



A Study On The Problems Faced By Dairy Farmers

Dr.SEREENA.A, Assistant professor, Mannaniya college of Arts&science pangode

ABSTRACT

Dairy enterprise is considered a “treasure” of the Indian economy, particularly for rural systems. It provides nutrition, animal power, organic manure, supplementary income, employment, cash income, and a „cushion“ for the Indian economy. The sector involves millions of poor farmers, for whom animal ownership ensures critical livelihood, sustainable farming, and economic stability. Dairying in the recent decades has been considered a vital component in the diversification of Indian agriculture, where crop farming is best with stagnating growth and low absorption of unskilled agricultural labourers. In order to alleviate the problem of unemployment or under-employment and to maintain domestic tranquillity.

Key words: *dairy farmers, socio economic conditions, Amul organic manure, Unemployment*

INTRODUCTION

Dairying is an important supportive occupation to millions of poor families in India. Many of these families opt for dairy farming as it offers economic, food and social security to them. It is a valuable tool for poverty eradication, employment generation and social change. The dairy sector provides a channel of upward mobility for those on the bottom rungs of the socio- economic ladder leading to large-scale voluntary income distribution without conflict or confrontation, as milk flows from low to high-income groups and money in the reverse direction. It also acts as a cushion against increasing disparity in income distribution in rural areas. The Indian dairy industry has developed since 1970, when operation Flood, a rural development programme, was launched. It is a dairy development programme inspired by the Amul Model and implemented by the National Dairy Development Board. The program was producer oriented, people cantered and holistic program emphasizing integrated Development of all important facets of dairy industry.

The present study is on the problems faced by dairy farmers in milk industry , with special reference to Thiruvananthapuram district, including the socio-economic and agricultural-related issues that affect their livelihood. The study will explore the challenges related to input availability, marketing, credit, technology adoption, and other factors that impact dairy farming in the region. By identifying these problems, this study hopes to contribute to the development of strategies and interventions that can support dairy farmers in Thiruvananthapuram district and improve their overall well-being.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A dairy is a business enterprise established for the harvesting or processing (or both) of animal milk mostly from cows and goats for human consumption. A dairy farmer is someone who owns or manages a farm where cows are raised for the production of milk and other dairy products. These farmers are involved in a wide range of activities for the purpose of increasing milk production.

The problem of social economic conditions of dairy formers encompasses various challenges they face in their livelihoods Dairy farmers. Often experience fluctuating income due to volatile Milk prices and production costs. Many farmers incur debt for instrument in infrastructure or livestock, leading to financial strain. To access the effectiveness of government incentives and subsidies in supporting dairy farmers, including their impact on production efficiency, sustainability practices, and economic viability. Credit facilities for dairy farmers are crucial for supporting their operations and growth. These facilities typically includes loans tailored to purchase cattle, equipment, feed, or for infrastructure development like burns or milking parlours. The Kerala currently represent the twelfth largest dairy market in India. Dairying is a major subsidiary occupation for the Farmers of Kerala. But present day dairying is faced with a number of challenges.

This study mainly aims to study the problems faced by the farmers in dairy industry with special reference to Thiruvananthapuram based on the data collected from the dairy farmers

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The current and expected growth of the world's population warrants an increased production of high-quality animal protein. Dairy farming is regarded as one of the important ways of satisfying this need to meet the growing demand for milk, especially in developing countries. And on the other hand dairy farming is an important way for farmers to increase their earnings and access to more nutritious food for their families. While subsistence dairy farming provides not only fresh milk and a source of basic income, but also value added products such as yogurt and cheese Which provide a higher source of revenue. Government of India has adopted operation flood programme. This include the gross production of milk and milk contained products, to develop hybrid animal which will prove helpful to milk products and develop horticulture related projects, these are some of the aims behinds operation flood programme. This programme is implemented only through cooperative societies. But it is the fact that the farmers in milk industry are not much satisfied with their business. Hence the present study is designed to study the various problems faced by farmers in milk industry with special reference to Thiruvananthapuram district. In the process, the study would enlighten the potential solutions. Hence present study was an attempt in this direction with following specific objectives.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- ❖ To study the socio-economic conditions of the farmers in kerala
- ❖ To check whether the incentives and subsidies provided by the government reaches to the farmers.
- ❖ To analysis credit facilities provided by the Government to improve dairy industry.
- ❖ To study the main problems faced by the dairy farmers in Kerala

HYPOTHESIS

I. H0: There is no significant difference between socio economic conditions of farming.

H1: There is a significant difference between Socio economic conditions of farming.

