

CHAPTER-III

HISTORY OF DAIRY INDUSTRY
IN HERLE

Co-operative Societies :

It is necessary to bring to the notice one thing here that the farmer, who depended on rains was not assisted by the irrigation facilities in those days as he is today; and he had never realised the importance of milk and how it can give rise to a tremendous industry. In Herle, there were no any professional dairies in those days. The traditional business which can be called as milk-man's business was in vogue. Some people were youngaged in that traditional business and were conducting it to their personal satisfaction. In 1936 in the village Herle a cooperative society came into being. In the beginning there were only five members of it and as compared to the strength of the members of it today (Nearly 356), the strength 'five only' looks poor and meagre. At present, capital of this society in the village Herle is approximately Rs. 10,97,527. After this cooperative society was formed in the village Herle, one other society named Chandraprabha Society came into the existence and the village Herle came to realise the way it can progress itself. These societies encouraged the farmers to cultivate their agriculture on new lines, progressive ones and provided them with new fertilizers, new and modern agricultural impliments. The essential commodities of life such as foodgrains, adible oils, clothes etc. were also provided at reasonable price.

Educational Institutions :

The village Herle was facilitated with the primary education only during the pre-independence times; there were no separate schools for girls, Kolhapur was the only centre where the boys from Herle had to go for their secondary education i.e. no good educational conditions existed in the times before 1947. Hindus, Muslims, Jains, Christian and the people of balutedars and alutedars classes conducted their respective traditional professions without having any exact knowhow of what they were youngaged in. Taluka and district places were frequented by them on very few occasions and this kept them away from the progressive line of thinking with regard to their social and agricultural situations.

Post-Independence Period :

Nearly in the period of 19 years after the independence no any dairy existed in the village Herle. Milkmen still conducted their business on the traditional lines. But one thing was there that these milkmen from Herle collected milk in large cans and endeavoured to supply it in the district place Kolhapur. Through this the farmers from Herle were in a position to get some more money than what they could previously.

When the Government realised the fact that the farmers from small villages can manage to dispatch milk to the taluka and district places it formed Dairy Development Boards. And then, with a view that the farmers can be helped a lot, if any, such subsidiary business can be assigned to them, a co-operative dairy was established in the village Herle.

Co-Operative Dairy Societies :

In 1966, a co-operative dairy society named Shri. Panchaganga Dairy Co-operative Society Ltd., Herle, was established in Herle. The members of this society are in number 436, and its capital is Rs. 5,68,286. In the year 1981-82 the milk of Rs. 10,61,677 was sold. This co-operative dairy society collects the milk of buffaloes and cows from the village itself and from the area nearby. It has made loan facilities available on large scale solely for the purchase of buffaloes and cows. The cattle feed and veterinary assistance is also provided by this society.

In 1968, another society came into being called as Shri Dudhaganga Dairy Co-operative Society Ltd. and its members are in number 234 and its capital is Rs. 90,553. This society also managed to sell milk of Rs. 2,81,164-50 only. It has also extended loans to the

farmers for the purchase of cows and buffaloes. Then followed the other dairy society namely Kamdhenu Dairy Co-operative Society Ltd., Herle. It was founded in 1978. Its members are 203 and it collected nearly 2,83,808 liters of milk in 1981-82. This society also offers loan facilities and the veterinary assistance.

Dairy Societies - as Co-operative Units :

To promote the development of the dairy industry through the farmers co-operative societies of various sorts is the chief policy of the Government of Maharashtra. The task of collecting milk from the milk producers is assigned to such co-operative societies which further get formed into Boards and Co-operative Units. These Boards and corporations, after collecting milk from various dairy industries send it to the central unions. Here in all the management regarding further distribution and process is made. This central milk producer's union accepts milk from that area to where there is no possibility of forming boards and co-operative units. The village milk producers, their unions have gained Rs. 90 to 95 crores through this fertile industries and this proves the fact that milk occupies a very significant place in the rural economy.

