



Press Release Publishing Report

Rural women working in agricultural fields are the largest contributors to the country,s economy but not counted and their rights are not protected

Study




Islamabad

December 24, 2022

Rural women main contributors to informal economy: Kashmala

The Newspaper's Staff Reporter | Published December 25, 2022 | Updated a day ago



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ISLAMABAD: Rural women working in agricultural fields are the largest contributors to informal economy, but they are not acknowledged, counted and protected.

Rural women have the same rights as that of working women in cities, but there is no recognition for their contribution.

This was stated by Federal Ombudsperson for Protection against Harassment Kashmala Tariq in a statement at the launch of a study on the rights of women agricultural workers organised by Awaz-CDS Pakistan.

Kashmala Tariq said there was a strong need to implement laws already in place for women agricultural workers' rights as they often earned less than men and were deprived of basic rights and protection. She stressed the need for creating awareness among women agricultural workers through mass media and effective role of local governments in addressing their issues.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1728132>

■ **WORKING IN AGRICULTURAL FIELDS**

'Rural women largest contributors to informal economy'

Our correspondent

Islamabad

Rural women working in agricultural fields are the largest contributors to the informal economy in Pakistan, but they are not acknowledged, counted and protected. These women have same rights as working women in cities but in remote areas there is no recognition of their contribution and rights. These thoughts were expressed by Kashmala Tariq, Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment at the national launch of study on women agricultural workers rights organized by AwazCDS Pakistan.

She also said that there is a strong need to implement laws already in place for women agricultural workers' rights as they often earn less than men and are deprived of basic rights and protection. She stressed on the need of creating awareness among Women Agricultural Workers (WAWs)

through mass media and effective role of local governments in addressing these issues.

The study titled "The Hands That Feed Us: Struggles of Women Agricultural Workers in Pakistan" was conducted by AwazCDS-Pakistan in collaboration with Forum Asia and Bread for the World in the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic.

Chief Executive AwazCDS-Pakistan Zia-ur-Rehman highlighted in his address that women agricultural workers (WAWs) often earn less than 50 percent of men wages. WAWs traditionally face malnutrition, discrimination, violence, and ill-treatment by their partners, including exploitation and sexual harassment. Most of them are married in early age and forced to work in fields on behalf of in-law families as bonded laborers.

Highlighting the need to carry out this study, Mr. Rehman said that "There are

several women empowerment studies but limited research is available on the measurement of empowerment in the agricultural context. Therefore, it was decided to carry out a study to assess, identify and articulate the contributing factors associated with socio-economic, legal, gender and political empowerment of Women Agriculture Workers (WAW) in Sindh and Punjab Provinces of Pakistan"

The event centered a panel discussion moderated by Zia-ur-Rehman and Maryam Amjad, Programme Manager AwazCDS-Pakistan about the issues brought up within the study. The speakers included Dr. Shahida Rehmani, Chairperson Women Parliamentary Caucus, Shandana Gulzar, Ex-Convenor Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Chairperson Common Wealth Women Parliamentary Forum, Mardiyah Sultana, Member, National Commission for Status of Women, Ms. Mahwish Afridi,

Head of SDG Programme, Hashoo Foundation.

Chaundry Intiaz Ahmed, Director Agriculture Rahimyar Khan, Sameena Nazeer, Executive Director PODA, Aftab Alam Khan, Chief Executive Resilient Future International threw light on the situation of rural women rights and how they are deprived of their basic rights.

The study findings suggested appropriate measures and recommendations to address identified policy and practice level gaps. The study findings and recommendations also highlight the WAWs right to work, right to safe and secure working conditions, rights of assembly and association, right to social security and right to a healthy environment.

Shandana Gulzar, Ex-Convenor Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Chairperson Common Wealth Women Parliamentary Forum said WAW rights are not an issue of social welfare, it is about basic

human rights. She threw light on the situation of rural women rights and how they are deprived of their basic rights.

Mahwish Afridi, Head of SDG Programme, Hashoo Foundation said that there is a need to empower women agricultural workers by imparting them with required technical skills to make linkages with the market. They should be aware of their rights and the facilities to acquire and utilize microfinance.

