

Chapter - 7

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

An important contribution of the government to the improvement of agricultural marketing is the establishment of regulated markets in several parts of the country. Regulated market is managed by a market committee consisting of the representatives of growers, traders local bodies and government. The market committee standardises the various market practices and charges, keeps standard weights and ensures correct weighing. The committee issues licences to the various market functionaries and punishes those among them who are guilty of fraudulent practices. It constructs warehouses, rest house and the other market ancillaries. Thus, with the help of regulated market the government can avoid the defects of agricultural marketing by establishing orderly conditions within the market yard.

7.1 SHAHU MARKET YARD

Shahu Market Yard is the principal market yard under the control of the Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Kolhapur. However, the market area of the APMC is spread over six-and-a-half talukas of Kolhapur district; Most of the market area is located to the west side of district which includes portions of Sahyadri ranges.

There are three other market committees presently functioning within Kolhapur district they are (a) Vadgaon (taluka Hatkanangale), (b) Jaysingpur (taluka Shirol and (c) Gadhinglaj (taluka Gadhinglaj). Compared to the jurisdiction of each of these market committees in the district that of APMC, Kolhapur is considerably wider and therefore, it is the premier market committee and its principal market, Shahu Market Yard, is the biggest one.

Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj was very much interested in developing trade and commerce in the capital city of Kolhapur. Therefore, he invited renowned traders from other states to establish their commercial units at Kolhapur and extended all facilities at minimum cost. And thus emerged the famous Shahupuri Market of Kolhapur city.

Further impetus to the development of Kolhapur market was given by Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj who succeeded Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj. An important manifestation of this encouragement was the establishment of the Shahupuri Merchants' Association in 1927. The Association played a major role in determining market practices and in the growth of gur market of Kolhapur.

A new chapter was opened in the development of Kolhapur market in 1945 when under the presidentship of Narayanrao Sardesai a committee was appointed to explore the possibility of introducing market regulation. The committee recommended favourably. The Kolhapur State

government took action in right earnedst and passed Kolhapur Agricultural Produce Market Act in 1945 on the livies of the Bombay Agricultural Produce Market Act, 1939. The Act was made applicable in the same year. In this way, regulated market of Kolhapur came into existence in 1945. In 1958, the market was shifted to the new locality called Shahu Market Yard for handling the fast growing market arrivals more conveniently as also for providing infrastructuzal facilities to make market regulation more effective.

The APMC, Kolhapur was quite alert about its vast jurisdiction. It took steps to establish a number of sub-markets gradually. Out of 9 sub-markets seven are located in the city itself. Sub-markets are mostly special commodity markets. On the campus of Shahu Market Yard at present all the necessary facilities are provided including roads, buildings and compound wall with openings at appropriate points. There is a beautiful garden and cultural centre too. Rail and road contacts are also available.

The market committee has occupied for different purposes 3,35,095 sq. meters of area out of the total available area. Rest of the area is, therefore, available for future expansions. With the infrastructural facilities available on the market yard and with the arrivals of huge volume of agricultural products now Shahu Market Yard has become one of the busiest places in Kolhapur city. •

7.2 WORKING OF SHAHU MARKET YARD

Shahu Market Yard which is the main organ of the APMC, Kolhapur has been pioneered by the visionary founding fathers who had faith in cooperative action. The personalities that held the key position of chairman guided the destinies of the market committee in true spirit and saw that a well-developed regulated market for agricultural commodities takes shape. The market has taken a good shape no doubt. Shahu Market Yard has now attained the status of a key centre for important agricultural products of the region. The cause of concern, however, is that market arrivals of gur and groundnuts are depressing with time mainly because of new developments on production front. This commodity feature need not, however, depress anybody. Because, the market as a whole has shown signs of healthy development. This should be taken as a merit point.

7.3 FINANCES

1. Over its life of four decades it is obvious that the aggregate income of the market yard should grow conspicuously. It rose from Rs.7,682 in 1945-46 to Rs.3,128,740 in 1984-85 thereby recording 40,728 time increase. Over the four decades, total income of the market shot up by leaps and bounds almost consistently and occasions of income depression were very infrequent out of the 40 years, there were only 12 years (30 percent) in which the income declined. However, in 6 out of the 12 years the income fall

was only marginal. And, therefore, it can be inferred unhesitatingly that the growth in aggregate income was almost unobstructed.

2. It appears that in the earlier phase of the life of the market yard, licence fee assumed quite a substantial portion of the income of the APMC. But in later years the share has decreased gradually. As a result a clear cut down trend is visible. The share of market fee of 73.59 percent in 1946-47 slumped very sharply to a meagre 4.27 percent in 1984-85. There were ups and downs intermittently. The down trend need not be a cause of concern as it is an obvious phenomenon in the course of the development of any market yard.

3. Market fee is the most important source of income for any market committee. Shahu Market Yard also had an experience of a considerable increase in its income from market fee which has not up from Rs.7,241 in 1945-46 to Rs.18,16,187 in 1984-85 amounting to 250.82 times increase. The income from market fee increased by 169.73 percent during 1945-55, by 715 percent during 1955-65, by 237.86 percent during 1965-75 and by 237.71 percent during 1975-85. The percentage share of market fee in total income of the APMC reveals an up trend.

4. The 'other sources' of income have assumed significance in the aggregate income of the market yard and presently, on the whole, nearabout one-fourth of the

income is contributed by this group of items. Development of the market yard and increasing level of activities therein are responsible for elevating this source from an insignificant position to a noteworthy one.

5. It is obvious that with growth of the market yard, its liabilities also would grow by leaps and bounds. Shahu Market Yard spent Rs.15,666 in 1946-47 and Rs.17,15,620 in 1984-85 resulting into an increase of 9951.23 percent over four decades.

6. The percentage distribution of total expenditure into the two sub-groups, viz., expenditure on staff and 'other expenses' has very often changed upwards and downwards, sometimes with greater magnitude. If the modal range for the former group was 50-70 percent, then obviously the same for the latter group was 30-50 percent as variations of percentage share in two groups were inversely related to each other.

7. The APMC has at its hand all-told Rs.30,82,762 net of all expenses and investments. It amounts to 23.25 percent of the aggregate accumulation over 40 year period. Thus, the APMC could save nearly one-fourth of its accumulations.

7.4 BENEFITS OF THE MARKET YARD

The market yard has provided a free and carefully supervised platform for conducting sale operations by the producer sellers with their personal involvement in the

operations. Various features that have contributed to this vital change are open auction of the produce, correct weighment of the consignment, scientific grading of the produce, well-trimmed market practices, prompt payments settlement of disputes, storage facilities, market intelligence, market yard for many commodities conveniences of transportation, and incidental benefits. It is a matter of satisfaction for both the producers of agricultural commodities and traders therein that they are in a position to operate in a well developed market yard. The APMC has done its best to build roads and buildings on the premises within a decades. It is also on its toes to extend incidental facilities from time to time. Its sub-market yards within Kolhapur city have contributed to establishment of special commodity regulated markets and thereby added to the conveniences of traders and farmers.

7.5 CONCLUSION

Shahu Market Yard of Kolhapur has a history of 40 years. Over such a long span of time the market yard has grown quite well. The APMC, Kolhapur has been able to provide adequate infrastructural facilities in Shahu Market Yard and volume of transactions of agricultural produce has increased manifold. Hence, by and large Shahu Market Yard has come out as well developed market yard. Both the farmers and traders feel safe as well as benefited.