II. H0: There is no significant difference between age groups and problems faced by dairy farmers.

H1: There is a significant difference between age groups and problems faced by dairy farmers.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study investigates the problems faced by dairy farmers in Trivandrum district, focusing on socio-economic conditions, government incentives and subsidies, credit facilities, and associated challenges. It examines gender, age, income, and expenditure patterns to understand economic viability. The study assesses awareness and utilization of government incentives, evaluates their effectiveness, and identifies gaps in the incentive structure. It also investigates credit facilities, including availability, accessibility, and utilization, and identifies problems faced in accessing them. The study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the problems faced by dairy farmers in Trivandrum district and contribute to the development of targeted interventions and policy measures to support the dairy farming sector. This study focuses on the problems of farmers in milk industry with special reference to Thiruvananthapuram district, by covering 100 farmers in the district. The data were collected from primary as well as secondary data.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Designing a suitable methodology and selection of effective analytical tools are important for a meaningful analysis of any research problem. In this study the information is obtained from the primary and secondary source of data.

Primary Data

Primary data means first hand information. Primary data relating to various aspects of the study have been collected from 100 sample respondents with the help of a structured questionnaire. The study is mainly based on primary data collected from the selected cattle farmers of Thiruvananthapuram district. A well structured questionnaire has been developed and used for data collection. The opinions are collected using structured questionnaire. The secondary were collected from magazines, journals, books, related websites etc.

Population

A sample of 100 cattle farmers has been selected proportionally from different Areas to understand their favourableness or unfavourable problems that are faced due price change and other factors.

Sample Design

The study is empirical in nature. Data are collected through survey using closed ended questions in the form of a questionnaire to know the problems faced by Dairy farmers with special reference to Trivandrum district.

Sample size

Sample size taken for the study is 100 dairy farmers in Thiruvananthapuram district are conveniently selected. Thus, the method of sampling is convenient sampling method.

Tools for data collection

The main tool for data collection was structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was pretested before the survey.

Tools for analysis of data

Analysis techniques are used to obtain findings and arrange information in a logical sequence from the raw data collected. The collected data are analysed using SPSS software. For analysis 6 various descriptive statistical tools such as averages, percentages etc. were used. For inferential analysis, ANOVA was used. Tools like tables, pie charts and diagrams are used to explain the relationship between variables and for the analysis to arrive at a conclusion.

LIMITATIONS

- On the ground of maintaining secrecy, some respondents were reluctant to provide needed information.
- This study is limited to Trivandrum district

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This chapter aims at exploring detailed information on major domains of the dissertation topic by reviewing past research, books and related articles. The current technological advancements allow us to employ several ways to design the online content. It is very important to consider the preferences and perception of learners while designing the online courses to make the learning effective and productive. Preference of the learner is related to the readiness or willingness of the learner to participate in collaborative learning and the factors influencing the readiness for online learning. In the section to follow, summaries the learning from the review of related literature.

Gamit, Odedra, ahlawad, prajapathi, patel, and gamit (2021): in this study entitled that "Constraints Faced by Dairy Farmers in Different States of India ". This study revealed that to identify and summarize the various constraints faced by dairy farmers in different regions of India. Data was collected from various source, including research articles, reports, and studies. The major finding in this study was poor irrigation facilities, delayed veterinary services, inadequate disease knowledge. The suggestions in this study was Improve milk prices and marketing facilities, Support dairy farmers with subsidies and credit facilities.

Mahesh, manjunath, Amareshkumar, satishkumar kale, UmeshBarikar, and sreenivas (2020): This study was entitled that "socio – economic profile analysis of dairy farmers in Trivandrum district of Kerala region" they study revealed that Dairy farming plays an important role in social and economic livelihood of the farmers. They findings majority (87%) of farmers had animal husbandry and agriculture as their main occupation and majority 66 % of farmers belonged to nuclear families. The suggested improve extension services and training for dairy farmers.

Wambuiphyllis, cephasodini (2020): in this study entitled that "Access to and use of information on credit facilities by farmers in kiambu county. This study revealed that to investigate the information needs of farmers in Kiambu County regarding credit facilities, and how they access and use this information. In this study was data collected from face-to -face interviews and semi – structured questionnaires. The major finding was credit from cooperatives is flexible and may feature loans in kind. Suggestion in this study was improve access to information on credit facilities for farmers.

