

Research Paper

Economic Development of Milk Producers through Dairy Cooperatives with Special Reference to Banaskantha District

Maulik C. Prajapati*, Ashish K. Makwana, Mahendra D. Gurjar and Krupal C. Kamani

Dairy Business Management Department, SMC College of Dairy Science, Kamdhenu University, Anand, Gujarat, India

*Corresponding author: maulik.prajapati@kamdhenuuni.edu.in (ORCID ID: 0000-0002-1614-2586)

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ABSTRACT

Dairy cooperatives in rural Gujarat provide a stable source of income for millions of people. Rural inhabitants are mostly involved in farming as well as non-agricultural activities such as livestock husbandry and dairy. The Economic Development of Member Dairy Farmers through Dairy Cooperatives was examined in this study. The primary data was acquired using a convenience sampling method from 200 Members Dairy Farmers in the Banaskantha district. Data was collected using a Google form. Simple percentage approaches were utilised to do the analysis. According to the findings, the Banaskantha District Dairy Cooperative plays an essential role in the economic development of its member dairy producers. Member Dairy Farmers provide a considerable contribution to Gujarat's dairy industry, and their engagement in dairy farming is seen as a crucial instrument for increasing the standard of living of the rural community in Bansakantah District.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ① The majority of the dairy farmers were involved in animal husbandry and agriculture activities.
- ① Immovable property asset purchases increased after joining the dairy cooperatives.
- ① Dairy farmers' personal income increases after joining dairy cooperatives.
- ① After joining a dairy cooperative, a dairy farmer's economic status improved significantly.

Keywords: Dairy cooperatives, animal husbandry, economic development

With a total yearly production of 198.4 million tonnes in 2019-20, India is the world's greatest milk producer. Since 1997, India has been the world's biggest milk producer, accounting for over 20% of global milk production. Milk is worth more than the combined value of wheat and rice in the Indian agriculture and food sector. Milk accounts for about a third of rural households' overall income. The livestock sector accounts for 4% of India's GDP, with the dairy sector accounting for the majority of that. In conclusion, the Indian dairy industry plays a critical part in the Indian economy. It is an evident fact that dairy professionals play a significant part in the growth and development of the Indian dairy industry.

India is a densely populated country, with the

majority of the population residing in rural areas. In India, the majority of the population lives in villages where agriculture is the primary source of income. Aside from crop farming, animal domestication has been an element of the farming system from the dawn of time. For millions of Indian rural homes, it is a centuries-old ritual.

The bulk of them work in agriculture or animal husbandry in some capacity. Because agriculture is only seasonal, the dairy business provides off-season work, consistent income, and year-round employment to those involved in dairy-related

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activities. The livestock sector has long been an important part of Indian agriculture and has played a crucial role in the Indian economy.

Milk cooperatives play an important role in India’s milk marketing and dairy development programmes. Dairy producers’ socioeconomic condition has been successfully supported by village milk cooperatives following agriculture. In Gujarat, the cooperative dairy movement is thriving thanks to the establishment of rural milk cooperative groups. The socioeconomic condition of members is greatly influenced by these village milk cooperative groups. Members earn enough money to support their families and create jobs for all members of the family, as well as have superior marketing opportunities for their products. Dairy farmers play a critical role in society’s economic and social growth.

The present research study was carried out with the two specific objectives, To look into the demographics of milk producers and Research on Milk Producers’ Economic Development. The current research study aims to investigate the economic development of milk producers in Banaskantha District through dairy cooperatives.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research is based on both primary and secondary data. The primary data was gathered via a structured questionnaire, while the secondary data was gathered by looking through published books, reports, magazines, dissertations, articles, daily, brochures, and annual reports.

Data were acquired from 200 respondents from Banaskantha district village dairy cooperatives using the convenience sample approach. For the current study, we have contacted 20 respondents from 10 talukas Palanpur, Danta, Vadgam, Amirgadh, Dantiwada, Deesa, Dhanera, Kankrej, Diyodar, talukas of Banaskantaha District.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Demographic factors

The demographic characteristics of selected Member Dairy Farmers in Banaskantha district are discussed in the following paragraphs.

Table 1: Gender of Dairy Farmers

Gender	Respondents	Percentage
Male	148	74
Female	52	26
Total	200	100

148 (74 percent) of the 200 Member Dairy Farmers were men, while 52 (26 percent) were women. As a result, the majority of Member Dairy Farmers were male.

AGE

The age of the dairy farmer members is their completed age at the time of data collection. The age of the participants in this study is divided into three categories: 18-35 years, 36-55 years, and over 55 years. The following table shows how the members were categorised by their ages.

Table 2: Age wise classification

Sl. No.	Age (years)	Respondents	%
1	18-35	60	30
2	36-55	132	66
3	Greater than 55	8	4
	Total	200	100

The majority of respondents (66%) were between the ages of 36 and 55. Only 4% of those who responded were beyond the age of 55.

