

Category	: International Rice Research Conference
Select Theme	: Social inclusion and gender equality
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Keyword 1	: Social innovation systems
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Title of Entry	: Do women influence rice varietal selection? A case from eastern India
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Select only one type of presentation	: 15 minute oral presentation
Abstract	<p>: Over the years women's participation in rice farming has become an increasingly important aspect. In rice research, their participation is often measured by female labor contribution. However, this does not always reflect women's influence in household decision making, particularly with regards to the type of rice varieties planted. To date, there is little evidence that shows a direct link between women's decision making and the household's rice varietal choice. Often, studies use binary gender variable that determined if the household head is male or female which raise a concern when one binary choice comprised most of the sample. Using the Rice Monitoring Survey (RMS) 2016, this paper aim to look at intra-household gender relations in small-holder farms and its linkage with decisions on technology adoption. A total of 4,050 households were interviewed located in four states in India (Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, and Odisha). Individual perception of men and women regarding decisions and their extent of participation were estimated using a gender participation index which can be categorized as low, medium, and high. A double hurdle zero-truncated Poisson logit model was used to analyze the adoption of modern varieties. The first stage of the model is a logit model which describes the decision of the farmer to adopt or not adopt modern varieties. The second stage is a zero-truncated Poisson model that addresses how many varieties to adopt. Along with socio-economic and farm characteristics, the computed gender participation index is used as a proxy for the gender variable. Results show that almost all of men has high participation index. On the other hand, women do not influence decisions on whether to adopt a modern variety and the number of modern varieties despite the fact that more than 75% has high participation index. This finding provides a new insights that women have less influence regarding the choice of variety the household will use. In addition, the conventional use of gender variable depending who is the household head may provide misleading interpretation on the role of women in the adoption of rice variety.</p>

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