

CHAPTER - VI

CONCLUSIONS AND FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

A] Co-operative sugar factories in Western Maharashtra are the growth centres for rural development and social change. The sugar co-operatives have initiated various schemes for area development financed by the 'Area Development Fund' set-up by the sugar co-operatives. The various area development schemes initiated by the sugar co-operatives have two basic objectives. Firstly, the schemes implemented have made attempts to increase sugarcane production and cane productivity in the area of operation of the factory. The second important objective of the various area development schemes is to improve the living conditions of the farmers in the rural areas. In addition, schemes are also implemented and targeted to benefit the weaker sections of the rural society, especially for the farmers belonging to the SC/ST population. This reveals the social commitment of the sugar co-operative towards the weaker sections of the society.

B] The various 'Area Development Schemes' implemented by the Shri Dudhaganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory for the benefit of the farmers in its area of operation are:

i) Cane Seed Programme:

More cane and better cane is the objective of Cane Development Programme. For achieving this objective, distribution of better quality of seeds to the members is very essential.

In order to ensure purity and to guard against any seed transmissible disease, sugar factories undertaken their own seed plantation plots. The farmer members who make use of three seeds in such schemes are given subsidy by the sugar factories.

The sugar factory under study adopted the three tier nursery programmes by which they raise foundation seed in cane farms and distribute it to the cane growers for raising primary nurseries and then secondary nurseries. Under the seed selection and distribution campaign, pure and disease free seed is raised at the factory farm and is supplied to the leading cultivators who in turn supply seed to other member farmers. Cane plots are selected for seed purpose and the seed is supplied to the members from these plots. In the year 1980-81 factory had supplied 3,40,000 setts of sugarcane. In the year 1984-85, Dudhaganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory supplied 3,65,200 setts of sugarcane and in 1990-91, 2885 farmer members had taken benefits and the factory had supplied 2,53,30,396 setts of sugarcane seeds. The factory supplied various types of sugarcane seeds i.e. Co 740, Co 7219, Co 7527, CoSe 671, Co 8014 to its member farmers.

2) Sugarcane Development Grant for Backward Classes:

Government of Maharashtra sanctioned 'The Landless Backward Classes 'Cane Development Scheme', by which the

Scheduled Caste and Nav Boudh landless farmers increased their sugar production. Shri Dudhaganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory also implemented the facility of this scheme. The factory provided this scheme from the year 1981-82. In the year 1981-82, 188 farmer members had taken benefits of this scheme and Government gave the grantable amount of Rs.2,05,594 and in the year 1985-86; 107 farmers had taken benefits and the grantable amount was Rs. 32,925. Amount paid is in the form of fertilisers, cane seed and in cash.

3) Schemes of Irrigation:

Irrigation raises the productivity of land, in the following manner, by making possible multiple cropping, by increasing the yield per unit cost and by making possible the production of more lucrative commercial crops. In general smaller holdings are relatively better irrigated. It is to be noted that inputs per acre are considerably higher on the irrigated holdings as compared with unirrigated holdings.

The Dudhaganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar factory tried to solve the problem of water in its operational area. For the assured supply of water the factory had created 15 lift irrigation schemes. The permission has been sanctioned in villages Shelewadi, Majagaon, Talashi, Nigawe Khalasa, Sankapalwadi, Belwale Khurd, Chandre, Chikhali, Turambe.

These schemes will increase the area of irrigation and production of sugarcane would increase and this would ensure more cane supply to the co-operative sugar factory.

4) Soil Testing Programmes:

The Soil Testing Programme is undertaken by the co-operative sugar factory. It is essential for giving correct doses of fertilizers in land. In addition it has helped for improving the fertility of land in most cases. In the year 1980-81, 750 samples of soil was tested in the laboratory and in the year 1985-86, 200 samples of soil was tested in the factory laboratory.

5) Supply of Molasses:

Molasses has become a very valuable raw material for the chemical industry. It is also used as fertiliser into field as well as for the burning coke. Molasses is a good manure for the fields growing sugarcane. In the year 1984-85, 282 farmers had taken 9139 tonnes of fertiliser of molasses, and in the year 1990-91 factory had supplied 4252 tonnes of molasses and the rate was ks.20/- per tonne.

