CHAPTER – VII

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The present study deals with the dairy activity is a subsidiary to agriculture in India. Agriculture is known as gamble in the monsoon due to inadequate and irregular rainfall. In India, where 80 per cent of the farmers are small holders, agriculture should be supplemented with the subsidiary occupation such as dairying, poultry, sheep rearing, cattle breeding etc. In those activities, dairy is leading activity and plays a vital role in the rural economy. Dairy helps to tackle the problem of unemployment. Dairy is being used as poverty eradication because it provides employment to the rural landless, small and marginal farmers with supplementary employment and regular source of income and ultimately helps them to increase the standard of living.

The Sangli district is a part of Krishna Basin, divided into north-western, central and south-eastern parts. The rivers Yerala, Agrani and Krishna make the region partly irrigated. The Sahyadri ranges determine the climate of the region and fall under monsoon land. The rainfall is uncertain and hence subject to frequent famine in the region. The region has arid tracts and fallow lands which enhance the dairy activities in the region.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy of the region. Foodgrains and cash crops are taken. Jawar and Bajara are main food grains. Sugarcane, Oilseeds, Fruits, Cotton, Vegetables are cash crops. Sugarcane is largely cultivated in irrigated areas.

The rivers Krishna, Yerala and Agrani are main source of irrigation. The highest percentage of irrigation (37.47%) is observed in Palus Tahsil While lowest percentage is mainly covered by irrigation
projects and canal irrigation dominates the region. But in the areas of Miraj, Sangli and Palus Tahsil water logging Problem is created due to oversupply of water.

Generally 80 percent livestock of Sangli district depends on natural green grass in rainy season and dry fodder in summer season. In monsoon period, the green fodder availability is sufficient to livestock. But in summer season, the supply of green fodder is not sufficient to livestock. Therefore, in summer season livestock seems week. The livestock distribution depends upon the climatic conditions and fodder availability. The green and dry fodder and concentrate feed are the main three sources of fodder and feed for livestock feeding. Generally the large numbers of livestock are found in areas where good quality of fodder is available in sufficient quantity. Low quality of feed is always responsible for low quality and quantity of milk in dairy activity.

Concentrate is the rich source of protein which contains 30 to 35 percent proteins. The protein content of the green fodder varies from grasses which are low in protein, to leguminous fodder species which are a rich source of protein.

In the irrigated areas of the Sangli district, green such as grass, ghas (special fodder), Maize, Kadwal grow throughout the year but in the non-irrigated areas green fodder is grown only in the rainy season. In the irrigated tract, dairy operators use sugarcane and its residues. Besides this, during the summer season Maize is also cultivated both in the irrigated and the non-irrigated region as green fodder. The price of green fodder during the summer season is very high which indirectly affects the price of milk.

If green feeds and fodders are available, the cost of milk production will be lower. If the animals are maintained on straws and concentrates the cost of milk production will be too high. Further, adequate minerals will have to be provided.
In the total ratio of dairy animals, the percentage of roughage is quite high. All the milk producers in the region use roughage for dairy animals throughout the year. Dry grasses, wheat straw, sunflower straw, Jowar straw (Kadba) are the major crop residues for dairy cattle.

Dairy industry started in the Sangli district during 1970. It has attained substantial development during last four decades on co-operative basis. Dairy is the major source of income for landless, marginal, small, medium and large farmers. It has on important bearing on the economy of the rural people. Along with the cultivation of crop, the milk animal and the fodder available from their farms has been utilized to feed milch animals. Such inter relationship has been encouraged farmers to their attention towards dairying. Besides the positive role of co-operative in the collection and distribution of such perishable commodity, farmers also, fight the development of farming in the Sangli district. It aims as to provide hygienically processed milk to people in the cities at reasonable rate and provides subsidiary occupation to farmers, landless labors, etc. Presently in Sangli district nine milk unions are working in dairying. The district milk union collected about 338067 litres of milk per day in 2006-07.

Rajarambapu Patil Co-operative Milk Union is one of the most important milk unions is sangli district. It has provided employment opportunities, subsidiary occupation, irrigation, insurance, loans, and other facilities to the members of the union. So that it has helps to raise the living standards of the people belongings to walwa taluka in comparison with other talukas of sangli district.

