

C H A P T E R - III

1) Profiles of Shri Datta Shetkari Sahakari
Sakhar Karkhana Limited, Shirol.

- a) Information at a Glance
- b) Origin
- c) Social Perspective of the Project
- d) Cane Development Activities
- e) Implementation of Bye-Product Units
- f) Labour Welfare Activities
- g) Other Activities

2) Trade Unions in the Karkhana

- a) Sharkara Audogik Shramik Sangh
- b) Shri Datta Paper Mill Kamagar Sangh

PROFILES OF SHREE DATTA SHETKARI SAHAKARI
SAKHAR KARKHANA LIMITED, SHIROL.

INFORMATION AT A GLANCE:

1) General:

Name and Address of the Co-operative Sugar Factory : SHRI DATTA SHETKARI SAHAKARI
SAKHAR KARKHANA LIMITED, SHIROL.

Post: DATTANAGAR-416 120,
Taluk: SHIROL,
Dist: KOLHAPUR (MAHARASHTRA)

Tel: Exchange: JAYASINGPUR 451
(4 lines)

Gram: 'DATTASAKAR' SHIROL

2) Registration No. and Date : KPR/PRG/(A)-I DTD 9TH JUNE 1969.

3) Industrial Licence No. and Date :

SUGAR : i) IL/25/N-233/70-LC dated
10th June, 1970 for 1250 TCD
ii) IL, 26(78) dated 31st May, 1978
for expansion upto 2000 TCD
iii) Undertaken expansion upto 2500
TCD (2700 TCD x 24 Hrs) under
the then Liberalised Licencing
Policy of the Government of
India in 1980
iv) Expansion upto 2500 TCD re-
endorsed under Government of
India, Ministry of Industries
(Department of Industrial Approva.
under No.8 (115) L.A.II/86
dated 7th May, 1987
v) Expansion upto 5000 TCD under
LI-487 (88) dated 9th December 1981

PAPER : DGTD Registration No. DGTD/HQ/D/S-
19/R-5118/C-25/NU/79 dated
16th October 1979

DISTILLERY : DGTD Registration No. DGTD/HQ/D/S-
19/R-10056/C-31(i)/NU/82
dated 10th September 1982

- 4) Commencement of Production: i) 1250 TCD Plant was first commissioned in 1971-72 which was Trial Season. Regular Production started from 1972-73 season.
- ii) Expanded capacity upto 2000 TCD was commissioned in 1980-81
- iii) Expanded capacity upto 2500 TCD under Liberalised Licensing Policy was commissioned in 1981-82
- iv) Expanded capacity upto 5000 TCD under Liberalised Licensing Policy is in operation since 1989-90
- 5) Area of operation : Area of operation consists of 98 villages as under

Sl. No.	Name of the Taluka	District	State	No. of villages
1	SHIROL	Kolhapur	Maharashtra	48
2	HATKANANGRE	"	"	32
3	KARVEER	"	"	2
4	KAGAL	"	"	3
5	CHIKODI	Belgaum	Karnataka	13
				98

(NOTE: Since the operational area extends to TWO States, this Co-operative Sugar Factory is governed by the Multi Co-operative Societies Act, 1984)

ORIGIN:

A pioneering effort of starting an Agro Industrial Project in the Co-operative fold for achieving social justice through rural development was made for the first time in Ahmednagar District in the year 1950 by Pravara Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Limited, under the guidance of distinguished co-operators like Sarvashri Dr. Dhananjayrao Gadgil, Shri Vaikunthbhai Mehata and Shri Vithalrao Vikhe Patil and it proved to be very successful venture mainly on account of efforts of the rural co-operative leaders. This has ushered in an era of sugar Co-operatives in Maharashtra which has resulted in transforming Rural Economy in the vicinity of sugar Factories by ensuring stability and better return to the cultivators.

Shirol taluka of Kolhapur District is gifted by the presence of natural irrigation potential on account of five Rivers viz., Krishna, Panchganga, Warana, Doodhaganga and Vedganga and very fertile land of alluvial type. The agriculturists in this area were very eager to have a sugar factory so as to ensure alround development and economic prosperity to the higher to poor and marginal farmers. A preliminary meeting was, therefore, held at Kurundwad in Shirol Taluka on 31st December, 1960, for organising a Sugar Factory. After collecting requisite amount of Share Capital, an application for Industrial Licence was forwarded to the Government of India.