Category of the Respondents

Table 3 shows the distribution of member dairy farmers by category.

Table 3: Category-wise classification

Sl. No.	Category	Respondents	%
1	General	39	19.5
2	OBC/SEBC	136	68
3	SC/ST	25	12.5
4	Other	0	0
	Total	200	100

The researcher found that 68 percent of respondents were from the OBC/SEBC Category, 19.5% were General category and 12.5% of respondents belonged to SC/ST category.

Table 4: Educational Qualification

Educational Qualification	Respondents	Percentage
Primary (Standard 1 to Standard 7)	48	24
Secondary (Standard 8 to Standard 10)	112	56
Higher Secondary (Standard 11 to Standard 12)	30	15
Graduate	4	2
Post Graduate	0	0
Illiterates	6	3
Total	200	100

Out of 200 respondents, 112 (56 %) Member Dairy Farmers have Secondary (Standard 8 to Standard 10) education, 48 (24 %) respondents have Primary (Standard 1 to Standard 7) qualification, while only 30 (15%) respondents have Higher Secondary (Standard 11 to Standard 12) education.

Table 5: Type of Family

Type of Family	Respondents	Percentage
Joint	173	86.5
Nuclear	27	13.5
Total	200	100

Out of 200 respondents, 173 (86.5 %) Member Dairy Farmers belong to joint families and the remaining 27 (13.5%) belong to nuclear families. Thus, a majority of the Member Dairy Farmers belong to Joint families.

Table 6: Occupation

Occupation	Respondents	Percentage
Only dairying/Animal husbandry	16	8
Animal Husbandry + Agriculture	177	88.5
Animal Husbandry + service	1	0.5
Animal Husbandry + Agriculture + service	2	1
Animal Husbandry + Any other business	4	2
Other	0	0
Total	200	100

In regard to occupation, 177 (88.5%) Member Dairy Farmers are involved in Animal Husbandry and Agriculture business, 16 (8 %) are involved in only

dairying/Animal husbandry activities while only 4 (2%) are involved in Animal Husbandry and any other business. Thus, a majority of the Member Dairy Farmers are involved in Animal Husbandry and Agriculture activity.

Table 7: Monthly Income

Monthly Income	Respondents	Percentage
≤ 10000 ₹	14	7
10001 ₹ to 20000 ₹	90	45
20001 ₹ to 50000 ₹	82	41
Above 50000 ₹	14	7
Total	200	100

The monthly income of 14 (7 %) Member Dairy Farmers are less than 10000, that of 90 (45 %) from ₹ 10001 to ₹ 20000 and that of 82 (50.5%) from 20001 to ₹ 50000. Thus, the monthly income of most of the Member Dairy Farmers from 1000 to 50000.

Table 8: Animal Holding

Animal Holding	Respondents	Percentage
≤ 2	5	2.5
3-4	19	9.5
5-6	78	39
7- 8	37	18.5
> 8	61	30.5
Total	200	100

Above table indicate that 5 (2.5 %) Member Dairy Farmers had less than 2 animals, 19 (9.5%) had 3-4 animals, .78 (39%) had 5-6 animals, 37 (18.5%) had 7-8 animals while 61 (30.5%) Member Dairy Farmers had more than 8 animals.

We surveyed member dairy producers about their economic development after they started dairy farming. Out of the 200 people who took part in the survey, 71.5 percent said they had increased their immovable property asset purchases, 49 percent said they had access to family resources, 84 percent said they had increased their personal income, 96 percent said they had a savings account in a bank, 65.5 percent said they had personal insurance to meet future demands, and 86.5 percent said they had confidence in financial trading. It demonstrates that the majority of respondents agreed that dairy farming helped their financial situation.

Table 9: Opinion of Respondents on their Economic Empowerment

Selected Indicators	Increased	%	Remained Same	%	Decreased	%
Purchase of immovable asset in own name	143	71.5	39	19.5	18	9
Access to family resources	98	49	57	28.5	45	22.5
Personal Income	168	84	23	11.5	9	4.5
Savings account in bank	192	96	6	3	2	1
Personal insurance	131	65.5	47	23.5	22	11
Confidence in financial transactions	173	86.5	22	11	5	2.5

CONCLUSION

Dairy co-operatives provide various sorts of help to member dairy farmers in order to improve their socio-economic situation in their specific region. The dairy cooperative is making a substantial contribution to the overall growth of its members. Personal income, the purchase of immovable properties, access to family resources, personal insurance, and trust in financial transactions all rose after joining the dairy cooperative, according to the study. It demonstrates the importance of dairy cooperatives in the economic development of dairy producers in Banaskantha District. The dairy cooperative is also assisting dairy farmers in raising awareness about health, cleanliness, and education.

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