

“A Study of Socio-Economic Profile of Milk Producing Farmers in the Sangli District”

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Abstract

Globalization and Liberalization are the Mantras of the new economy today, which is now on the fast track. Industrial production is rapidly moving forward. The dairy industry is no exception for that. With the World Trade Organization (WTO) coming into effect, from 01 April 2001 and the imports and exports were getting liberalized in the global economy, the dairy industry, which includes dairy products, faces both an opportunity for growth as well as a threat for its growth. However, of late, dairy industry has shown the ability to sustain itself as a profitable industry in many spheres over-powering the traditional dominance exercised by agriculture. This trend is witnessed all over the world. Fortunately, our country is blessed with vast dairy resources. Cattle and buffaloes population are the highest in India. The country is the world's largest milk producer, accounting for 17% of global production in 2010-11. Concerted efforts should, therefore be directed towards unorganised dairy farmers by providing necessary inputs and make them to adopt newer milk production technologies. An attempt to identify problems of the farmers and to resolve the same for improving the export earning and higher returns to dairy farmers is the need of the globalised world. The present paper attempts to study the SWOT analysis of milk production, milk production in the Sangli district & socio-economic profile of the milk producing farmers in the Sangli district.

KEYWORDS: Milk, Dairy, production

Introduction

Ever since the creation of mankind, the major thrust has been on the search for food for existence. Thus, for human population, the nature provided a continuous supply of food. Plants and animals were utilised by man as foods during the prehistoric period. Subsequent domestication of animals and evolution of crop raising activities made animals farming as a subsidiary to agriculture. In western countries, animal husbandry is even now referred to as 'Animal Agriculture'. However, of late, dairy industry has shown the ability to sustain itself as a profitable industry in many spheres over-powering the traditional dominance exercised by agriculture.

Dairy farming plays a very important role in improving the economy of the country. Milk has an important place in human diet. Dairy industry is of crucial importance to India. The country is the world's largest milk producer, accounting for 17% of global production in 2010-11. It is the world's largest consumer of dairy products, consuming almost 100% of its own milk production. Dairy products are a major source of cheap and nutritious food to millions of people in India and the only acceptable source of animal protein for large vegetarian segment of Indian population, particularly among the landless, small and marginal farmers and women.

Dairying has been considered as one of the activities aimed at alleviating the poverty and unemployment especially in the rural areas in the rain-fed and

Drought-prone regions. Dairy Farming is a class of agricultural, or more properly, an animal husbandry enterprise, raising female cattle, goats, or certain other lactating livestock for long term production of Milk, which may be either processed on site or transported to a dairy for processing and eventual retail sale.

Indian dairying has made rapid strides, but animal productivity remained low, average dairying assumes great significance in providing employment to rural people as well as a stable source of income to augment to their earnings from main enterprise they follow i.e. crop husbandry. Dairy enterprise plays a very important role in the rural Economy of India. It provides income and employment not only to the weaker sections of the society but also to the farming community of the country in general.

Objectives of the study:

1. To explore the milk production in India
2. To study the milk production in the Sangli district
3. An attempt was made to explore the socio-economic profile of the milk producing farmers in the Sangli district.

Review of literature:

1. Aitawade M.S. in his article entitled “ Economics of Milk production from crossbreed cows in Akola District of Maharashtra State” & concluded that the collection of milk is depend upon the different species of cows & buffellows.
2. Dr. S.V. Shinde studied the Socio Economic profile of Dairy farmers in Solapur district & he found that Majority of the household’s were engaged in dairy farming & crop farming activities as they are depend upon each other.
3. Dr K.G. Karmakar and Dr G.D. Banerjee studied the Opportunities And Challenges in The Indian Dairy Industry & concluded that, as standards of living in the importing country rises, exporting countries will increasingly concentrate on whole milk powder and cheese with the assistance of butter and skimmed milk powder. There is vast potential for the export of dairy products, the cost of milk production in India being the lowest. The major factor influencing production of bye products is the newer uses that may be developed through R & D support. Milk proteins are being utilized increasingly replacing animal and vegetable proteins in special bakery products and instant foods.
4. Singh *et al.* (1999) conducted a study in Rothak, Hissar and Bhiwani districts of Haryana to study the effect of socio-economic variables on management of milking practices under different farming systems revealed that caste has significant association with sex of milker and 55, 89, 67 per cent females belonging to scheduled, backward, agriculturists in study area engaged in milking.
5. Prashanth Kumar *et al.* (2005) in their study “Pattern of feeding milch animals in different size categories of farmers in northern Karnataka” conducted in Bagalkot and Belgaum districts of Karnataka revealed that, labour utilization was nearly same in both stall feeding and grazing + stall feeding, for indigenous cows. In case of buffaloes, labour use was slightly more in grazing + stall feeding with about 109 mandays than in stall feeding (107 mandays). But in case of cross breed cows, labour utilization was same with 102 mandays in both stall feeding type and grazing and stall feeding.
6. Singh *et al.* (1985) conducted a study in Karnal district to study the socio-personal economic characteristics of the farmers of progressive and non-

progressive dairy villages. They found that, age had significant influence on the adoption of dairy innovations of the farmers of the non-progressive village.

7. Singh *et al.* (1999) conducted a study in Rohtak, Hisar and Bhiwani districts of Haryana state, to study the effect of socio-economic variables on management of milking practices under different farming systems and found that age of the farmers did not show appreciable effect on the milking management practices.

Methodology:

The present study has taken up in the Sangli district of Maharashtra state. The criterion for the selection of the district was its progress in dairy performance.

The primary data was collected through the schedules, 50 respondents were selected by convenient sampling method. The variables of the study included the live stock holding, family milk consumption pattern, access to market, employment, profitability, output-input relationship & difficulties faced by farmer.

Primary data were analysed using simple statistical tools i.e. percentages. Secondary data also used which was published by National Dairy Development Board, District Statistical Dept., and Newspapers & Journals.

Milk Production in India: Dairy industry is of crucial importance to India. The country is the world's largest milk producer, accounting for 17% of global production in 2010-11. It is the world's largest consumer of dairy products.

The table below indicates the production of milk & per capita availability of milk in India during the period of 10 years. It indicates that milk production as well as per capita availability of milk shows an increasing trend over the years. The milk production rises from 84.4 million tonnes in 2001-02 to 97.1 million tonnes during the year 2004-05. When we compare the year 2006-07 to 2010-11 then it was observed that it also increases from 102.6 million tonnes to 121.8 million tonnes.

Table no. 1 Milk Production in India

Sr. No.	Year	Production(in million tonnes)	Per capita availability (gms/day)
1	2001-02	84.4	225
2	2002-03	86.2	230
3	2003-04	88.1	231
4	2004-05	92.5	233
5	2005-06	97.1	241
6	2006-07	102.6	246
7	2007-08	107.9	252
8	2008-09	112.2	258
9	2009-10	116.4	273
10	2010-11	121.8	281

Source: <http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/bitstream/27233/1/35020034.pdf>

Milk Production in Sangli District

Sangli District stands 21st in Maharashtra. Sangli district has 10 talukas viz- Miraj, Atpadi, Palus, Walva, Shirala, Tasgaon, Khanapur, Kavathemahankal, Jat and Kadegaon.

Jat, Atpadi, Kavathemahankal and Khanapur talukas are in eastern area with coarse land receiving low rainfall. Following table shows the milk production in the sangli district.

