

## SIGNIFICANT ROLE OF DAIRY FARMING IN VULNERABLE SOCIETY OF INDIA: A STUDY

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### ABSTRACT

*Dairy farming is an honour for dairy farmers and is of particular importance to those sections of society who are traditionally vulnerable, small landowners, landless laborers and women. It provides a source of year-round income for those who previously could only rely on small crops or occasional wage payments. It is estimated that 60-65% of the income of this group (small and medium scale farmers) now comes from dairying. Studies show that in rural areas, dairy farming is more profitable than small, medium and medium-sized crops. For small-scale farmers with irrigated land, simultaneous dairy and crop production was far more profitable than single crop cultivation. Over time, dairying has also achieved the image of a fully developed industry in the country and has positively or indirectly improved the lives of those involved in the business, bringing about significant social and economic changes in vulnerable society of our country.*

**KEYWORDS:** Dairy Products; Socio-Economic Development; Milk Products; Rural Economy.

### Introduction

Dairy is the Indian context for Indian agriculture, the economic symbiosis of crop and livestock populations. Millions of dairy villagers dominate India's dairy industry, increasing the country's total milk production by 71%. Dairy animals are fed on crop residues and dung of dairy animals is used as itch for crops. Livestock plays an important role in the economy. The most important economic activity in rural areas is animal husbandry. The dairy sector today provides 80 million farm households with nutritious food, extra income and three times the benefits of productive employment for family labour, especially for women. Livestock farming provides self-employment to millions of households in rural areas. Dairying with cross-bred cattle and high-yielding buffaloes has become a lucrative business. Owners of easy cash provided by animal husbandry components; small-scale farmers prefer crop production. Further milking provides a support system for milk producers without disturbing the economic system. Faced with economic liberalization, the livelihoods of rural economies are at stake. In general, economic power is shrinking in rural areas, as well as in vulnerable areas of the environment, such as drought, desert hazards, mountainous areas and other developed / backward districts. Rapidly growing markets for livestock products in general and dairy products in particular are opening up new avenues for increasing rural incomes. Dairy farming plays an important role in sustaining the rural economy, although farmer suicides, migration, malnutrition / poor health are widespread in rural India. However, some dairy-drought-affected districts have made rapid progress in significantly reducing poverty in the district / state agricultural economy. The share of agriculture and allied sectors in national GDP has declined over the past few decades, with the share of the livestock sector falling from 5% in the early 1980s to more than 6% in the late 1990s. The Operation Flood Program, launched in 1970, organized rural dairy farmer's cooperatives and connected them to urban consumers, creating a strong net for milk procurement, processing and distribution in 100,000 villages in rural India.

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### Employment Generation by Dairy Farming

The livestock sector employs 22 million people, 74% of whom are women. In addition, the dairy sector is the largest source of income for an estimated 29.4 million people. Of these, 70 to 75 percent are small, meagre farmers and low wage earners. The dairy sector supports 15 million members / farmers through 1.5 lakh cooperative societies in the country. In addition to the jobs created by animal husbandry, the purchase and processing of milk also provides significant employment. In Punjab, for example, MILKFED, which has a cooperative society of more than 6,500 village milk producers, supports more than 400,000 milk producers.

In addition, MILKFED and its units have a workforce of about 6,500 employees and employ 15,000 workers engaged in milk procurement and technical input supply. A similar number are employed in almost all dairy federations. In addition, under the SGSY Rural Only Self-Employment Program, about 35% of surgeons have opted for dairy farming as an income generating activity. The daily gain was 11-man days and the additional net income was Rs. 950 per person per month. Numerous locations in support of the extension of dairy farming to the agrarian economy and resources for the livelihood of poor farmers / rural population, high priority milk marketing infrastructure, veterinary services for breed improvement and health care, expansion.