Other Co-operative Societies :
(Social and Educational)

1) Co-operative Water Supply - Two water supply societies have been established in Herle that co-operate the dairy industry in many respects. They are Hanuman Co-operative Water Supply and Vivekanand Co-operative Water Supply.

2) Credit Society - Dault Co-operative Credit Society.

3) Educational Societies - Herle High School, Herle is being run by Herle Shikshan Mandal. Here classes from fifth to tenth form are conducted. There are two primary schools, one for the boys and other for the girls and a Kinder Garten too.

4) Banks - There are two Banks helping the farmers to conduct their agriculture as well as milk industries one is the Branch Kolhapur District Central Co-operative Bank and other Warana Co-operative Bank.

Thus the farmers from Herle village have been conducting the dairy industry as a profession complementary to agriculture. The dairy industry is well in progress.

But how that the people from Herle got attracted towards this milk industry and how could they conduct it on such a large scale can be explained as follows.

1) Visit to Anand Dairy :

The visit to Anand Dairy formed a solid impression upon the minds of some of the affluent and wellknown farmers from Herle. These farmers were Dhanpal Alman, Sawantgonda Patil, Kallu Govinda Munde, Baburao Magdum. These farmers were surprised to see the produce in the Anand Dairy in Gujarat in the year 1975-76. They for the first time started thinking off the various kinds of cows such as Crossed Country, Jersey, Holestein. These cows produced 40 to 50 liters of milk was a matter of great wonder for them and they collected all necessary information about the cows and the dairy industry.

2) Visit to Bangalore :

After the visit of Anand Dairy the Director Board of Panchaganga Dairy Co-operative Society and some advanced farmers from the village decided to fetch crossed cows and for that they left for Bangalore. There, they visited the areas wherein such cows were breed-up and studied closely how these cows are looked after what kind of veterinary assistance is needed, what sort of food is to be served,

whether the climate of Kolhapur and Herle would suit them and fetched a truck load of cows on experimental basis to Herle. At that time when the cows were brought in there was no specific demand for their milk and the milk of such cows was not in domestic use. But the people of Herle did not loose their courage and continued to look after their cows in a careful and neat manner. They decided to take advantage of the milk produce of these cows. The Government at this time too extended its helping hand to such dairy societies making new experiments and it is no wonder that the efforts of people gave them adequate rewards. Thus the cow's milk industry began to take a definite shape.

3) Congenial Environment :

The cows brought from Bangalore got adjusted to Herle environment and slowly and gradually they began to increase in number. In addition to this when the people realised that these new cows yielded more milk than these buffaloes in average, they got more attraction to this new breed.

As the Herle area is widely irrigated and as there is no want of cattle feed the co-operative dairy societies determined to purchase some more cows, adequately financed by Co-operative Banks in Herle.

In order that the number of the cows should increase dairy society started cattle feed section which the farmers began to take benefit of to cater their cows within two years, with all these facilities offered to the farmers, the strength of the cow increased a lot. The bargaining began with it came the sale and purchase of the cows in the same area and thus the people became financially sound. Everybody began to enter this business and proposed too. The three dairy societies existing in Herle purchased 15 lakh liters of milk in the year 1981-82; and naturally Herle began to be recognised as the milk revolution centre.

S O U R C E S

The present chapter was prepared on the basis of the records available at the village Herle which is as follows :

- 1) 12th Annual Report - 1979-80 - Shri Panchaganga Dairy Co-operative Society Ltd., Herle, Dist. Kolhapur.
- 2) 13th Annual Report - 1980-81 - Shri Panchaganga Dairy Co-operative Society Ltd., Herle, Dist. Kolhapur.
- 3) 10th Annual Report - 1980-81 - Shri Dudhaganga Dairy Co-operative Society, Ltd., Herle, Dist. Kolhapur.
- 4) 5th Annual Report - 1980-81 - Shri Kamadhenu Dairy Co-operative Society, Herle, Dist. Kolhapur.