

CHAPTER V

Major Conclusions and Suggestions

Major Conclusions and Suggestions

- 1 Bachani village in Kolhapur District has a well diversified network of cooperative societies working in the village since 1960s.
- 2 The Kedarling Bhairvnath Cooperative Water Supply Society Ltd. Bachani was established against the background of the severe drought of 1966-67.
- 3 The village depicts a picture, wherein we find multiple societies working in the same village thus duplicating the services provided.
- 4 Multiple number of primary cooperative Milk Societies are found to be working in the village. One possible reasons for this is the multi political party affiliation of the farmers.
- 5 It is creditable that the Women's Cooperative Milk Society is working in the village and thus bringing economic stability to the women in the village.
- 6 The Kearnling Bhairvanth Cooperative Water Supply Schme Ltd. Bachani has helped in the provision of adequate assured water supply to the farmers of the village. The majority of whom can be classified as small and marginal farmers.

- 7 Assured water supply has brought about a change in the cropping pattern in the village under study. Sugarcane cultivation has replaced foodgrain crop, cereals and Pulses production in the village.
- 8 Increased Sugarcane cultivation with supply of water through the cooperative water supply society has been possible with increased use of chemical fertilisers thus making it a higher cost of cultivation cropping pattern. Moreover this change in the cropping pattern has resulted in a twelve month standing crop (Sugarcane), replacing mixed cropping pattern. Thus alongwith Sugarcane only Maize and Sunflower crop is grown by most of the farmers.
- 9 The cooperative water supply society under study has undertaken a step by step plan to increase its water supply potential. First one scheme was operated from the river Bhogawati and later another scheme became operative in river Tulashi. This increased the irrigation potential of the society from 359 acres in 1979-80 to 959 acres in 1997-98. Thus water is supplied to member farmers as well as non-member farmers for both Kharif and Rabi seasons.
- 10 Growth in Reserve Fund, Other Funds and Depreciation Funds is satisfactory, thus adding to the financial viability of the society.

- 11 In addition to irrigation water supply, the society also provides clean and safe drinking water supply to the villagers from its separate drinking water supply scheme (Well irrigation).
- 12 Membership Growth of the society has increased from 217 in 1966-67 to 793 in 1997-98.
- 13 Audit classification of the society is always in Audit 'A' Class which indicates proper financial working and accounting of the society.
- 14 Expenditure on maintenance of Jeep is found to be more than revenue earned from providing Jeep to members on Hire Basis.
- 15 Water rate structure is multi rate based. However in recent years water charges levy has to be increased with prompt recovery drive by the society.
- 16 Impact analysis reveals that farmers by and large have shifted to Sugarcane farming from Food Crops and Cereals.
- 17 Farmers in the village with shift over to Sugarcane farming have increased the use of chemical fertilisers. It is found in our study that majority of the farmers make excess use of chemical fertilisers that has adverse impact on soil fertility.
- 18 Our study also amply reveals that with assured water supply farmers in the village often tend to use more than necessary water for Sugarcane farming. Excess use of water leads to water logging in the Sugarcane fields which alongwith excess use of

chemical fertilisers may lead to problem of soil salinity. Hence it is suggested that the farmers in the village be made aware of this or timely measures be taken to avoid this problem. The society will have to think of proper water supply regulation to control excess use of water.

- 19 Even with availability of ample green grass fodder. Increase in milk animals to the desired extent is not found in the village. It is suggested that the milk animal population of Cows, Sheeps, Goats be increased and also more women be motivated to undertake dairy farming to augment their incomes.
- 20 Our study reveals that effective working of the link between the cooperative water supply society and the cooperative Sugar Factory has led to proper recovery of Water Charges of the farmers and hence the problem of overdues outstanding is less.
- 21 By and large our study reveals that the member farmers are happy and satisfied with the working of the cooperative lift irrigation society under study.