### Production and Consumption Overview of Indian Dairy Products

The Indian dairy market is one of the largest and fastest growing in the world. India has managed to maintain its position in milk production during the last 18 years and during 2015 milk production was 155.5 million tonnes. In the last five years, milk production has recorded a CAGR of about 44%. Strong farm gate prices and increased domestic demand for value-added dairy products to drive a steady increase in milk production. Although India is the largest producer of milk, the country's milk production is still very low compared to other milk producing countries like USA, Germany, France and New Zealand. The reason for high milk production in India is large population of cattle instead of good milk production. In addition, due to good quality, hygiene and increasing demand for packaged milk and milk products, the country's milk processing capacity has increased in recent years. About 65-70% of the total milk produced in the country is sold as milk. The rest is processed dairy products such as processors, butter, ghee, ice cream, yogurt, etc. and the consumption pattern of dairy products in India is quite unique as compared to some western countries. Consumption is mainly towards traditional products. However, in urban areas, Western-made products are slowly gaining momentum. Interestingly, buffalo milk is the largest source of total milk produced in the country. Because the price of milk is based on the amount of fat, buffalo milk offers a more lucrative margin than cow's milk because it contains more fat. Despite being the largest producer of milk in the world, India is a very small player in the international market. This is due to the direct consumption of liquid milk by the producer households as well as the demand for processed milk products which has increased with the increase in the income level which has resulted in very little milk for export. The rest is left. However, India regularly exports specialized products such as casein for food processing or pharmaceuticals. The major export destinations for Indian dairy products are Bangladesh, the Middle East, the United States and Egypt.

### Dairy Farming Contribution to Indian Economy

This impact of Dairy Industry can be categorized into the following:

- **Hygiene and Cleanliness:** At the time of milking and at the milk collection centre, all producers are repeatedly reminded of the importance of observing the hygiene and hygiene of animals and milkers. It has been observed that such education goes with them according to their daily life habits.
- **Health Care:** The happiness of collecting milk from the members obliges the cooperative to provide inputs to increase milk production. Accordingly, unions provide extensive veterinary services at their doorsteps to care for the health of livestock. The exhibition of their applications through the veterinarians for the treatment of many modern technologies and their animals has also made the farmers more and more aware about the health care for their family members.
- **Social Impact:** Subsequently membership is open to all, the lack of discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, gender and financial status has succeeded in breaking down barriers for dairy animals. Significant new awareness has been developed and observed among producers.

- **Infrastructure:** The participating farmers have become aware of their responsibility to the community. Each year they generously donate a portion of their cooperative profits to the overall development of the village, such as:
  - Improving the condition of the road leading to the village
  - Providing facilities to the youth through the establishment of village libraries
  - Collaborate with educational institutions and village primary health centres
  - Provide and update daily knowledge by installing television sets in DCS
  - Provide telephone facility to the members for better and faster communication
  - Assist in establishing a clean drinking water supply system in the village.
  - Cooperative dairing has shown a significant economic impact on rural development.
- **Resolving Social Inequity:** This social stigma still exists in many parts of rural India. In the morning and evening at all APDC collection centres, hundreds of adults, as well as milk producers from all walks of life, line up to deliver milk, creating a habit of discipline. Mixing different ethnic and social groups twice a day for a common goal and their mutual betterment is the result of reducing social inequality.
- **Equality:** The elected representatives of the members manage the DCS and are responsible for all policy decisions. All members are entitled to cast their votes (one by one) to elect the members of the Management Committee. This annual election of the Steering Committee and its Chairperson makes the participants aware of the value of their vote and their right to choose the right person for the right job.

### Conclusion

The study shows that India has made significant progress in increasing milk production and productivity, especially over the past decades to support vulnerable society. Structural changes in milk production are noticeable, and the formation of dairy animals is in favour of better-bred cattle and better-yielding buffaloes. The role of some new states in increasing milk production in India is also evident. Growth in milk production has been significant and this is reflected in the increase in output. More than half the growth in milk production over the last two decades has contributed to the increase in milk production. Commitments to milk production include technological change and herd quality, development of irrigation, expanding network of dairy cooperatives. The status of dairy infrastructure and the provision of veterinary services in vulnerable society of the country is still poor and concrete efforts are needed to bring about further change.

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