Table no. 2 Milk Production in Sangli District
(Rs in '000 metric tonnes)

Sr. No.	Taluka	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
1	Shirala	114.00	119.00	134.60
2	Walwa	108.60	119.00	138.00
3	Palus	70.50	94.80	101.55
4	Khanapur	153.10	159.50	217.60
5	Atpadi	61.40	66.10	73.40
6	Tasgaon	36.30	35.40	40.00
7	Miraj	65.60	67.80	53.00
8	Kavthe-Mahankal	50.00	69.00	65.50
9	Jat	70.50	92.70	100.40
10	Kadegaon	70.00	72.00	80.00
	Total	800.00	895.30	1004.05

Source : Distric Socio economic profile (jilha arthik - samajik samalochan)

The above table depicts the milk production of 10 talukas of the Sangli district for the period of 3 years i.e. 2008-09 to 2010-11. The milk production of all the talukas except the Miraj increases every year. Khanapur taluka ranks first for the milk production which shows the highest production of 153.10, 159.50 & 217.60 million tonnes during the period of 3 years starting from 2008-09 to 2010-11. Shirala & Walwa ranks 2nd & 3rd in milk production. The production of milk was lowest in the Kavathe Mahankal, Atpadi & Tasgaon. The total milk production in 10 talukas of the Sangli district was 1004.05 million tonnes during the year 2010-11.

Analysis & Interpretation of Socio economic profile of the dairy farmers in Sangli district

1. Age wise classification of the respondents

Table No. 3 Age Groups

Age Groups	No. of respondents	%
21-30	4	8
31-40	12	24
41-50	22	44
51-60	10	20
Above 61	2	4
Total	50	100

Source: Primary data

Among the respondents 44 % belongs to the age group of 41-50 followed by the age group 31-40, 51-60, above 61 and 21-30. About half of the population was in the age group of 40 and older.

2. Gender classification of the respondents

Table No. 4 Gender wise Classification

Sex	No. of respondents	%
Male	39	78
Female	11	22
Total	50	100

Source: Primary data

From the above table it was observed that out of total sample taken 39 were the male respondents & 11 are female respondents. These female farmers were mostly heading the families when the male counterpart is not existing or not in a position to take care of family.

3. Educational Status of the milk producing respondents

Table No. 5 Educational Status

Literacy Status	No. of Respondents	%
Illiterate	6	12
Up to 5 th Std.	4	8
Up to 7 th Std.	7	14
Up to Matric	19	38
Up to 12 th Std.	5	10
Graduate & above	9	18
Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data

It is clear from the above table that out of 50 respondents only 6 are illiterate, other 44 respondents are educated. However only 9 have learnt up to graduation & above. It indicates that most of the milk producers are aware about the education & its importance.

4. Experience of the households in milk producing activities

Table No. 6 Experience of milk production

Experience in Years	No. of Respondents	%
Less than 5 years	7	14
5-10 years	11	22
11-15 years	12	24
16-20 years	14	28
Above 20 years	6	12
Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data

It was examined from the above table that 36% respondents were engaged in milk producing activities since last 10 years, 24 % were having 11-15 years experience, 22 % were having 5-10 years experience however only 14% & 12 % respondents having less than 5 years experience & above 20 years experience.

5. Main source of occupation

Table No. 7 Occupation

Type of Occupation	No. of Respondents	%
Crop farming	20	40
Dairy farming	21	42
Wage earning	5	10
Service	4	8
Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data

Majority of the household's were engaged in dairy farming & crop farming occupation. Only 10 % were engaged in wage earning & 8% in service sector. Which clearly indicates that most of the farmers shown their interest in farm & dairy production because both are interdependent on each other.

6. No. of milk animals

Table No. 8 Number of animals

No. of Animals	No. of Respondents	%
Less than 2	18	36
3-5	15	30
6-8	7	14
9-10	5	10
10-15	3	6
Above 15	2	4
Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data

From the above table it was observed that more than half farmers kept less than 5 animals. 10% farmers kept more than 10 milk animals due to non availability of space, small field size etc.

7. Utilisation of milk

Table No. 9 Milk Utilisation

Utilisation	No. of Respondents	%
Fully for home	14	28
Fully for sale	02	4
Partly for home consumption & partly for sale	34	68
Total	50	100

Source: Primary data

It was clear from the above table that 28 % respondents utilise the milk fully for their home consumption, 68 % respondents utilise the milk partly for home consumption & partly for getting income by selling the milk & very few farmers made full sell of the milk without home consumption.

