

Presented by Aziza
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Women and Saffron

Women economic-role in household livelihood

In villages most of the women are assisting their family through livestock rearing and small income generation activities like embroidery which do not fulfill their need for income. Since recently saffron production in villages has generated job opportunity for the women in and out of their homes. According to an estimate 80 % of the saffron processing is done by the women and this may contribute to increasing their income level.

Women activities in saffron production and processing:

- Help in land preparation and planting of saffron bulbs
- Collection of saffron flowers from the fields
- Separation of the stigmas from the flowers
- Drying saffron
- Packing of saffron

In order to promote the activities of women in production and processing of saffron DACAAR has offered the following facilities to date.

- 250 women have been trained in saffron production and processing up to now
- Arranging facilitating meeting for women to exchange their ideas and experiences
- Holding of field-days for women
- Providing proper facilities for saffron drying

Saffron Economic Impact on Women

- Providing independent income sources for women
- Providing licit job opportunities for women
- Promoting self dependability among women
- Contribution to overall livelihood of the household especially the women
- Promoting self reliability and self confidence among the women

Socio-culture Impact of Saffron on Women

- Creating participation opportunities for women
- Improving women social relationship with the others through frequent meetings
- Changing mind and attitude of men towards women
- Influencing the men by women not to grow poppy

Woman Saffron Growers Problem

- Inaccessibility to saffron market
- Unavailability of specialist women in production and processing of saffron
- Lack of women knowledge related production and processing of saffron
- Cultural barriers on women
- Lack of proper equipments for processing and packing of saffron
- Lack of coordination between woman saffron growers

Recommendations

- Strengthening saffron growers association and to establish similar organization
- Providing more theoretical and practical saffron training for women especially through women trainers
- Establishing a properly equipped center for drying, processing and packing of saffron for women

Presented by Halima
From Bahayi village of
Pashton Zarghon District

Views of the women who is not growing saffron

Miss Halima from Bahayi village of Pashton Zarghon district is of the view that her neighbor Mullah Kamal has planted 600 m² of his own land with saffron since last year while we planted tomato, eggplant, okra and pepper on one jerib of land. Mullah Kamal made a profit of 2500 AFN from his land but our land had no profit due to drought and lack of water. Seeing that producing saffron makes more profit and is requires less labor and water therefore we sold our Truck and bought land for planting saffron in future.

Presented by Najiba

Economic Impact of saffron on Women

Abdul Latif has been planting 1 jerib of land with saffron for 6 years and this year he has planted 1.5 jerib of land with saffron. Najia, Wife of Abul Latif who is also cashier of saffron association stated her views on saffron cultivation as: "since my husband begun to plant saffron our life style has improved significantly compared to previous years. Through saffron profit we have purchased many of our household items such as carpet, gas cylinder, dishes and clothes for our children".

She further stated that in the past due to drought we could not make any profit from cultivation of maize and it was just enough for household consumption. But now by help of God and profit of saffron I have treated for earache which I could not treat for many years due to lack of income. According the doctors advice I should go to Iran for better treatment. My husband is planning to take me to Iran and he will spend saffron profit for my treatment and I am hopping to recover fully. I know all this happiness is coming to me through saffron production.

Presented by Khumari

Impact of Saffron Cultivation on Vocational skill for Women

Mrs. Khumari , wife of Mohammad Anwar stated about skilled vocational. She says my husband prepared two plots of land equal to (600 m² land) three years ago. I worked on my land and planted with saffron according the training that I have already received about land preparation, planting saffron, irrigation, cultivation and processing of saffron.

In first and second year, I could collect, clean, dry and pack the saffron but did not sell them due to less quantity. Now my saffron is in the third year and I got the yield and put them in a clean palace for draying. This year I am going to sell all the saffron I got form my field.

This year the collection of saffron flower is going on and I have updated my knowledge through refresher course in cultivation and processing of saffron.

Women Problem in Growing and collection of Saffron

We do not have enough clean space for keeping saffron flowers which we bring from the fields. we have to clean and pack the saffron during the night and day time without taking rest because early morning we should be in the field for collection of saffron again. If we had clean and enough space for storing of saffron flowers then we were not supposed to clean them immediately after collection, this would reduce our work load and provide us time for rest without stress.

If God helps us to have more production of saffron in future we are planning to build rooms to process saffron. We also do not have special scales for saffron weighing. Sometimes we have national and international guests in our villages that are looking to purchase our saffron but unavailability of saffron scale is a problem to give the correct amount of saffron.

Presented by Mahwar

Socio-cultural impact of saffron production on Women

Mahwar, Mullah Akbar's wife from Ghorian village of Pashton Zarghon district speaks about socio-cultural impact of saffron cultivation on women. She states that saffron requires less effort to produce and more profitable crop. Since cultivation of this crop in our villages has generated legitimate job opportunities for young and women.

Menace of poppy cultivation and use has addicted our young, many of Afghan young men have been put in jails for long times and even were hanged up. Poppy took away our happiness from our houses. We are much happy to cultivate saffron and are appreciating DACAAR's efforts for assisting us.

During the day time we are going to the fields for collection of saffron flowers with all family members. Collection of saffron flowers in the fields is a celebration for the women as they expect very good profit from them to improve the livelihoods of the whole family. We do not have electricity, TV and other recreation facilities during the night time therefore we spend much of the nights time on cleaning and packing of saffron. Gathering of women for cleaning saffron could provide the opportunity for them to discuss and exchange ideas. Through this get together they can assist each other and learn from each other too.

As well as another lady states about saffron production as "two of my sons were engaged in agricultural labour due to our poor economical situation, but since we started to plant saffron our economy has been improved and now my sons are going to school nevertheless that they are now too mature for going to school. They also work with their father on saffron field when they are back from school if needed."

Indigenous method for dry saffron

In order to protect saffron from dust and contamination, a mosquito net made of cotton should be prepared like illustrated below.

After separating stigmas from flowers, stigma should put on a piece of white cloth and subsequently white cloth with saffron stigmas should be covered with net. Using of this method will keep saffron free from dust and contamination and maintain the saffron quality. For supporting the mosquito net, a simple wood/metal structure is needed. The structure should be 48 cm high, 95 cm long and 60 cm wide. If a bigger mosquito net is need then the structure can be adjusted according to the need.