

CHAPTER 7.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS.

Like any other food crop, cultivation of jawar too absolutely depends on the vagaries of nature. Still, the farmers of Mangalwedha taluka do not hold back their efforts to attain maximum production of jawar in their fields. Mangalwedha taluka is a drought-prone area and the rainfall is scanty. Hence, water-dependent cash crops like sugarcane will not even survive, much less prosper. Resourceful farmers in the area, therefore, have turned their complete attention to the successful cultivation of jawar.

In Mangalwedha taluka, the area under jawar cultivation is approximately 35,000 hectares, which accounts for about 55% of the total area under crop cultivation in the taluka. Particularly, the villages around Mangalwedha town, viz. Salgar, Maroli, Bhoose, Hunnur, Donaj, Chikkalgi, Lavagi, Brahmapuri, Balewadi, Nandeshwar, Khomanal, Nimboni, etc. have concentrated their attention to the production of jawar year after year.

Numerous varieties of jawar-seeds are available for sowing, depending on the season, soil-grade, water-availability, climate and such other factors. The farmers all over Maharashtra, however, prefer Maldandi variety of jawar for both Kharif and Rabi seasons, since it gives a higher yield, is tougher than other varieties and the appearance of the grains is better than any other varieties, thereby ensuring slightly higher market prices.

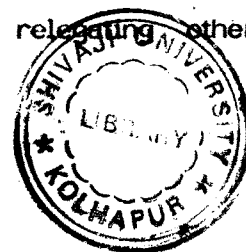
This Seventh and the final Chapter of the present Dissertation is devoted to record the conclusions drawn by the researcher from his study and also to suggest certain remedial measures, wherever necessary, to improve the overall functioning of the Mangalwedha Market Committee, as follows:

1. Sub-Market Yard.

Although the Agricultural Produce Market Committee has established a sub-market yard at Pandharpur way back in 1965, even after more than 20 years, not much has been made towards its development. The market committee should take up this task on priority basis and initiate suitable and adequate measures for creating the necessary infrastructural facilities presently lacking at its Pandharpur Sub Market Yard.

2. Traders' Influence on the functioning of the Market Committee.

Various segments like agricultural producers, traders, local bodies, co-operative societies, etc. are well represented on the market committee. These member-representatives are jointly responsible for functioning of the market committee and also to ensure that such a co-operative organization acts in a way beneficial to all concerned. It is, however, regrettably observed that apart from the trading community, the other member-representatives have degraded themselves to act and perform in supervisory roles only. The trading community, therefore, appears to have taken over the functioning of the market committee entirely, by relegating other



segments to secondary functions. The present member-representatives, into whom their constituents have reposed their trust, should review the situation and bring about necessary changes in the outlook of the market committee so as to make it beneficial and remunerative to all concerned.

The Pandharpur Sub-Market Committee, in fact, has a majority representation of agricultural producers; but somehow or other, this market committee has also come under the influence of the traders and for years, the two vital functionaries, namely, the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, were traders. Another undue influence is that the appointments of traders on the committee to remove the malpractices of the middleman. With such prevalent atmosphere, many agricultural producers (though members of the market yard) prefer to quietly sell their produce (which, in any case, is in small quantities) to the village traders at the offered prices, instead of bringing it all the way to the market yard and then being left to the mercies of the vested interests. This also indicates that the covered referred to above is mainly theoretical and does not have much significance than a mere figure on the paper. For an effective functioning of the market committee, all this should change and even a smallest member-farmer in its jurisdiction should receive the benefits of regulated marketing.

3. Development of Market Yard.

The principal market yard is situated at Mangalwedha. Although the land area acquired by the committee is sufficient

to meet its developmental needs and though the market committee has provided many physical facilities needed for smooth marketing operations, proper utilization of these facilities is not being ensured. It is also observed that the use of these facilities like godowns, cattle-sheds, auction-halls, water-supply, market information, etc. is being cornered by a certain members, particularly traders, while others are being systematically deprived of the same.

4. Market Charges.

The market committee has prescribed the market charges at the rate of Rs.2.5 per sale value of Rs.100.00. According to the producers, however, these charges are on the higher side as many sellers do not have to avail all the facilities offered by the committee. It is suggested that these charges should either be reduced or levied on a basis commensurate with the utilization of the usual and special facilities.

5. Price Behaviour.

The regulated markets are expected to influence the price behaviour of the commodities, atleast within their jurisdiction. The area of operation of the market committee extends over the entire Mangalwedha taluka. Sadly, there are no visible, much less concrete, efforts on the part of the market committee to induce its member producer-sellers to bring the produce to the market yard and thereby stabilize the prices. The apparent reasons for such unhealthy attitude have been hinted at in para (2) above. In the interest of all concerned, it is suggested that the present lethargic

outlook should be forthwith replaced with a healthier one; else the whole purpose and the exercise of having a regulated market will be defeated.

6. Market Information.

As a mandatory and routine matter, the market committee collects the market information and publicises it, without any special reference to its being current or relevant in a give time frame; nor usually there are any follow ups to update such information. The information system has, therefore, ceased to be of any use or relevance to the members.

It is suggested that the present approach of the market committee to the dissemination of the market information needs to be reviewed and suitably amended, with particular emphasis on its user-orientation. The information should be presented in a manner so as to be understandable even by a barely literate producer-seller at the time and place convenient to him. This could be more effectively implemented by creating a specific Market Information Cell.