8. Distance to market, milk collection centre & road

Table No. 10 Distance covered

Distance in k.m.	No. of Respondents	%
Less than 2km	16	32
3-5 km	19	38
6-10 km	06	12
Above 10km	9	18
Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data

Performance of the household also depends on access to infrastructure. Milk being a perishable commodity, good access to market is of paramount importance. The nearest market and road are the indicator of infrastructure. The researcher has analyzed the information on average distance to milk collection centres. Access to milk collection centres is better in the majority of the respondents (70%), the distance was only up to the 5 km. However 12 % respondents have 6-10km distance to the market & 18 % replied that market was far away by more than 10km from the milk collection centre

9. Difficulties Encountered by respondents

Table No. 11 Difficulties of Respondents

Difficulties faced	No. of Respondents	%
Marketing	13	26
Infrastructural	12	24
Disease	13	26
Feed	5	10
Any other	7	14
Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data

50% respondents face the marketing & infrastructural problems, 36% farmers face the disease & feed problem, at the same time farmers faced few challenges like unremunerative milk prices, lack of assured irrigation, labour problems, high cost of inputs, management and disease problems and lack of enough knowledge on dairy farming.

10. Reasons for preferring dairy farming

Table No. 12 Preference for dairy farming

Reason	No. of Respondents	%
Profitable business	6	12
Less investment & immediate returns	9	18
Compulsory market for sale	9	18
Milk production is better than crop production	3	6
Milk used for domestic use	12	24
Easy feed availability due to farm business	11	22
Total	50	100

Source: Primary data

Almost all the farmers were taking up the dairy activity for the consumption of milk in home. However, they preferred dairying because of easy availability of feed due to farm business. Majority of the farmers (9%) opined that dairying is a profitable business with continuous and immediate income. They also opined that at any point of time marketing is not a problem for milk.

Findings:

1. The total milk production in 10 talukas of the Sangli district was 1004.05 million tonnes during the year 2010-11.
2. 44 % respondents were belongs to the age group of 41-50 years who were continuously engaged in milk production activities on the behalf of their family members.
3. Majority of the household's were engaged in dairy farming & crop farming occupation as compared to wage earning & other services.
4. 88 % respondents were educated. There is increasing awareness of education among the milk producers.
5. 28 % respondents utilise the milk fully for their home consumption
6. 36% respondents were engaged in milk producing activities since last 10 years

7. The constraints perceived by farmers were technological, marketing, disease, feed and fodder and Environment etc.
8. Most of the respondents preferred dairy farming activities for utilisation of the milk in their home & easy feed availability due to farm business.
9. Most of the respondents have easy access to the market, milk collection centre & road. Distance was only up to the 5 km.
10. 50% respondents face the marketing & infrastructural problems while carrying dairy farming.
11. Farmers face few challenges like un-remunerative milk prices, lack of assured irrigation, labour problems, high cost of inputs, management and disease problems and lack of enough knowledge on dairy farming.

Conclusion:

The milk production contributes a lot for providing new avenues for employment, both direct and indirect, and its role in improving the nutritional standards of our Indian people also add to the importance that needs to be attached to this sector during the 21st century. The contribution of dairy animal is widely recognised. Our country is blessed with vast dairy resource. Dairy farming involves a group of interaction of many factors that influence production & reproduction, environment and management. Dairy cooperatives cover about 60,000 villages all over India and only 12-14 per cent of total milk production is chanelized through organised sector.

Concerted efforts should, therefore be directed towards unorganised dairy farmers by providing necessary inputs and make them to adopt newer milk production technologies. India has become the world's largest milk producer but its share in the world milk trade is very minimum. An attempt to identify problems of the farmers and to resolve the same for improving the export earning and higher returns to dairy farmers is the need of the globalised world.

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