The persistent efforts putforth by the promoters of the proposed Shri Datta Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Shirol, ultimately proved to be successful and the Government of India had to consider the issue of granting an Industrial Licence. Untiring efforts of all the promoters to persuade the Governments at State and Central level, ultimately met with success and the Government of India issued a letter of Intent in the month of May 1969 in accordance with its enlightened Agro-Industrial Policy. Shri Datta Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Shirol, was registered as a Co-operative Society, under the Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act, 1960, on 9th June, 1969, vide Registration No.KPR/PRG(A)-1. An industrial licence for establishing a Sugar Factory on Co-operative basis with initial crushing capacity of 1250 M.Ts. per day was issued subsequently, which enthused a spirit of co-operation, besides creating confidence and developing an attitude of self-reliance amongst the economically backward and downtrodden farmers in this area.

SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE PROJECT:

The aim and objective of the Co-operative Sugar Factory is to secure social justice and import modern technology in agricultural operations. Apart from this, the other prime motive is to improve the economic conditions of the agriculturists through co-operative processing and marketing of their products especially of sugarcane and its products. Besides attaining the economic uplift of the cane cultivators, the co-operative

leaders aimed at spreading to the weaker sector of the community at large, a part of the gains arising from successful functioning of the sugar factory, providing much needed irrigation facilities and disseminating technical guidance and agricultural extension service to obtain high yields. In addition to this, other social activities like education, primary health, small agro-based industries and alround development of the farmers is the primary aim. The development of rural leadership is to achieve through such co-operative processing enterprises. The marketing co-operative is to supply agricultural inputs, the sugar factory's agricultural extension service includes soil testing, tractor ploughing etc.

CANE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES:

Fourteen co-operative Lift Irrigation Schemes have been functioning on Rivers Panchganga and Krishna in the area of operation of the factory even to the establishment of the sugar factory covering about 12,946 acres of land under their command. Moreover, there are number of individual irrigation schemes working in the area of operation of the factory. The Government of Maharashtra has constructed Kolhapur type Weir on river Krishna at Rajapur village of Shirol taluka. This has facilitated irrigation of additional acreage of land and it has ensured regular supply of water to the existing lift irrigation schemes on river Krishna.

Merely increasing the area under sugarcane crop will not serve the purpose to get high average yield of quality cane per acre. Keeping this in view, the factory has undertaken and

carried out the following cane developmental activities:-

The management of the Karkhana formulated proposals envisaging Cane Development Programme/and activities as under.

- 1) Installation of Soil Testing Laboratory
- 2) Improvement Soil Fertility by supplying sunhemp for green manuring and use of sugarcane trash as compost.
- 3) Installation of heat therapy unit for successful implementation of three tire system of seed multiplication and its distribution.
- 4) Installation of Drip Irrigation System in the operational area of the Karkhana.
- 5) Ratoon Management.

A proposal containing the above cane development activities was submitted through the Directorate of Sugar, M.S., Pune and the State Government (Agril & Co-op. Dept) to the Government of India for financial assistance. The Government of India has very kindly and sympathetically considered these proposals and sanctioned the financial assistance to the extent of Rs.138.73 lakhs under their letter No.5.70/86-Sugar (DF)-L dated 4-1-1987. The Karkhana is required to contribute 10% of the total financial outlays under each of the schemes under the programme.

IMPLIMENTATION OF BYE-PRODUCT UNITS:

PAPER PLANT:

The Sugar Factory has modified its existing boilers involving Horse Shoe type design which has provided its efficiency and thereby the Karkhana has saved huge quantity of bagasse after using it as fuel. It was opined by the Deccan Sugar Institute, Pune, that Shri Datta Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana is the first Sugar Factory in the State in saving such a huge quantity of bagasse. The management of the Sugar Factory after taking into consideration the saving of bagasse as prime raw material for the manufacture of paper, decided to go in for implimentation of 20 TPD Paper Project based on bagasse and agricultural residues Accordingly the management has approached the Union Government and obtained necessary Registration from the Directorate General of Technical Development, New Delhi.

The management of the Karkhana, looking into the bright future of the Paper Industry in India and good return on the capital invested in the form of Excise Rebate available on the bagasse based paper mill, had strived very hard to see that see that the paper project is implimented, accordingly it commenced the commercial production from November 1983. By establishing a Paper Mill in this area an opportunity for employment was made available to the local people. This Paper plant has already achieved the installed capacity and is running smoothly.

