CHAPTER VIII.

DISCUSSION

The present chapter deals with the main findings presented in the previous chapters as well as the important emerging problems of the sample farms. The 'Operation Flood II' was launched in 1979 to increase the milk production and cover 200 lac rural families in the country. District Etawah which is Pilot development area was also included in this programme. In Etawah this programme (Operation Flood II') started in November 1984. This district is generally suited to dairy industry except during the summers when the temperature goes very high. The rapid increase in the population of the district, where 85.5 per cent population live in rural areas, has made this programme a very important one from the point of view of employment. The land utilization data reveals that there is little scope for further expansion of area under plough. Intensive farming is also limited to the plain lands of the district because irrigation facilities cannot be provided in the undulating cultivated area bordering the three important rivers of the district. The dominance of small and marginal farmers in the agrarian economy of the district (85.47 per cent of the total cultivators) pose an acute problem of low levels of income. The coverage of more than 70.00 per cent of the area under cereals, is a pointer towards subsistence farming.
The animal population in the district has grown by 20 per cent during the 1972 to 1982 period. The animals were added to the farms as a subsidiary industry to get higher income. The composition of animal population in the selected study area shows that there were more cattle and bovine population as compared to other animals. This cattle and bovine population increased by 70.00 per cent during the period 1982 to 1987. Consumer’s preference for cow and buffaloe milk and incentive of assured price from the co-operative milk society has given a boost to animal population. The milk procurement seasonwise and monthwise both at district level and co-operative society level indicate wide fluctuations. The winter supply was peak and the summer supply was lowest. This has created mainly two problems. (1) Difficulty in providing regular and uniform supply to the consumers and (ii) irregular income to the producer’s. The percentage of fat has shown a gradual decline between 1985 to 1988 and lately the total milk procurement has stagnated. The local milk vendors offered better price to the producer’s especially in the summer season to divert the milk supply. This has resulted in a competition between the milk co-operative societies and the local milk vendors. It is well known that the local vendors who resort to unfair practices and adulteration earn much more profit than the society. But they cause a great harm to the interest of consumers.

The resource structure of the selected families show that the average size of sample family was large and about
1244.40 family labour days were available for employment. The average size of the sample farm was 2.236 hectares. More than 90 per cent cultivated area was irrigated, the intensity of cropping was around 175 per cent, 73.00 per cent of the gross cropped area was under cereal crops and Barley, gram is used as a concentrate. The investment on farm buildings ranged between Rs.3000.00 on marginal to Rs.7200.00 on medium farms. The investment on implements and machinery including chaff cutter ranged between Rs.800.00 to Rs.1700.00. The cost of milch animals varied between Rs.2994.33 to Rs.3219.00. The average number of milch animals per farm was 1.20. A study of number of animals in 1984 and 1986 show a growth of 160.42 per cent. The policy of the Government to help the small and marginal farmers under I.R.D. programmes and loading facilities of banks helped in the growth of animals. The lactation period varied between 160 days to 280 days. Haryana cows and Bhadawari buffaloe which were common among the farmer were the lowest yielders low milk yield is a problem. The average price (on yearly basis) per litre of milk paid by the co-operative society was Rs.3.25 and by local milk venders Rs.3.00. The local vendors took advantage of milk supply position of village and offered prices accordingly. The trend of milk supply and milk use was similar on all farms. The performance per animal on medium farm was highest. A comparative study of milk production on medium farms in 1984 and in 1986 shows that the net income increased in the year 1986. The comparison of
small farms in these two years also show a better performance in the year 1986. The performance of marginal farmers is also better in 1986. The average investment and returns from agriculture also show a slightly better performance in the year 1986 as compared to the year 1984. The total average returns from agriculture and milk production was found to be higher in 1986 as compared to 1984. The contribution also increased during the year 1986.

The utilization of more family labour in crop production and milk production in 1986 as compared to the year 1984, shows that 'Operation Flood II' has helped to increase the returns from the farm and give more employment to the family labour.

The functional analysis of milk production reveals that in general the roughages and fodder were used below optimal level. The use of concentrate was generally around the optimal level. The medicines and other inputs were ultimately found to be having no direct influence on milk production. The marginal value productivity per animal on the yearly aggregate basis also conforms more or less to this results.

The 'Operation Flood II' programme has justified its implementation by increasing the income on the farm in general and from milk production in particular but a cautious approach is leaded in the uses of resources by the farmers.
They must be educated on the optimal use of input for profit maximization.

**Testing of Hypothesis:**

1. The hypothesis that the number of milch animals with the farmer has increased resulting in increase in milk production has been proved in Chapter IV, table no. 14, Chapter V, table no. 4, Chapter VI, table no. 11-C and Chapter VII, table no. 13-A, B.

2. The second hypothesis that the total net returns to the farm and utilization of family labour has increased due to 'Operation Flood programme has been substantiated in Chapter VII, table no. 22-A, 22-B, 23-A, 23-B, 24-A and 24-B.

3. The third hypothesis that the farmers utilized their resources in milk production efficiently has been partly proved and partly negated. The functional analysis in Chapter VII shows that labour is used efficiently whereas the use of fodder and roughages is below optimal level and that of concentrates marginally above optimal level.

4. Lastly the hypothesis that the village milk producer's society are running in loss has been disproved in the finding of Chapter V, table no. 10 and table no. 15.
The limitation of time and finance did not permit the researcher to undertake a thorough economic analysis of all the aspects of dairy industry and mixed farming. Which would helped him arriving at universally applicable finance.