# CHAPTER-SIX

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In the previous chapters we have analysed the physico-cultural aspect of Warana basin and we have presented the development of cooperative dairy farming in the region with the help of the case studies of five villages carefully selected. In the present chapter we have tried to synthesize our findings from the point of view of development of cooperative dairy farming and we have suggested a strategy for future prospects and balanced development of dairy farming in the region.

The location of Warana basin between western Ghats to the west and plateau to the east, presents a variety of physical, environmental and natural resources. The central and eastern zones have favourable set-up for the development of agriculture, whereas western hilly zone sustains many handicaps. The physical conditions in Warana basin set limit on the expansion of agriculture. The small and marginal farmers and landless labourers have to depend upon dairy farming to supplement their meagre income. The physical and cultural conditions in the region are suitable for the development of dairy farming.

Since the inception of Warana dairy and Warana

cooperative sugar factory at Warananagar, the people in the region have developed faith in cooperative movement and accepted cooperative way of life, which helped in the development of cooperative dairy farming. Warana basin is well-known for the local stock of milch animals which have potential for improvement. As a result of this factor, most of the cows in this region are improved by cross-breeding whereas new breeds of milch buffaloes were brought from outside. Good green grass on either sides of Warana river and its tributaries alongwith the sugarcane tops available throughout the year is helpful in providing green fodder.

Milk producers in the region have organized milk producers' cooperative societies in the villages. They are promoting cooperative dairy farming in the region. They collect milk and supply it to the milk unions. The average daily collection of milk of these societies varies between 300 litres and 4,500 litres. These societies have helped to supplement the income of milk producers in the region. The average daily amount received by each milk producer in the villages is between Rs. 12 and Rs. 20.

The Warana cooperative dairy union is an important dairy union in the Warana basin which has promoted the development of cooperative dairy farming in the

region by organizing milk producers' primary cooperative societies. Milk is the only product which can fetch regular income to the farmer and has thus improved his as well as that of the landless labourer's economic status.

The milk producers' primary cooperative societies are engaged in developmental activities in the villages. They collect milk from the milk producers and supply it to the milk unions. They also provide cattle feed, veterinary facilities and drinking water facilities to the milch animals. They pay proper prices for milk to the milk producers and also provide facilities of loan and advances. Some of these societies have started bakery and confectionary units; while some other societies have developed cooperative fodder farm. These societies organize veterinary camps for milch animals and provide training facilities to the milk producers. The other activities undertaken by these milk producers' primary cooperative societies include establishment of urban credit societies, organization of cattle fairs, veterinary camps and also establishment of Kindergartens, libraries, gymnasia and study rooms. Most of the societies have constructed buildings of their own.

Thus, the milk producers' primary cooperative societies in Warana basin have helped not only farmers

but also landless labourers to raise their income through cooperative dairy farming and, therefore, aptly derive credit for the elevation of the rural economy in the region.

Thus, cooperative dairy farming is more advantageous and the best proposition to complement the subsistence agriculture and it gives more benefit to the small and marginal farmers and landless labourers and helps in their economic uplift.

It is necessary to improve the functioning of milk producers' primary cooperative societies and to plan a strategy for the integrated development of various aspects of dairy farming in the region. We, therefore, have the following suggestions.

Dairy development is an important subsidiary sector for the economic development of the Warana basin, which has proved useful in boosting up the rural economy by accelerating developmental activities. Dairy farming in cooperative sector can be stepped up with lesser efforts as compared to the other sectors as it has a potential of organizing individually on a smaller scale as well as on a cooperative basis on a larger scale.

Taking into consideration the possibilities

of expansion the facilities of milk collection and processing should be strengthened in the western zone.

It is necessary to augment the loan facilities for the small and marginal farmers and the landless labourers in the region. In the case of landless labourers though the income generation from milk is the same as land-owner farmers', the profit margin of landless labourers is low because they have to pay for animal feed and fodder. The price of feed is increasing at a rapid rate, which in turn increases the cost of milk production. A number of measures are essential to achieve the goals that would be set forth for developing the region.

The land under permanent pastures has vanished due to the expansion of either sugarcane cultivation or the residential settlement. There is a need for systematic development of pastures in the region.

In the western part of the region, the land under forests, the catchment area of irrigation projects, open tracks and patches of land on either sides of streams can be brought under pastures. It is necessary to encourage the plantation of Subabhul (Laucaena euloce phala), Hadga (Sesbania grandisflora) and other types of improved varieties of grass like Stylosanthes lamata,

Cliterla teematas, Desmodium intesitum, Zanthsym hagara.

Hill slopes, Maal region and waste land should be utilized for the plantation of Khemad species of grass and by adding 10 per cent molasses which is available in plenty, due to the sugar factories in the region and could be organized as a commercial activity through milk producers' primary cooperative societies.

It is necessary to improve the efficiency of milk producers' cooperative societies in the villages. In some villages due to political reasons there are two or three milk producers' primary cooperative societies. Some of these societies are not economically sound. Political rivalries and envious mutual relations give birth to multiple societies which make survival of one another a hard task. Because, in an environment where only one such society could flourish, multiple societies are started which consequently become non-viable. Therefore, it is necessary to take steps to prevent the mushroom growth of milk producers' primary cooperative societies so as to avoid unhealthy suicidal competition.

The milk producers' primary cooperative societies should also try to organize cattle feed production plants by providing facilities in the form of subsidy

to individuals manufacturing feeds.

The number of veterinary aid centres has to be increased sizably so as to be within reach of every cluster of villages. Special bulls should be kept at rate of at least one per hundred milch animals and should be used for artificial insemination.

The milk producers' primary cooperative societies should develop a cooperative fodder farm by purchasing land or pasture in the village and should cultivate green fodder to distribute among the members. In Talsande village one cooperative fodder farm is already developed by milk producers' primary cooperative society and the experiment has proved to be a success.

The burden of sterile cattle on the farmers should be reduced and this sterile cattle should be removed to common stable on an experimental basis. This should be organized through milk producers' primary cooperative society. This will help to utilize dung for community gobar gas plants and manure which would be ultimately a net gain.

By implementing the above strategy the cooperative dairy farming will become an advantageous and beneficial proposition for the people in the region.