DISTILLERY PLANT:

To produce the bye-product from the molasses so available from the process of manufacturing of sugar, the management had decided to undertake Distillery project for the manufacture of Industrial Alcohol and accordingly obtained the necessary Letter of Registration from DGTD, New Delhi, to manufacture Industrial Alcohol of 90 lakh litres per annum capacity. This ambitious venture commenced commercial production with effect from 4th September, 1983 with its full installed capacity.

LABOUR WELFARE ACTIVITIES:

1) The Management of the Karkhana has taken the initiative to establish a consumer co-operative society viz., "Shri Datta Shetkari Sahakari Grahak Sanstha Ltd., Dattanagar" with a view to have a big consumer Departmental Store to make available required fundamental consumable and consumer durable items, such as foodgrains, cloth, ready made garments, utensils, electrical items, sewing machines, cosmetics, bicycles etc. at reasonable prices to the workers.

2) The factory has also established a Workers' Co-operative Credit Society. This society is functioning very smoothly by rendering short-term loans to its members to the extent of Rs.25,000/- at reasonable interest and besides this, they have established a modern Printing Division of its own.

3) One employee of the factory has been co-opted on the Board of Directors of the Karkhana as a representative of the workers.

4) The Karkhana has started its own hospital in the vicinity of the factory. This hospital is well equipped with experienced doctors and necessary medical facilities so as to provide immediate medical aid to the workers and their family members. The special medical treatment to the workers in times of emergency, is also made available in the hospitals of Miraj at the expense of the factory. Besides this, Family Planning Camps and other health check-up camps are sponsored by the factory from time to time.

5) The Karkhana has got its own primary school in the factory area. In this school, education facility is made available to the workers' children from Nursery class to 7th standard. The free conveyance is also made available to the students going to the nearby Jayasingpur for high school and college education.

6) The factory has been organising workers' Training and orientation programmes at regular intervals with a view to enhance the working efficiency of the employees. These programmes make the workers more alert, confident and proficient in discharging their responsibilities in the best and the most economical way.

7) The factory has also got two canteens in the vicinity of the Karkhana. In these canteens, meals and refreshments of better quality are made available to all the employees at reasonable rates. Drinking Water facilities are also made available and convenient in all places of the factory. Once in every year, two sets of uniforms at free of cost are supplied to all the mazdoors. Employees' rest house has also been constructed. The factory has provided free quarters to the outstation employees according to their official cadre.

8) The management has given immense encouragement to sports, recreational and cultural activities in the Karkhana, play ground facility and indoor and outdoor sports materials are made available to the workers. In order to give much scope to these activities, the Karkhana has established "Shri Ganesh Utsav Mandal" and "Kailasvasi Dattajrao Kadam Kamgar Kalyan Mandal." Under these mandals, various sports, cultural and recreational activities are organised from time to time. These programmes are intended to make mental, moral and physical development of the employees.

9) The management of the Karkhana has declared 20% Bonus and 9% Ex-gratia to all the employees in 1987-88 and 20% Bonus and 10% Ex-gratia in 1988-89.

Thus, since the establishment of the Karkhana, the management has been trying its best to provide the best working conditions and labour welfare facilities. Apart from this, the management has been making its consistent efforts to intensify better relations with the workers.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

1) The cultivator members are encouraged to construct Gobar Gas Plants of various capacities and are provided with a subsidy amount equal to the village cottage Industries Commission. The subsidy ratio is based on installed capacity. So far agriculturist members have constructed 601 Gobar Gas Plants of various capacities in the area of operation.

2) The management of the sugar factory with a view to procure sizeable sugar cane and to provide subsidiary work to the agriculturist members have implemented "Datta 009 VAHATUK YOJANA". Through this scheme the sugar factory has distributed 34 Trucks, 84 Tractors, 156 Trailors and 4 Bullock-carts fitted with rubber tyres amongst the producer members.

3) The factory has purchased one Bulldozer of 90 HP capacity and 1 Tractor of 35 HP capacity to facilitate the agriculturists for development of their lands.

4) As part of social activity, the factory has constructed 17 Huts in the area of operation involving an expenditure of Rs.2.90 lakhs for the benefit of landless people. Moreover, an amount of Rs.2.29 lakhs has been remitted to the Collector of Kolhapur, for construction of additional Huts.

5) In order to cater fuel requirement, a Diesel and Petrol pump has been installed at Karkhana site. This has facilitated the factory to have continuous supply of sugarcane without any hindrance in respect of transportation of sugarcane and also fuel is provided to the vehicles owned by the members of the factory.