7. Payment to Producer-Sellers.

On the basis of the monetary needs, producer-sellers could be grouped as follows:-

- a) Those who need advance payment for continuing their agricultural operations;
- b) Those who need payment immediately on tendering the possession of the goods;
- c) Those who could wait for the payment for their goods.

It was observed that the producer-sellers belonging to groups (a) and (b) above were under obligation to sell their produce exclusively to the traders from whom they had received certain advance payments. Naturally, their produce was withdrawn from the market immediately on its arrival at the yard. Besides, these producers also have to sustain all the ill-effects of such practices. This is a clear indication of the fact that small producers, despite regulated markets, still are not cut off from the clutches of the traders.

§ It is, therefore, suggested that all producer-sellers be paid at least 60-70% market value of their produce immediately on bringing the produce to the market yard (as against the present practice of paying merely 10-15%). The remaining 40-30% money may be paid after the goods are sold.

8. Grading System.

The market committee follows a commercial grading system, which is primarily dependent upon the personal element and hence, cannot be considered as a scientific system ensuring the welfare of both the parties. The market committee has also not fulfilled the statutory requirements regarding the grading system being followed. The producer-sellers often complain that the goods are always classified as 'third grade' as a result of which, they are deprived of the fair value obtainable by their goods.

It is, therefore, suggested that the committee should standardise and follow a scientific grading system in place

of the present commercial grading practice. This may necessitate imparting of special training to the graders, which the committee should arrange without further delay.

9. Weighment Procedure.

The market committee has already introduced standard weights and measures and standard weighment practices. It has also succeeded in bringing to an end the malpractices in this respect, which, in turn, has benefitted the producer-sellers.

10. Marketing System.

The market committee has implemented a system of auction sale, which has reduced underhand dealings and offered good protection to the producer-sellers.

11. Commodity Coverage.

Currently, the market committee has brought TEN commodities under regulation and envisages to add some more commodities to the list. The market committee has thus extended regulatory coverage to most of the commodities grown within its jurisdiction.

12. Marketing Channel.

A market committee has the unique responsibility of an effective mediator in the marketing channel and the success of its role depends on how it explores and finally identifies the most effective means of fulfilling this responsibility by passing on the maximum possible benefits to all concerned - producer-sellers, traders and itself. Mangalwedha Market Committee should develop such an attitude.

13. Godowns.

The market committee itself owns two godowns; tow more godowns constructed by the State government have also been given on rent to the market committee. In addition, there are 22 godoens owned by other parties in the market area. Nevertheless, the godown space is always scrace due to the increased volume of goods.

It is, therefore, suggested that more godowns be constructed by the market committee immediately to alleviate the unpardonable wastage of the agricultural commodities.

14. Loan Facilities.

It was observed that unlike other market yards, Mangalwedha Market Yard does not have branches of nationalised, scheduled or co-operative Banks, which in itself, is a serious handicap. Since the producer-sellers bring their goods to theyard for monetary realization, it would be advisable to have a Bank or two in the premises from whom the producer-sellers may avail short-term loans against the hypothecation of their goods, in addition to poroviding banking facilities to the trading community.

15. Transport Facilities.

All the farmers reported that the transport facilities to and fro the market yard are Inadequate. Hence, it is suggested that the market committee should open temporary sub-market yards at a few central places, so as to help the farmers to sell their goods which will be beneficial to the small farmers.

16. Insurance Facilities.

It is observed that the market yard does not have branches of any Insurance-Companies in its premises. It is suggested that the market should invite an Insurance-Company to open an office within the yard premises for the benefit of the members.

17. Efforts for Enhancing the Production of Jawar.

As already pointed out, the land under jawar crop has grown in hectareage in past few years and the figures also reveal that there has been a certain increase in the production of jawar. However, after careful analysis, it is revealed that the increase in the production is not commensurate with the land newly brought under jawar crop. The market committee should consider this important aspect and intiate necessary steps for the enhancement in the production of jawar commensurate with the land under jawar crop. This is essential as jawar takes a lion's share of 52% of the total arrivals at the market yard.

18. Decentralisation of Management.

At present, all executive powers are centralised in the hands of the Directors of the market committee, which is not a truly democractic set up. It is suggested that various functional sub-committees, charged with appropriate responsibilities and with proper authority delegation, be appointed for the smoother an easier functioning of the market committee.

19. General Suggestions to the Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Mangalwedha.

Having observed that the benefits of regulated markets do not always reach the small farmers in the villages located away from the principal market yard, the researcher would like to suggest that the Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Mangalwedha, should introduce a Mobile Purchase Centre, as an extension of its activities. Under this system, the Market Committee shall fix a particular day in a week for a particular village or a group of villages, on which arrangements shall be made to purchase whatever quantities of goods that the local producers may offer. The system, when implemented with the help of marketing co-operatives, shall provide a better alternative to the producers who presently sell their produce to the village traders under adverse conditions. The minimum requisites for implementing this system would be an official of the market-committee, a grader from the regulated market and a suitable place for conducting the purchase. Payment for the goods purchased may be made to the producers either on-the-spot or through Bank. If this system is implemented successfully, even the smallest of the small farmers who are left out of the purview of the regulated markets will enjoy the benefits of the same.

20. Suggestions for Future Research.

The conclusions reached out of this study may or may not be universally applicable as they represent the situation in one regulated market only. Nevertheless, these conclusions represent a set of hypotheses which are as follows:-

- i) Trader-middlemen wield a considerable influence on the functioning of the regulated markets;
- ii) Regulated markets have failed to influence the price behaviour of the commodities under their regulation;
- iii) Small farmers are still out of the reach of the benefits derived from regulated marketing of agricultural produce.