

Spatial Pattern of Milk Production and Cooperative Dairy Farming in Sangli District

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India is a developing country where agriculture is the main occupation of the majority of population however, agriculture in India tends to be a gamble with the undependable monsoon. Despite nine five year plans Indian farmer is still not freed from the clutches of monsoon. The Indian farmer is compelled to depend on the most irregular and uncertain and consequently undependable monsoon for decades to come. The present India's stock of food grains will not help in providing food for all people in the country; the marginal farmers landless labors and the people poverty line have no money to by relatively expensive food grain In India 19.3% population living under poverty line [cences2001] and total population is 102.7crores [censes 2001] or lakh of irrigation out of them 60% are composed of less than two hectares of land size. These small holders are mainly used for subsistence farming lakh of sufficient fertilizer facilities. The most of the small farmers can hardly produce one crop a year the result of yield is very low.

In the subsidiary occupation for agriculture, dairy is leading activity and plays a vital role in the rural economy. Dairy helps to tackle the serious problem of unemployment. Dairy development is being used as a poverty eradication measures i.e. providing supplementary employment under Integrated Rural Development Programme (I.R.D.P.).

The co-operative movement in Maharashtra was geared by Dr. Dhananjayrao Gadgil and Mr. Vikhe Patil by establishing a sugar co-operative factory. Slowly co-operative movement diffused in the dairying. The main intention of co-operative dairy in Maharashtra was provided and attractive, alternative means of development to vast majority of farmers including large and small farmers as well as the landless. The milk co-operative society in Maharashtra was 450 in 1960-61 which increased to 610 in 1978-79 and in 1990 increased 31294 dairying the same year 36 co-operative milk project in the state.

The Sangli district is largely drought prone areas and has insignificant irrigation facilities except Walwa, Miraj, Shirala and Palus tahsils. There is always shortage of drinking water.

The Sangli district has a fertile land. Dairy activity is regarded as an integral part of the agriculture in the region. Development of agro-based industry like sugar industry in the co-operative sector has helped the dairy activity to a greater extent, through availability of capital for progressive investment.

In the preceding study of the role of physical factors in agriculture and dairy activity has been analyzed. However, farming is not merely a product of physical setting but also of man-made frame. Physical setting of a region provides broad limits to agricultural activities within which farmer acts and cultivates with the consideration of several socio-economic factors which set their imprints on the population, irrigation, transportation, industries and banking facilities. These factors are analyzed based on the basis of available data and information abstracted from the agricultural and population census and government report.

Need of milk and direct as well as indirect employment opportunity to the people. A large number of rural people are engaged in this subsidiary activity through which additional income is received by the farmers. The present stock of food grains in India will not help in providing food for all people. Most of the farmer's landless labor's and the people below poverty line have no money to buy relatively expensive food grain. In Sangli district 16.59% families are under poverty line. There are 14.37 lakh total live stocks (2007) in Sangli district, out of these 5.80 lakh milch animals. Total milk production in 2007-08 was 18.50 Cores Liters. Co-operative dairies plays vital role in the development of dairy farming in Sangli district.

Agriculture is a primary activity in India and animal husbandry is closely associated with it. Since origin of Agriculture, the domestication of animals has been a part of it. In the early stage the agriculture and animal husbandry were confined to the Center of origin of agriculture (Saver 1952). The domestication was made for milk purpose and later with the development of agriculture animals were also used for agriculture operation. Although, milk has been obtained from cows, buffaloes, camels, sheep, goats and others there is a major contribution of cows and buffaloes in milk

production of the world. In India cows and buffaloes play an important role in milk production. In the western countries scientific development is made in dairy farming and it is considered as a business.

Live stock is a sub-sector of Indian agriculture. The contribution of this sub-sector to the agriculture is nearly 24% and dairy farming is again sub-sector of live-stock sector. The small and marginal farmers and landless labor's each own one or two milk animal. At present India's dairy farming industries is growing at a faster rate and need a special and temporal analysis. Present study is attempt that the spatial pattern of milch animals and milk production in Sangli district.

Generally 80 percent livestock of Sangli district depends on natural green grass in rainy season and dry fodder in summer season. In monsoon period, the green fodder availability is sufficient to livestock. But in summer season, the supply of green fodder is not sufficient to livestock. Therefore, in summer season livestock seems weak. The livestock distribution depends upon the climatic conditions and fodder availability. The green and dry fodder and concentrate feed are the main three sources of fodder and feed for livestock feeding. Generally the large numbers of livestock are found in areas where good quality of fodder is available in sufficient quantity. Low quality of feed is always responsible for low quality and quantity of milk in dairy activity.