Ongwech, Christopher, Lenox, adhiambo (2020): in this study entitled that "Determinants of credit Access among smallholder Dairy farmers in kinangop sub -county, Kenya". This study revealed that to analyse the determinants of credit access among smallholder dairy farmers in kinangop sub – county using a binary logistic regression model. Methodology in this study was descriptive survey research design. This study Finding was average household size was 4 members per household. Suggestion in this study was formulating policies to enhance educational attainment of farmers.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**Socio-Economic Profile**

The demographic variables considered under this analysis are Age Gender, Educational qualification and Monthly income. The socio-economic profiles give details of respondent's subjective life which itself is a key factor for analysing the data.

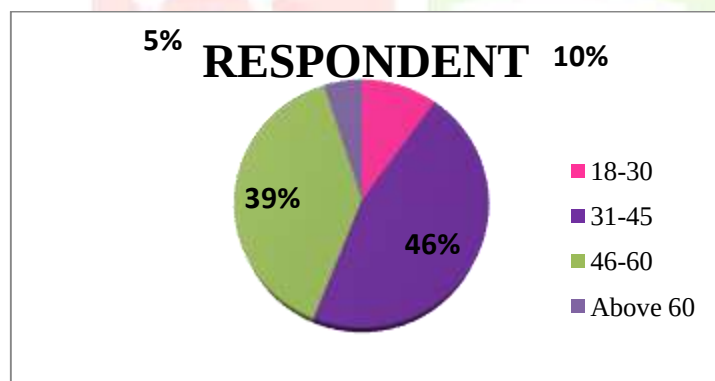
AGE WISE CLASSIFICATION

Age	Respondents	Percentage
18-30	10	10
31-45	46	46
46-60	39	39
Above 60	5	5
Total	100	100

Source: Primary Data

Interpretation

The table 4.1 shows that the age wise classification of respondents, majority 46 percent were in the group between 31-45 years, 39 percent of the respondents were in the group of 46-60, 10 percent were in between 18-30 years, 5 percent were in above 60 years old.

Age wise classification**SOCIO ECONOMIC FACTORS OF DAIRY FARMERS**

This part analysis the opinion of various socio economic factors affects dairy farmers. For the purpose 5 factors relating to dairy farmers influences on socio economic conditions and opinion of the sample is recorded as agreement on a 5-point scale ranging from 1 for Strongly agree, 2 for Agree, 3 for Neutral, 4 for Disagree and 5 for Strongly disagree. The following table illustrate the mean and standard deviation for the selected variables.

HYPOTHESIS I

Null Hypothesis: There is no significant difference between socio economic conditions of farming.

Socio economic factors of dairy farmers

Areas	Mean	Standard deviation	t value	P value
Economic conditions	3.40	1.141	3.489	0.001
Demand	3.31	1.084	2.846	0.005
Standard of living	3.28	1.218	2.288	0.024
Environmental concerns	2.33	1.078	-6.276	<0.001**
Cultural background	2.67	1.167	-2.813	0.006

The mean values, ranging from 2.33 to 3.40, reveal varying levels of agreement among farmers regarding the importance of different factors related to socio-economic conditions. Notably, maintaining a positive relationship between economic conditions and other factors (mean = 3.40) and boosting environmental concerns with other factors (mean = 3.33) have the highest mean values, indicating strong agreement among dairy farmers. Demand and other factors (mean = 3.31) and standard of living (mean = 3.28) also have relatively high mean values, showing moderate to strong agreement. In contrast, cultural background (mean = 2.67) has the lowest mean value, indicating relatively weak agreement among dairy farmers on its importance in relation to socio-economic conditions.

Since p value is less than 0.01, null hypothesis is rejected at 1% level with regards to variables of economic conditions (0.001), environmental concerns (0.001), demand (0.005) .

*Since p valueless than 0.05, null hypothesis is rejected at 5% level with regard to variables of standard of living (0.024) and cultural background (0.006)

PROBLEMS FACED BY DAIRY FARMERS

This part analyses the opinion of various dairy farmers classified based on the age regarding their rating in problems faced by dairy farmers. For the purpose 5 factors relating to dairy farmers influences on problems faced by dairy farmers and opinion of the sample is recorded as agreement on a 5-point scale ranging from 5 for Strongly agree, 4 for Agree, 3 for Neutral, 2for Disagree and 1 for Strongly disagree. The following table illustrate the Mean and Standard deviation for the selected variables.

