PREFACE

The present study ‘A Study of Dairy Cooperatives in Nagaland with Special Reference to Dimapur District’ is original and most comprehensive work on the financial performance of DIMUL (Dimapur District Milk Producers’ Union Ltd) and the registered as well as functional primary dairy cooperatives under DIMUL till 2008-09. It also includes the study of the impact of dairy cooperatives on the socio-economic condition of the members of the societies.

Dairy related activities are accepted to be one of the farming activities along with agriculture as the source of income specially for the small and marginal farmers. Most of the farmers need to domesticate cows and buffaloes for carrying out the agricultural activities and milk production. Before the development of the dairy cooperatives at the village level, the surplus milk after home consumption was sold directly to the ultimate consumers at the village or urban areas. Some producers also sold the milk through middlemen who used to charge higher price from the customers but paid, a lesser amount to the milk producers. The primary dairy cooperatives play an important role by collecting the surplus milk from the doorstep of the producer members at a reasonable procurement price and sells the milk to the district Union for processing. After processing, the dairy Union ultimately sells the milk to the customers. In addition to this, the cooperatives also help the milk producers by providing them the valuable services such as supply of fodder, veterinary services, supply of quality heifer, etc., at their doorsteps.

Late Lal Bahadur Shastri, former Prime Minister of India who visited Anand on 31st October, 1964, desired to replicate Amul model throughout the country to bring a great change in the socio-economic conditions of the people. In 1965, the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) was established at Anand and by 1969-70; it came out with the Dairy Development Programme for India popularly known as “Operation
Flood” or “White Revolution”. This model is referred to in the history of White Revolution as “Anand Pattern”. Replication of “Anand Pattern” has helped India to emerge as the largest milk producing nation in the world. Under the Anand Pattern; individual farmers join in village-level dairy cooperative societies (DCS), which in their turn join to form district-level unions and such district-level unions are grouped to form in state-level marketing federations.

In Nagaland, the dairy cooperative form of organisation was a new concept even upto the World War-II to the Naga people. They are basically meat-eater and had little knowledge about milk. It was only after World War II when Christian missionaries brought cows to the State, the concept of dairy related activities truly started. The success of Operation Flood (OF) in Nagaland over the period of time removed all such apprehensions and motivated the farmers to take up dairy activities as a principal and subsidiary occupation. In the year 1986, the Kohima District Milk Producers’ Union Limited in line with the Anand Pattern Cooperative (APC) was started at Dimapur. As a result a number of dairy cooperatives were established in the rural areas where the local farmers both Naga and nonnaga, joined the Milk Producers’ Societies and have been the benefits.

In the present study the researcher has investigated the financial performance and problems of the Dairy Cooperatives of Nagaland and its impact on the socio-economic condition of the members. I do hope that the findings of the present study and the suggestions put forward will help the policy makers for formulating proper policies for the growth and development of dairy industry in general and improvement of socio-economic condition of farmer member in particular. The contemporary and future researchers will also be benefited from this present study.

Abhijit Chakraborty