6) Road Construction:

Efforts have been made by the sugar co-operatives for the development of roads. This process has helped to built up infrastructural facility in the rural areas, for accelerating

the transport of harvested cane to factory from the fields. The sugar co-operatives has built up approach roads in its area of operation. As a result of these efforts made by the sugar factory, the sugar factory in turn gets the benefit of the higher recovery of harvested cane due to quick transportation of the cane to the factory for crushing.

Shri Dudhaganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory has built up some approach roads in the area of operation. In the year 1981-82, there was Rs.5,56,000 expenditure on road construction and in the year 1983-84, Rs.1,14,000 expenditure on road construction.

7) Other Schemes of Development:

a) Gobar Gas Plants:

Gobar gas plants help the community to convert waste into wealth. There is no danger of explosion of the gas plant. The gobar gas plant schemes have been promoted by sugar co-operatives. Apart from subsidies given for obtaining loan from financial agencies the factory also helps to secure technical guidance and subsidy from Khadi and Village Industries Board. Shri Dudhaganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory gave grant of Rs.500/- per plant. It has started to give guarantee letters right from 1978-80 to members for constructing of gobar gas plant which are the best alternative source of fuel and also produce good quality

manure. In the year 1980-81, there were 109 gobar gas plants constructed and in the year 1989-90 1586 gobar gas plants were constructed and grantable amount disbursed was Rs.3.43 lakhs.

b) Supply of Fruit Plants:

In this programme the co-operative sugar factory under study has obtained plants of Coconut, Lime, Orange, Subabul, Nilagiri etc., and distributed them to the members and non-members in its area of operation by charging nominal rates or even cost free. In the year 1980-81, Shri Dudhaganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory had supplied 3370 fruit plants on no-profit-no loss basis and the cost of plants was Rs.46,782 and in the year 1990-91, 4579 fruit plants were supplied by the factory. Shri Dudhaganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory implemented 'Van Chaitanya Yojana' at the factory site. Thus the Dudhaganga Co-operative Sugar Factory is making its attempts towards development of fruit plantation and thus increase the greenery in its area of operation.

8) Labour Welfare Programmes:

There is good relation between workers and management from the inception of the co-operative sugar factory. The sugar factory deputed the workers for the training and seminars. The facility for indoor and outdoor games have

games have been provided by Shri Dudhaganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory. The factory canteen is run on no profit no loss basis. Factory has established a good modern colony on factory site for workers and their family members. One Health Centre is in the premises of the factory with a qualified Medical Officer and requisite staff. Library facility with books of well known writers is available for the workers and families residing at the factory site. In the year 1980-81, Shri Dudhaganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory's expenditure on labour welfare was Rs.16,000 and medical expenditure was Rs.47,000 and in the year 1990-91 the total expenditure was Rs.76,000 of which Rs.31,000 was on labour welfare, Rs.44,000 on medical purpose and Rs.1,000 on labour training programme.

9) Programmes for Social Benefits:

a) Medical Facility:

Shri Dudhaganga Co-operative Sugar Factory organized Family Planning Camps with the help of Zilla Parishad and Government authorities at the factory site. In these family planning camps operations are undertaken and the due care is taken by the factory. In the year 1987-88 to 1989-90 the factory organized health camps and 1208 persons benefited from this facility.

b) Common Marriages:

It is the speciality of Shri Dudhaganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar factory to organise Common Marriage Ceremonies once in a year at the factory site. The purpose of such marriages is to cut down the unproductive expenditure of the rural poor and to create an atmosphere of good relations. In the year 1981-82, 47 couples had participated and in the year 1990-91, 43 couples had participated in this programme. Such programmes undertaken by a co-operative sugar factory has social relevance and the rural society at large benefits from such schemes.

The benefits of the above 'Area Development Programmes' implemented by the sugar co-operative under study have benefitted both the member farmers as well as non-member farmers too. Thus we can conclude and say that the co-operative sugar factory under study is undertaken appropriate schemes which are beneficial to the rural population in its area of operation.

c] CONCLUSIONS AND FINDINGS OF THE CASE STUDY:

To make a preliminary study of the extent of benefits that were taken of the various schemes implemented by the Dudhaganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory as a part of area development programme, a survey of two villages namely Konawade and Nartawade was undertaken. The survey

reveals that by and large the member farmers have taken more benefits of those schemes that are related to sugarcane production. The farmers of the two villages have not taken greater advantage of other schemes being implemented by the factory. The major conclusions and findings of the survey reveal that:-

