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CHAPTER-I: INTRODUCTION
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INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

1.1   Selection of the Problem

India is an agricultural country. Agriculture is a primary sector of Indian economy. But the tragedy of the Indian agriculture is that its productivity is low. So, in order to improve the condition of both farmers and agriculture there is a need of supplementary occupations. Dairy occupation is one of the best supplementary occupations. Dairy occupation is the most effective instrument for supplementing farmers' income and generating employment in rural sector.

In India co-operative dairying is an important productive activity, which is recognised to be an effective measure to improve the milk production potential and thereby to make better the socio economic life of millions.

Karad and Patan talukas of Satara district are also engaged in agriculture, but source of income to the farmers was fluctuating. With a view to providing dairy occupation on cooperative basis, the late R.D. Patil and his colleagues formed cooperative dairy named as "Koyana Sahakari Dudha Utpadak Prakriya Sangh Ltd., Karad on 1st October, 1957. Since then this Sangh has been playing an important role in enhancing the income levels of the farmers in Karad and Patan talukas of Satara district.

Therefore the topic "Cooperative Dairy Farming in Karad and Patan Talukas" (With Special Reference to Koyana Sahakari Dudha Utpadak Prakriya Sangh Ltd., Karad, 1975-1985) is selected for the present study.

1.2 Significance of the Problem

The study is significant in two respects:

1) Whether milk production as subsidiary occupation is beneficial to the farmers?

2) What should be done in order to enhance the production of milk and income of the farmers and whether milk occupation is profitable to the farmers?

1.3 Scope of the Problem

By considering the Koyana Sangh the present research study deals with the specific factors like income generation of milk producers and cost of production of milk. The working of the Sangh is studied for the period of 10 years, i.e., 1975 to 1985. This research covers only co-operative dairy farming of Karad and Patan talukas.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

The main objectives of this study are as given below:

1) To study, in short, the dairy farming in general,

2) To study functioning of Koyana Sangh over the period of time,

3) To estimate income generation at farmer level

4) To estimate cost of production of milk

5) To estimate employment potential from dairy enterprise among different categories of milk producers

6) To ascertain economical benefits to the milk producers.

1.5   Limitations of the Study

Since the study is undertaken as a part of the fulfilment of the requirement of the degree course of Master of Philosophy in economics, 1) the study covers the time period from 1975 to 1985, and 2) the study is limited only to Koyana Sangh.

The researcher has delimited his study to certain aspects of co-operative dairy farming like cost of production of milk and income generation at farmers levels.

This study is delimited for 10 years i.e., 1975 to 1985. The necessary details on certain matters are not available like profits of the Sangh for the year 1975 to 1980.

1.6   Methodology

1) The primary data is mainly collected from the members of 'Koyana Sangh' and members of the primary dairy cooperative societies with the help of interview schedule. Also discussions with the board of directors and officials were undertaken in order to collect the data.

2) Secondary data is collected from the published

material, articles, periodicals, books, reports etc.

3) Also observation method is used to know the working

of the Sangh.

Selection of the Farmers

Information and the primary data pertaining to various

components of cost incurred in dairy enterprise and income

generation at farmer's level have been collected in order to

measure. The researcher has first of all considered milk collection

by Koyana Sangh through 255 primary dairy cooperative societies.

These milk societies were classified into the seven groups using

their annual milk collection data. From each group one society was

selected for the selection of the members. One society per group

was selected because in some groups the number of societies was

large but their milk collection as compared to other large

societies from higher milk collection group, was considerably small.

So, each group was given the representation at one society.

From selected 13 societies 65 members were selected as

follows. A list of members who supply regular milk was prepared

for each of the 13 societies. The members were divided into five

groups as per their milk supply and from each group one member

is selected for interview.

While considering cost of production the researcher has

classified these 65 milk producers in four income groups, according to their annual income revealed by them, e.g., first income group consists of milk producer whose income is less than Rs. 5,000/- p.a., second income group consists of milk producer whose income is from Rs. 5,001 to Rs. 12,000/- p.a. and so on.

1.7 Chapter Scheme

The present study is divided into six chapters.

The first Chapter is the introduction, which states selection of the problem, significance of the problem, scope, aims and objectives of the problem, limitations of the problem and methodology.

The second Chapter includes the general background of dairy farming. It covers historical background of Dairy farming in the world, in India, in Maharashtra and at last in Satara district.

The third chapter goes with historical background and functioning of KSDUPS Ltd., Karad.

The fourth Chapter deals with income generation at farmer's or milk producer's level.

The fifth Chapter estimates the cost of production of milk.

The last one, Sixth Chapter covers the Summary, Conclusions and Suggestions.