CONCLUSION

In respect of participation of sample farmers in house-hold activities, it was found that, in Ariyalur Block, the major share of the burden of attending to house-hold activities was borne by the WIVES both in the case of women-headed and men-headed sample agricultural house-holds. Likewise, we found that it was women who had been actively attending to house-hold activities both in the case of sample women and men farmers in Thirumanur and Jayankondam blocks respectively. Evidently, neither the spouses of the sample women farmers nor the sample men farmers attended to the house-hold activities except in the act of 'collecting fuel'. Obviously, women, with no exception of the sample women farmers, had to bear the burden of attending to dairying and house-hold activities, in addition to their participation in agricultural operations.

Women as wives and mothers have a considerable part in decision-making pertaining to on-farm, at home and allied activities. In the three sample blocks under study, it was found that it was women, who took a predominant part in decision making in the case of agricultural house-holds headed by women farmers; whereas, it was men who took major decisions where men-headed the agricultural house-holds, indicating the gender bias in the case of the sample men farmers in not involving their spouses in decision-making pertaining to agricultural and allied activities.