1) 81.25 percent of the sample farmers in village Konawade were having one share ~~such~~ of the co-operative sugar factory, while in Nartawade 58 percent of farmers surveyed owned one share. Majority of the farmers growing sugarcane had less than 5 acres of total land of which of the 16 farmers surveyed in the village Konawade 9 had sugarcane cultivation in less than one acre of land and only two farmers had sugarcane cultivation in 2 to 3 acres of land. In village Naratwade of the 50 member farmers surveyed (14 percent sample size) 19 had sugarcane cultivation in less than one acre of land, 17 cultivated sugarcane in 1 to 2 acres of land. Thus in both the villages, majority of the farmers surveyed were having sugarcane farm of less than 3 acres only.

2) Both the villages ^{selected} ~~related~~ for survey were in close proximity with the sugar factory and hence it was expected that the member farmers of both the villages would take maximum advantage of the area development schemes of the factory.

The important findings of the survey done by interview method reveals that:-

a) The sugar co-operative provided cane seedlings to the farmers in its area of operation. However, of the shareholders surveyed in Konawade 18.75 percent had only taken benefit of this scheme and in village Naratwade 50 percent of shareholder farmer had taken benefit of the scheme.

b) To improve sugarcane yield and to facilitate appropriate use of fertilisers by the farmers the Dudhaganga Vedganga Co-operative sugar factory has the soil testing programme which goes a long way to improve the fertility of the soil. Of the shareholder farmers surveyed in village Konawade only 25 percent farmers took benefit of this scheme while in village Naratwade 18 percent farmers took benefit of this scheme.

c) As a part of its area development programme the Dudhaganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar factory has undertaken the Gobar Gas Plant Scheme. The factory provides subsidy and in addition helps the farmers to prepare proposals for obtaining loans from various financial institutions. These gas plants are fuel efficient and provide manure also to the farmers and

are a alternative source of fuel in the rural areas. The shareholder farmers of both the surveyed village have taken benefits of the above programme sponsored by the factory. In village Konawade 50 percent of the surveyed farmers had taken benefit of the scheme and in village Naratwade 48 percent of the survey shareholder farmers had taken benefit of this scheme and had installed the Gobar Gas Plant in their house. Implementation of such schemes in villages leads to more farmers accepting the new gas plant schemes as farmers have a tendency to imitate anything new that happens in the village side.

d) The Dudhaganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory to develop social forestry and fruit plantation in its area of operation is also implementing the scheme to supply Quality Fruit Plants to its shareholder members. These plants are provided at start of the rainy season each year. Of the surveyed village it was found that 25 percent of the surveyed farmers in village Konawade and 26 percent of the farmers in village Naratwade had taken benefits of these schemes. They had taken Mango and Coconut fruit plants from the factory. Thus the Dudhaganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar factory through this scheme is helping to promote plantation activity by the farmers

which in future has a great scope as fruit processing industry is bound to grow in Kolhapur District.

e) The Dudhaganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar factory is also implementing the scheme to supply mollasses at cheap price to shareholder farmers which can be used as fuel and fertilizer by the farmers. Of the surveyed villages - 6 shareholders in Konawade (34 percent) and 6 (12 percent) in Naratwade village had taken benefit of this scheme. It is evident that progressively more farmers have to be motivated by the factory to take advantage of this scheme.

As a part of its Area Development Programme the Dudhaganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory implemented other schemes such as provision of Quality Breeder Cows - However no shareholder farmer member of the surveyed villages had taken advantage of this scheme. As a part of active involvement in the Government's 20 Point Economic Programme for the rural poor, the Dudhaganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar factory implemented health programmes for the benefit of farmers. However in both the villages, no surveyed farmer had taken his family to these health camps organized by the Dudhaganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory. As a part of its social commitment,

the factory sponsored collective marriage ceremony to reduce unnecessary expenditure burden on the farmers. Such programme is held once every year and of the surveyed village one farmer of Naratwade village had taken benefit of this scheme.

f) Non-shareholding sugarcane growing farmers (10 each) from both the villages were also interviewed and from the response got, it was noticed that few farmers of this category had taken benefits of the various schemes implemented by the Dudhaganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory as a part of its area development programme. Thus the farming community at large in both the villages by and large has taken advantage of the schemes that are implemented by the Dudhaganga Vedganga Co-operative Sugar Factory as its commitment for area development.