The Co-operative movement played significant role in the dairy development. There is wide scope and potential for production and marketing of milk through co-operative movement in the region. It helped to increase economic status, mostly of marginal farmers and
agricultural labourers in the region. The participation of women is noteworthy in generating income through dairy activity.

The primary milk co-operative societies are central agency of the grassroot extension activity. These societies provide milk to Co-operative Dudh Sangh in the region. The total number of dairy societies are 885,31 March 2009.

Annual milk collection of Sangli district is 18505530 lakh litres (2008-09). The region consists of chilling facilities at Walwa, Shirala, Kadepur, Tasgaon, Miraj, Sangli, Kavathe Mahankal, Ranjani and Jat. Miraj Chilling Center has a capacity of 1, 50,000 litres per day. Ice Production of the region is about 178 tons per day. (2009-2010)

The year 2007 to 2010 percentage of cows in milk increased from 48.4 percent to 61.4 percent while she buffaloes in milk increased from 59 percent to 62.6 percent during the decade of 2007 to 2010. The highest density of milch animals is in Walwa and lowest density of milch animals is in Jat Tahsil.

The region is known for local breeds of milk cattle. Khillar, Dangi, Jersey and Deshi breeds are found in the region. The crossbreeding programme is also taken by various agencies. The cattle breeding Center named as ‘Valumata Sangopan Centre’ at Jat. The intensive cattle development Project is implemented and located at Miraj and covers all the Tahsils of Sangli district including artificial insemination work is done at the Centers as well as at villages by trained doctors. A few local persons also trained for insemination work.

In Sangli district 854 Primary Dudh co-operative Societies are established but distributed unevenly. Walwa Tahsil has highest number of Dudh Societies (266) and Palus has lowest number (31).

In the region, cows and she buffaloes are used for milk production. The total milk Production ratio of cow and she buffalo is 3.96 and 3.93 respectively in the region. The milk production ratio of
cows (0.53) and she buffaloes (0.53) were found highest in Walwa Tahsil. The lowest production ratio of cows (0.46) and she buffaloes (0.41) are seen in Jat Tahsils.

The Sangli district is well covered under the animal health and disease control programme. Most of the animal husbandry and veterinary services available in the region. The region has 6 veterinary polyclinic, 106 veterinary dispensaries and 22 veterinary aid Centers. There is one cattle breeding Center established in Jat named as ‘Valumata Sangopan centre’. About artificial inseminations carried out at 59 A.I. Centers in the Sangli district. (2003-04)

SUGGESTIONS:-

In the Sangli district, there is scope to develop dairy activity on extensive commercial scale. Some of the suggestions to improve the situation and solve various problems faced by farmers and dairy societies are given as below:-

1. The nature of commodity and its marketing demand heavily depends upon the managerial skills of the farmers. Therefore, suggested that it is training and education of farmers in handling, selling and pricing, herd management, knowledge about qualitative aspects of milk and its products should be given.

2. A very few educated people practise this activity. For increasing the milk production and lowering the cost of milk production educated and well trained people should enter into dairy activity.

3. The milk producers do not maintain the records of income and expenditure of dairy and related operations. It is suggested that the record should be maintained for there own better performance.

4. By constructing the gobar gas plants in the region, fuel problem can be minimised. Therefore, it is suggested that Dudh Sangh should provide
loan and maximum subsidy (75%) to them and make efforts to increase the awareness about the importance of gobar gas.

5. The main aim of practising the dairy activity is to make more profit from milk, calves and dung. Therefore, it is suggested that high yielding varieties of cows and she buffaloes should be provided to the farmers by Dudh Sangh.

6. The price of milk does not increase as the expenditure increases. Therefore, it is suggested that, the price of milk should be increased in relation to the price of fodder and concentrate feeds, which has a major impact on the production cost of milk.

7. The overhead cost, particularly on administration must be strictly controlled.

8. Strict control on quality testing must be followed by using electronic instrument of testing Fat and SNF.

9. It is suggested that more varieties of crossbreed cows and she buffaloes should be made available to the milk producers as per the climatic conditions of the region.

10. The extension education and training programmes related to maintenance and health care of milk animals be extended to all the villages in the Sangli district.

11. Government should develop small milk processing units which help to increase the income of milk producers.

By considering the suggestions given above, the dairy activities in the region should be strengthened for the economic development of the region.