

CHAPTER - V
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SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTION

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Summary and Conclusions :

In this chapter an attempt is made to examine the size and utilisation of bovine animals in Kolhapur district. The main conclusions emerging out of this study are as under :-

(1) At the time of the livestock census of 1982, there were 677.4 thousand bovine animals in the Kolhapur district. Females are more in number than males and the proportion of young stock is considerably higher among buffaloes than among cattle.

(2) As regards the relative importance of cattle and buffaloes, buffaloes are seen to outnumber cattle in all talukas except Chandgad and Bavda.

(3) The total bovine population has risen by about 21 percent since 1951 to 1982. The adult male bovine population has not increased faster than adult female bovine population. Totally adult female bovine population has increased by 58.5 percent since 1951 to 1982. The steady rise in the ratio of buffaloes to cattle among adult females shows that farmers have been progressively shifting to she-buffaloes as a source of milk and milk production. Young stock has grown by 8.73 percent since 1951 to 1982. The bovine population shows a declining trend since 1978 because of the increasing use of tractor and popularity of exotic cross-bred cattle.

(4) There are various breeds of bovine in Kolhapur district such as Killar, Krishna Valley, Dangi, Jawari etc. Other breeds

which are not local but are found in the district are Gir and Tharparkar. The number of exotic and cross breeds is increasing day by day, since last two decades, and Pandharpuri, Jawari and Gavlau as buffaloes breeds.

The cross-bred cows are more popular in the sugarcane growing areas of the district. These animals require heavy initial and recurring investments which is possible only to the large and rich farmers who would add to their income from the sale of milk.

(5) i) The existence of a bullock rental market in the rural economy in Kolhapur district.

ii) The demand for draught (working) animals is decreased because (a) increase in the number of small farmers in the district (b) tendency of the farmers to buy milch animals to increase their income. Milk prices paid by the primary co-operative dairies are remunerative.

(c) There is an increasing tendency of big farmers to use tractors for agricultural operation & transportation.

Ratio of cropped area to bullocks, that is, area per pair of bullock is increasing because the number of marginal farmers is increasing; due to that, number of draught animals in the farmer is decreasing.

(6) Milch animals play an important role in economy of Kolhapur district. Milch animal helps the farmers to receive continuous

flow of income from the milk production, in addition to getting farm yard manure to improve the soil condition. Number of milch animals is increased from 71.8 thousand to 204.2 thousand since 1961 to 1982. She-buffaloes are an important source of milk supply today and yield yearly two times as much milk as local (deshi) cows.

(7) The first primary Co-operative Dairy Society in Kolhapur district was registered in 1955 at Hatkangle taluka. In 1982 there were 810 milk producers primary co-operative societies and three milk unions in the district. i) Kolhapur District Co-operative Milk Producers Union Kolhapur ii) Shree Warna Sahakari Dudh Utpadak Prakriya Sangh Ltd. Amrutnagar iii) Shirol Taluka Sahakari Dudh Utpadak Sangh Ltd., Jayasingpur.

There is very little scope for marketing of milk in the Kolhapur district except Kolhapur city, Jayasingpur. Kolhapur and Inchalkarnji cities are the major markets for fluid milk and milk products. While the surplus milk is converted into milk products such as ghee, milk powder and cream.

At present there is an enormous shortage of both feeds and fodder for meeting the requirement of the large bovine population in the district and there seemed to be no prospect of any improvement in the feeds and fodder situation in view of the high rate of growth of population of human beings and increase in the number of bovine animals. While appreciating the need for making available more land for fodder production:

As observed during the present sample, those ^{with} who are bigger holding possess bovine animals for the various purposes in agriculture and smaller farmers do not possess more bovine because they do not afford to pay for their high prices.

Suggestions :

On the basis of the present study, the following suggestions can be made.

(1) The population of bovine animals shows a declining trend since 1978 onwards. The bovine animals are required for milk production and agricultural operations. A detailed independent study should be undertaken to investigate and suggest the policy matters to the government on bovine animals.

(2) The population of draught animals also shows declining trend. The reasons for this have been discussed in the earlier chapters. The index of number of hectares per pair of bullocks is increasing. This will lead to overutilization of bullock power. To avoid this type of situation the 'Animal Co-operative Societies' should be established in the villages. The number will be one or two societies per village. These societies are promoted by small and marginal farmers.

Society should serve as service centre so as to provide a pair of bullocks to its farmer-members on rental basis. In case there is less demand from the farmer members of the society, Non-members could also be served on rental basis.

Since society provides services of supply of draught power to its members in the village community, it will be appropriate for the society to operate as a breeding centre for the rearing of cows and buffaloes. This would serve twin objectives of providing impetus to the dairy development activities and provide useful raw-material for the community biogas plants. This could ultimately serve the concept of integration of the different activities of the village society.

(3) The she-buffalo population trend has ^a shown an increase. This has led to the increased income to the farmers by way of remunerative price available to them from the sale of milk and milk production. As the yield per buffalo is low, government and Kolhapur District Co-op. Milk Federation should make joint efforts without danger of overlapping their services to supply good breeds of buffaloes to the farmers.

(4) Veterinary facilities available to the bovine animals are negligible. The hospitals and staff are there but no medicines, especially in Zilla Parishad hospitals, are available. The farmers must get adequate veterinary services and medicines for their animals.

(5) Death rate among the young stock is high. It can be reduced by proper provision for medicine and through educating the farmers. The death rate is more in case of he-buffaloes because the farmers are not aware about the marketing aspects

of such animals for meat purpose. This aspect should be made aware to the farmers by the society.

(6) The insecurity that prevails among the cattle owners particularly among the small and marginal farmers, who have been given loans for purchasing dairy animals may be eliminated by introducing cattle insurance throughout the district. Although cattle insurance has been introduced in recent years, it is confined only to dairy animals of exotic breed and of certain age. It should be extended to all types of useful animals of reproductive age group.

(7) The village society should endeavour to link itself with the urban milk supply unions to work as a satellite unit in supplying milk collected from its members.

(8) The continuous supply of green fodder to the bovine animals throughout the year is very essential for the good health and milk production. For this purpose society should try to utilise the waste land available in the village to raise the fodder crop.

(9) Experience has shown that the dairying has become an important occupation in the areas where milk production has shown increase. It is suggested that to further augment the income, along with dairy, other subsidiary activities such as poultry farming should be developed by the village society. This would substantially increase the nutritional requirements of the village community.