

**PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN FARMERS IN AGRICULTURAL  
EXTENSION SERVICE IN MEDADUMBARA DIVISIONAL  
SECRETARIAT**

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## ABSTRACT

Agriculture extension service plays a significant role in dissemination of technology among rural farmers. Therefore participation of female farmers as well as male farmers for these activities and application of agricultural knowledge is vital in developing the agricultural sector. However, to our knowledge, studies on women participation in extension activities are lacking in Sri Lanka. Therefore, the present study is an attempt to find the determinants of women participation of extension activities. Taking a sample of one hundred and fifty female farmers, this study was conducted in Medadumbara Divisional Secretariat and Poisson regression model was applied to find the determinants. The results suggest that age, ethnicity, education level of family members, monthly income, monthly expenditure for agricultural activities, labor availability for agricultural activities, number of working hours, average scheduled extension programme duration and availability of subsidies for their agricultural activities are the major determinants of women farmer participation in agricultural extension activities. This study recommends that wealthy female farmers should be encouraged to participate in extension activities. Furthermore, they should be educated with more cost management strategies in allocating inputs in the production through extension activities.