Problems faced by dairy farmers

Areas		Mean	Std. Deviation
Low credit facilities	18-35	3.50	1.179
	36-45	3.65	1.120
	46-60	3.85	1.089
	Above 60	3.40	1.140
	Total	3.70	1.106
Marketing	18-35	2.90	1.287
	36-45	3.46	1.149
	46-60	3.59	.818
	Above 60	2.80	1.095
	Total	3.42	1.056
Storage	18-35	3.00	1.414
	36-45	3.28	1.109
	46-60	3.05	1.234
	Above 60	2.20	1.643
	Total	3.11	1.222
Storage	18-35	3.00	1.414
	36-45	3.28	1.109
	46-60	3.05	1.234
	Above 60	2.20	1.643
	Total	3.11	1.222
High maintenance cost	18-35	4.00	.667
	36-45	3.80	1.088
	46-60	3.72	.944
	Above 60	3.60	.894
	Total	3.78	.980
Low earnings	18-35	4.00	1.155
	36-45	3.35	1.215
	46-60	3.51	1.254
	Above 60	3.40	1.342
	Total	3.48	1.227

Source : primary data

From table 4.14 it is clear that all the mean scores for the “High maintenance cost” shows the value greater than 4 for all the experience levels. Most of the dairy farmers face problems are “High maintenance cost”. The problems factors include low credit facilities, marketing, storage, High maintenance cost, low earnings.

4.3 HYPOTHESIS TEST RESULT

H0: There is no significant difference between age groups and problems faced by dairy farmers.

H1: There is a significant difference between age groups and problems faced by dairy farmers.

For testing the hypothesis, we use ANOVA which means analysis of variance. It is a statistical method that separates observed variance data into different components to use for additional tests. A one-way ANOVA is used for three or more groups of data, to gain information about the relationship between the dependent and independent variables. The following are the hypothesis test result of the study:

Rating level – Problems related factors of dairy farmers**ANOVA – PROBLEMS RELATED FACTORS**

		Sum of square	Mean square	F value	P value
Low credit facilities	Between group	1.788	.596	.480	.697
	Within group	119.212	1.242		
	Total	121.000			
Marketing	Between group	5.811	1.937	1.779	.156
	Within group	104.549	1.089		
	Total	110.360			
Storage	Between group	5.766	1.922	1.299	.279
	Within group	142.024	1.479		
	Total	147.790			
High maintenance cost	Between group	.823	.274	.279	.840
	Within group	94.337	.983		
	Total	95.160			
Low earnings	Between group	3.582	1.194	.788	.503
	Within group	145.378	1.514		
	Total	148.960			

FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The present study is an attempt to analyse the problems faced by dairy farmers with special reference to Thiruvananthapuram district. In this era various problems faced by the dairy farmers. Samples of 100 dairy farmers in Trivandrum district to analyse the problems Faced dairy farmers. Following are the major findings of the study after analysis.

- The majority of the respondents (46%) are between 31-45 years old, indicating that this age group is the most active in the dairy farming sector.

- The majority of dairy farmers in Thiruvananthapuram district are male (71%), indicating a dominant presence in the sector.
- The majority of dairy farmers (49%) have a Secondary Level qualification, indicating that many have completed their secondary education but may not have pursued higher education.
- Almost half of the dairy farmers (49%) in Thiruvananthapuram district have a family income of less than Rs.20, 000, indicating a significant proportion of small-scale or marginal farmers.
- Explore financing options and credit programs specifically designed for dairy farmers to overcome financial constraints and invest in their operations.
- Implement robust quality control measures to ensure consistency and excellence in dairy products and meet market demands.
- Develop pricing strategies that can help mitigate the impact of price fluctuations, such as value-added products or loyalty programs.
- Develop effective recruitment and retention strategies to attract and retain skilled workers and reduce labour shortages.
- Invest in animal health management programs to prevent and control diseases and health issues among dairy cows.
- Proper guidance and modern techniques should be provided to dairy producers to enhance the productivity and profitability of dairy farming.
- Government and Non-governmental agencies should organize various workshops, and seminars to make dairy workers aware about modern dairy farming practices, tools and technologies.
- It is suggested that women involved in dairy farming should be given free access to the education and training provided by dairy co-operatives.

CONCLUSION

Dairy enterprise is considered a “treasure” of the Indian economy, particularly for rural systems. While study various problems faced by farmers in milk industry with reference to Thiruvananthapuram district we can conclude that most of the farmers still stick on to dairy farming due to the mental satisfaction they are attain from the business. The price hike of milk by Kerala government had not made much advantage to the farmers. The governments have to take further initiatives for the sake of farmers and must provide them with adequate incentives and subsidies for improving their farming .Otherwise we will lose our future generation from doing dairy farming.

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