FIRST PRIZE FOR EXCELLANT PERFORMANCE:

The National Federation of Co-operative Sugar Factories Ltd., New Delhi, collected data relating to the technical performance of the co-operative Sugar Factories all over India in respect of -

- 1) Percentage of cane crushing capacity used,
- 2) Total losses percent,
- 3) Percentage of total hours lost,
- 4) Reduced mill extraction,
- 5) Reduced Boiling House extraction,
- 6) Total fuel consumed in terms of bagasse percentage etc.,

For the six successive cane crushing seasons 1982-83 to 1987-88, and awarded the "First Prize" for excellent technical performance, according to the recommendations of the Committee of Experts, appointed specially for the purpose by the National Federation.

TRADE UNIONS IN THE KARKHANA:

(a) SHARKARA AUDOGIK SHRAMIK SANGH:-

This labour organization came into existence on 28th December 1972 (KPN-559). This union has been affiliated to the INTUC with a total membership of 900 workers. It has strong roots in the Karkhana and all its members are drawn from Sugar and Distillery Section of the Karkhana. This trade union is registered under the Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1947 and maintaining all the Registers and Books of Accounts as per the statutory requirements of the Act.

The main aim of the union is to adopt peaceful means for settlement of labour disputes collective bargaining is the method. Only if that fails, arbitration is to be resorted to strike must not be declared until all other methods of settlement of disputes have been exhausted.

OBJECTIVES OF THE UNION:

- 1) To organise and unite the persons employed in the sugar industry in the taluka Shirol, Dist Kolhapur and to regulate their relations with their employers.
- 2) To secure to the members fair conditions of life and service.
- 3) To try to redress the grievances of the workers.
- 4) To try to prevent any reduction of wages and if possible to obtain an advance whenever the circumstances allow.

5) To endeavour to settle disputes between employers and employees amicably so that a cessation of work may be avoided.

6) To endeavour to provide against sickness unemployment, infirmity, old age and death.

7) To endeavour to secure compensation for members in case of accident under workmens Compensation Act.

8) To provide legal assistance to members in respect of the matters arising out of an incidental to their unemployment.

9) To endeavour to render aid to the members during any strike brought about with the sanction of the union or lockout.

10) To obtain information in reference to the sugar and allied industries in India and outside.

11) To co-operate with organization (of labour) particularly those having similar objects in India and outside.

12) To help in accordance with the Indian Trade Union Act, the working class in India and outside in the promotion of the objects mentioned in the rules and

13) Generally to take such other steps as may be necessary to ameliorate the social, economic, civil and political conditions of the members.

b) SHRI DATTA PAPER MILL KAMGAR SANGH:

This trade union was formed on 2nd April, 1987 (KPN 1904). This labour organization has been affiliated to 'Lal Bavata' with a total membership of 392 workers. It has considerable

influence in the Karkhana and its members are drawn from the paper section of the Karkhana. This trade union is recognised by the management of the Karkhana. The necessary Registers and Books of Accounts are kept in a proper manner.

This union aims to redress the grievances of the workers by proper negotiation with the management. Strike should not be declared until all other methods of settlement of disputes have been exhausted.

The objectives of the union shall be -

- 1) To organise and unite the persons employed in the sugar industry in the taluka Shirol, Dist Kolhapur and to regulate their relations with their employers.
- 2) To secure to the members fair conditions of life and service.
- 3) To try to redress the grievances of the workers.
- 4) To try to prevent any reduction of wages and if possible to obtain an advance whenever the circumstances allow.
- 5) To endeavour to settle disputes between employers and employees amicably so that a cessation of work may be avoided.
- 6) To endeavour to provide against sickness, unemployment, infirmity, old age and death.
- 7) To endeavour to secure compensation for members in case of accident under Workmens' Compensation Act.

8) To provide legal assistance to members in respect of the matters arising out of an incidental to their unemployment.

9) To endeavour to render aid to the members during any strike brought about with the sanction of the union or lockout.

10) To obtain information in reference to the sugar and allied industries in India and outside.

11) To co-operate with organisation (of labour) particularly those having similar objects in India and outside.

12) To help in accordance with the Indian Trade Union Act, the working class in India and outside in the promotion of the objects mentioned in the rules and

13) Generally to take such other steps as may be necessary to ameliorate the social, economic, civil and political conditions of the members.