Maryam Amjad, Programme Manager AwazCDS Pakistan shared the method, findings and recommendations from the study. She recommended that provincial ministries, district departments, UN and Trade Unions must be involved in ensuring WAW rights by building their capacities and raising their awareness. In the Debendra Adhikari Head of South Asia Programme Forum Asia thanked the Participants for their great contributions.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=159875>

The **Nation**

Ombudsperson for laws' implementation for women agricultural workers' rights

ISLAMABAD - Rural women working in agricultural fields are the largest contributors to the informal economy in Pakistan, but they are not acknowledged, counted and protected. These women have same rights as working women in cities but in remote areas there is no recognition of their contribution and rights. These views were expressed by Kashmala Tariq, Federal Ombudsperson for Protection against Harassment, at the national launch of 'Study on women agricultural workers rights' organized by Awaz-CDS Pakistan here on Friday. She also said that there is a strong need to implement laws already in place for women agricultural workers' rights as they often earn less than men and are deprived of basic rights and protection. She stressed on the need of creating awareness among Women Agricultural Workers (WAWs) through mass media and effective role of local governments in addressing these issues. The study titled 'The Hands That Feed Us: Struggles of Women Agricultural Workers in Pakistan' was conducted by AwazCDS-Pakistan in collaboration with Forum Asia and Bread for the World in the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic. Chief Executive AwazCDS-Pakistan Zia-ur-Rehman highlighted in his address that women agricultural workers (WAWs) often earn less than 50 percent of men wages. WAWs traditionally face malnutrition, discrimination, violence, and ill-treatment by their partners, including exploitation and sexual harassment. Most of them are married in early age and forced to work in fields on behalf of in-law families as bonded labourers. Highlighting the

<https://www.nation.com.pk/24-Dec-2022/ombudsperson-for-laws-implementation-for-women-agricultural-workers-rights>

Daily Times

BUSINESS

Women working in agricultural fields deprived of economic rights

Rural women working in agricultural fields are the largest contributors to the informal economy in Pakistan, but they are not acknowledged, counted and protected. These women have same rights as working women in cities but in remote areas there is no recognition of their contribution and rights. These thoughts were expressed by Kashmala Tariq, Federal Ombudsperson for Protection Against Harassment at the national launch of study on women agricultural workers rights organized by Awaz-CDS Pakistan.

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<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1043083/women-working-in-agricultural-fields-deprived-of-economic-rights/>

Rural women’s contributions not adequately acknowledged

By **News desk** - December 24, 2022

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Chief Executive AwazCDS-Pakistan Zia-ur-Rehman highlighted in his address that women agricultural workers (WAWs) often earn less than 50 percent of men wages. WAWs traditionally face malnutrition, discrimination, violence, and ill-treatment by their partners, including exploitation.

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<https://pakobserver.net/rural-womens-contributions-not-adequately-acknowledged/>

Islamabad *Daily* POST

Working rural women's rights must be protected

STAFF REPORT

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Most of them are married in early age and forced to work in fields on behalf of in-law families as bonded laborers. Highlighting the need to carry out this study, Mr. Rehman said that "There are several women empowerment studies but limited research is available on the measurement of empowerment in the agricul-

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Daily The Spokesman

RAWALPINDI



'Punjab Assembly cannot be dissolved till Jan 11'

Punjab Assembly Speaker Sibtain Khan said Friday that the assembly cannot be dissolved till January 11 following the ruling of the Lahore High Court (LHC), ARY News reported. Sibtain Khan said in a statement that his statements proved true regarding the prevailing situation in Punjab. He alleged that the Punjab governor is exceeding his powers.



Türkiye has brought Kashmir to the fore of its foreign affairs: Dr. Ghulam N. Mir

Dr. Ghulam N. Mir said that Govt of India has committed war crimes in Kashmir, besides denying the people the right to self-determination which was pledged to them by the United Nations Security Council as early as 1948. Dr. Mir thanked the Erdogan Administration which has brought Kashmir to the fore in its foreign affairs; and Türkiye is one of the few countries which has constantly raised the voice of Kashmir at the UN. (Report on Page 5)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Struggles of Women Agricultural Workers Rights in Pakistan

City Reporter

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Mahwish Afridi, Head of SDG Program, Hashoo Foundation said that there is a need to empower women agricultural workers by imparting them with required technical skills to make linkages with the market. They should be aware of their rights and the facilities to acquire and utilize microfinance.

Maryam Anjad, Program Manager AwazCDS Pakistan shared the method, findings



and recommendations from the study. She recommended that provincial ministries, district departments, UN and

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Mr. Debendra Adhikari Head of South Asia Program Forum Asia thanked the Participants for their great contributions

Rural women are largest contributors to the country's economy: Study

National Launch of The Hands That Feed Us: Struggles of Women Agricultural Workers Rights in Pakistan

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Rural women's input in economy not counted, their rights not protected: Study

Our Correspondent

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Twitter: <https://mobile.twitter.com/fospah/status/1606718730855239681/photo/1>