caste always owned land and oppressed us as slaves. Now we also got land and able to do our own cultivation.

2. Are you capable of using Land Rights within your household?

   Yes, am the person takes all decision related to land. Since I got married I have the dream to have my own land as I faced lot of humiliation in the hands of upper caste landlords and also from my own in-law’s family as I do not have land. so we purchased land with our own money and now its values goes uptocrores.

3. Are you capable of resisting violence within your family? if not what are the support system you got to survive to handle violence? Is your land rights helps in preventing violence?

   As a bread winner of my family I can withstand any violence. My rights over the land and my hard labour makes me to be powerful to fight any issue within my family or community.
Economic Empowerment

4. Have you got self-sufficient economic life within a household related to Land Rights? What are the essential economic conditions prevail in your family to meet this need?

Yes, my land gives everything. Am able to educate my children, take care of cattles and meet all expenses from the land. I also cultivate another 2 acres on lease.

5. Have you received Land from your Natal family? What are the other economic support you received from your natal family, which helps to determine your economic status within the marital family? How do you see the future of your daughter/s?

No. my parent’s family is poor and I didn’t receive any support. I educated my daughters so they can stand on their own, but I used to tell them land is important livelihood security so try to get land for your family.

6. What are the economic benefits of possessing land?

Land gives us everything, provided we give ourself to it. Land should not be seen as an asset or property. It is our dignity and self-worth. If we put our hard labour to it honestly, it will take care of you. We need not be slaves in others land.

Political Empowerment

7. Are you part of any public forums? Did you get time to participate in such processes? Have you raised issues related to land rights and women farmers rights in your forum?

Am part of AmmaPannaiKuzhu organised by Agriculture department. We get seeds and some loan support, but it is very minimal. We do not discuss land rights or women farmers rights there as our rights are not recognised by government.

8. How do you position yourself in political participation? What are the enabling conditions you got in your household/community/society to participate in political process?

There is no one in my family prevents me in participating in public forums. I participate in SHG meeting and ADMK political party meetings. Am an active member in politics but I do not have enough money to spend in politics.

9. What is your view about women’s representation in political decision-making bodies? How do you perceive freedom of political participation of rural women?

Women should become leaders in all decision making powers. I strongly believe only women can bring justice to all. But we rural women do not have any support to organise ourselves so we fall pray in the hands of men headed political parties.
INTERVIEW
TRANSCRIPT 10
Woman Farmer Profile

Name : Jayam
Age : 45
Village Name : A.N. Mangalam
Social Group : SC
Land Access and source (in Acres) : one and half acre- Rainfed (purchased)

The enabling and disabling conditions/factors in empowerment of women farmers in accessing land rights within and outside the household?

Social Empowerment

1. Have you got access to Land? How do you position yourself related to Land of your Household?

I lived in utter poverty. I have experienced untouchability, discrimination by dominant caste and humiliations. I worked hard in the development organisation, joined chit funds to save money and bought 1 1/2 acres of land from Udaiyar, a dominant caste person. Now I own the land in which my father worked as a bonded labour. My father’s hard labour is found in the land I own. I really feel proud. This is my biggest achievement in my life.

2. Are you capable of using Land Rights within your household?

I could take all decisions on use of land, crops to be grown, what to do with the harvest and income earned from the land.

‘Only if I am healthy my family will survive’, I take care of my diabetic, diagnose the status regularly and take medicines’.

3. Are you capable of resisting violence within your family? if not what are the support system you got to survive to handle violence? Is your land rights helps in preventing violence?

Am capable of resisting violence and abuse in my family.am independent at the same time respect family values, so do not face much trouble. Further my earning helps the family to progress so my profession and farming is the major support system I got to handle violence.
Economic Empowerment

4. Have you got self-sufficient economic life within a household related to Land Rights? What are the essential economic conditions prevail in your family to meet this need?

I have full access to and control over the land. I consider land as a financial asset and security for my family. Though my land will not give immediate yield as it is rainfed, the produce I make during season gives food security for the whole of the year. I also work in an NGO for meeting other expenses of my family.

5. Have you received Land from your Natal family? What are the other economic support you received from your natal family, which helps to determine your economic status within the marital family? How do you see the future of your daughter/s?

My natal family was under bondage with dominant caste landlord. My entire family was struggling hard to survive. With the support of Christian missionaries, we got relieved from bondage and got educated. Now with the support of education, we got realised about land rights. I give equal rights of inheritance to my daughter as my son. I also make her well educated and serve the poor community as am doing.

6. What are the economic benefits of possessing land?

My land is my livelihood, property, food security and homestead with housing. It gives whole gamut of economic benefits along with social status and dignity.

Political Empowerment

7. Are you part of any public forums? Did you get time to participate in such processes? Have you raised issues related to land rights and women farmers rights in your forum?

I have fought for getting land for Dalit women with the district administration. I have collected statistics for AD land in Ayathiyapattinam block, Salem district. I am fighting against the present policies of the government such as corporate policy, land acquisition policy and seed policy to turn to be providing real benefit for the farmers’.

8. How do you position yourself in political participation? What are the enabling conditions you got in your household/community/society to participate in political process?

My family always motivate me to participate in public life, except some issues with my husband, who feels alienated by seeing my leadership growing within the community. I face lot of disturbance and humiliation, but tolerate all for the sake of my role as social worker. As my daughter and son growing they take care of their father in confronting issues against me and my public life.

9. What is your view about women’s representation in political decision-making bodies? How do you perceive freedom of political participation of rural women?

