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**CHAPTER - IV**

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**THE GADHINGLAJ AGRICULTURAL  
PRODUCE MARKET.**

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The Gadhinglaj Agricultural Produce Market

Beginning :-

Before the establishment of the regulated market at Gadhinglaj, the conditions of the farmers were not so good. Farmers were not getting better prices for their products. The trade was conducted in the old place, known as Pirajrao Path. The area was very small. At that time there were just 6 traders and the whole trade was in their hand only.

In surrounding area of Gadhinglaj, there are number of small farmers. Generally they are indebted. So they are not in a position to wait for better prices. They sell their produce in the

harvest season when the prices are low. In the market there was Hatha system. Where the commission agent and traders used to cover their hands with black cloth and speak some words with each other in slow voice and then declare the prices. Farmers have no choice in fixing the price. They were forced to sell their produce at the rate fixed by the traders. There was a long chain of the commission agents. Sometimes these commission agents purchase the produce at the place of farmers. at very low price.

In the beginning there were no transport and communication facilities. So the area were not connected with the main market at Gadhinglaj. So the farmers in villages prefer to sell their produce to the commission agents who visit them. A part from this due to lack of communication facilities farmers were unaware of the market prices.

There were number of malpractices such as defective grading, weightment were not upto date, number of cutting such as for Goshala, earth in produce, and etc. At that time payments to the farmers were not regular. There were no godowns facilities provided by the traders. Even though some traders provide godowns, they charge high rates for storage which the farmers could not bare.

On the whole there were number of defects in the marketing of agricultral produce, so the Gadhinglaj Agricultural produce Market committee was established on 27th May, 1948, when Kolhapur was a seperate province. The Kolhapur Agricultural produce Markets

Act No.8 1945 was implemented on 21/11/1948. After that in 1949 Kolhapur province was connected to Bombay. After that the Bombay Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1939 was made applicable according to The Deputy Secretary to the Government of Bombay Department, notification No.6475/39-21622 H D T dated 17-5-1949. The first market committee was nominated on 15-11-1947. The Market committee met on 15-12-1947 to elect the chairman and the Voice-Chairman. The market committee conducted its business from 1-1-1948.

## 2. Principal Market :

As per notification No. 6475/39-21622 H D T dated 17.5.1949 the then Government of Bombay Notified Gadhinglaj Taluka as the principal market yard. The Market area of this Market Committee according to the Government of Bombay Department notification No. PMA 6253 dated 18-7-54, the following areas were included -

- i) 90 Villages in Gadhinglaj Taluka.
- ii) 84 villages in Ajara Mahal.
- iii) 37 villages in Kagal Taluka.

## Meetings :

During the period from 1948-49 to 1980-81 the number of annual general meetings of the market committee were 32. Alongwith these meetings there were near about 10 board of Directors meetings, 6 licence holders meetings, one or two committee meetings and two or three servants committee meetings.

The meetings are conducted in the Vyapari Bhavan at Gadhinglaj.

The General attendance per meeting was satisfactory. However the attendance of the members nominated by the Government was not regular. Further the representatives of the agriculturists constituency were not punctual as many of them belonged to remote villages. But the members of the traders constituency were punctual in attendance as they were mostly local persons. The attendance of the representatives of farmers was not satisfactory.

Administration :

The administration of the market committee is carried on by a general body of chairman, vice chairman, board of directors and nominees of the government. There are other various sub committees such as construction committee, Dispute committee, servants committee, control committee, licence committee and Gradition committee. All these committees are working separately and fulfilling the work of assigned to them.

Market Yard :

Before the establishment of the Market Committee, the trade was conducted in the old place, rather densely populated known as Pirajirao Peth, which is on the District Local Board's road under Temporary Market Yard Notification No. PMA 3054 - ( A-C-I dated 20-7-1954.) This practice was continued up to 1960. The Market committee get the possession of the site after all

formalities in 1980. Thus the Market committee took 12 years from 1948 to 1960 to acquire the land, build the market yard and shift its trade to the new site.

The Market committee thought of the construction of its Market Yard as ideal as possible, and therefore attempted to provide a large number of amenities.

The market committee acquired the site for its Market Yard in 1956 and shifted the business to the new Market Yard known as Shri Shahu Market Yard in 1960, since the establishment of the regulated market. The Market committee constructed plots with the iron frame. The market committee allotted the plot to the traders free of cost.

Up to 1952-53, there were only 4 godowns which were owned by the traders and commissioners. Neither the market committee nor the government constructed the godowns. So warehousing is not at all provided to the farmers. The traders and commission agents store their commodities. In 1956-57, 15 godowns are registered in market committee, of which 6 godowns are well constructed. Even now also no warehousing facilities are provided by the Market Committee. But the branches of Bombay State Co-operative Bank Ltd and Belgaum Bank Ltd have started giving loans on the security of groundnuts and other commodities. 40 to 45% loans are given.

In the Market Yard area there are 9 oil mills and 6 cotton ginning and packing mills. From 1966-67 grading centre has been started and now groundnuts are graded before trading. There are two co-operative marketing societies which are market

-committee licence holders. They are -

- i) The Gadhinglaj Taluka Sahakari Kharedi Vikri Sangh Ltd;  
Gadhinglaj.
- ii) Shetkari Sahakari Sangh Ltd; Kolhapur, Branch Gadhinglaj,  
Langhnur, Kapasi.

From 1953 onwards they are handling the regular trade in the market yard. These co-operatives provide the agriculturists fertilizers, seeds and other such things. Branches of these co-operatives were opened at Gadhinglaj, Ajara and Halkarni.

Up to 1952 in the market yard lighting and water facilities were not provided. Only two candles were there. Lighting facilities were provided only in season time. There are no sheds for parking the carts and bullocks as there is no open space near the market yard. But now lighting and water facilities are provided to the farmers. There is one farmers' rest house.

In the market yard area there are branches of the following banks -

- 1) The Urban co-op. Bank Ltd., Gadhinglaj.
- 2) The Virashaiv Lingayat co-op. Bank Ltd.,
- 3) The Belgaum Bank Ltd; Belgaum.
- 4) Kolhapur Central co-operative Bank Ltd.,
- 5) The Bombay State co-op- land Mortgage Bank Ltd; Bombay,  
Branch Gadhinglaj.
- 6) State Bank Of India, Branch Gadhinglaj.
- 7) Union Bank Of India, Branch Gadhinglaj.

- 8) Bank of Maharashtra, Branch Gadhinglaj.
- 9) Bank of India, Branch Gadhinglaj.
- 10) Bank of Karad, Branch Gadhinglaj.
- 11) The Maharashtra State Co-op. Land Development Bank Ltd;  
sub Branch Gadhinglaj.

All these banks provide financial assistance to the farmers. Advances are given to the farmers on the security of their commodities stored in godowns. Cash credits are given to the traders.

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