I am functioning as a social worker in 16 panchayats, I can not confine my participation n in one panchayat by contesting election. There is no threat to me. I have lot of opportunities to win the election. But I want to be instrumental for promoting more leaders’
INTERVIEW
TRANSCRIPT 11
Woman Farmer Profile

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Selvarani</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village Name</td>
<td>Kottaiyur-Kuppanoor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Group</td>
<td>ST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Access and Source (in Acres)</td>
<td>0.5 acres rainfed (through inheritance)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The enabling and disabling conditions/factors in empowerment of women farmers in accessing land rights within and outside the household?

Social Empowerment

1. Have you got access to Land? How do you position yourself related to Land of your Household?

   I have 2 sons and a daughter. We had 3 acres of ancestral land. It was part of group patta of my husband’s family. But we didn’t have irrigation and so did seasonal crops. Due to family poverty and the need for educating our children we sold 2 acres to other caste person for rs. 5 lakhs and now left with 50 cents of land. we are working as coolie in others field.

2. Are you capable of using Land Rights within your household?

   50 cents of land am using as homestead to meet our housing requirements of our joint family. I do not have any other rights except using it for housing.

3. Are you capable of resisting violence within your family? if not what are the support system you got to survive to handle violence? Is your land rights helps in preventing violence?

   Sometimes I resist and sometimes I get suffer. My community women in the neighbourhood are my support. I do not have any land to cultivate on my own. My labour and earning through agriculture is the major support to sustain myself.
Economic Empowerment

4. Have you got self-sufficient economic life within a household related to Land Rights? What are the essential economic conditions prevail in your family to meet this need?

No. everyday is struggle for food.

5. Have you received Land from your Natal family? What are the other economic support you received from your natal family, which helps to determine your economic status within the marital family? How do you see the future of your daughter/s?

No, my parent’s family is extremely poor and they also do agricultural coolie work.

6. What are the economic benefits of possessing land?

Only housing is the economic benefit.

Political Empowerment

7. Are you part of any public forums? Did you get time to participate in such processes? Have you raised issues related to land rights and women farmers rights in your forum?

We don’t have any public forum for tribal women in our village.

8. How do you position yourself in political participation? What are the enabling conditions you got in your household/community/society to participate in political process?

My family always support my decisions. But I don’t have any support outside of my family.

9. What is your view about women’s representation in political decision-making bodies? How do you perceive freedom of political participation of rural women?

I don’t know. Whoever comes we need justice to our tribal community over our land.

Pushpa, aged 42, Nammiyandal village, Most Backward Community

I have 2 sons and 2 daughters. We have 4 acres of land received from my in-law’s family. my husband also driving a van and am taking care of the land. our land has got open well with water, so we are able to cultivate in our land satisfactorily. We do flower cultivation and vegetable cultivation. We send our flowers to Bangalore market through our society.
INTERVIEW
TRANSCRIPT 12

Woman Farmer Profile

Name : Pushpa
Age : 42
Village Name : Nammiyandal
Social Group : MBC
Land Access and source (in Acres) : 4 acres with open well system (through inheritance)

The enabling and disabling conditions/factors in empowerment of women farmers in accessing land rights within and outside the household?

Social Empowerment

1. **Have you got access to Land? How do you position yourself related to Land of your Household?**

   I have 2 sons and 2 daughters. We have 4 acres of land received from my in-law’s family. My husband also driving a van and am taking care of the land. Our land has got open well with water, so we are able to cultivate in our land satisfactorily. We do flower cultivation and vegetable cultivation. We send our flowers to Bangalore market through our society.

2. **Are you capable of using Land Rights within your household?**

   Yes, I jointly with my husband do take all decisions related land as it is from his inheritance.

3. **Are you capable of resisting violence within your family? If not what are the support system you got to survive to handle violence? Is your land rights helps in preventing violence?**

   We always have work in our farm. So, do not have time to quarrel. Both of us busy in our own fields. My children are the biggest support.
**Economic Empowerment**

4. **Have you got self-sufficient economic life within a household related to Land Rights? What are the essential economic conditions prevail in your family to meet this need?**

   Yes. We are self-sufficient because we have adequate land and support system like income from van transporting our produce and neighbours produce. Essential condition for sufficiency is land with irrigation, but only during drought season we suffer, though manage with non-farm income.

5. **Have you received Land from your Natal family? What are the other economic support you received from your natal family, which helps to determine your economic status within the marital family? How do you see the future of your daughter/s?**

   I received some gold jewellery during marriage, apart from this my brothers do support by giving thai maaman seer during celebrations and festivals.

6. **What are the economic benefits of possessing land?**

   Food, housing, income to meet family expenses.

**Political Empowerment**

7. **Are you part of any public forums? Did you get time to participate in such processes? Have you raised issues related to land rights and women farmers rights in your forum?**

   I do participate in SHGs, but I don’t get enough time to participate in meetings organised by NGO RWDS. Sometimes I participate in organic farming trainings.

8. **How do you position yourself in political participation? What are the enabling conditions you got in your household/community/society to participate in political process?**

   Am just a participant in political process. Family support me if am willing to go for any meeting as am a hard-working person and contribute to family income.

9. **What is your view about women’s representation in political decision-making bodies? How do you perceive freedom of political participation of rural women?**

   Women should represent in government and other political parties, but society is male centric so they won’t allow women to become leader. We rural women always toil in our land, land is everything for us, I do not know anything else.