



AgEcon SEARCH
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

Subject III

Livestock Economy

Rapporteur: Prem S. Vashishtha*

Themes on regional variations in livestock composition, income and employment generation through dairy activity, etc., have received enough attention. There were only few papers on the Eastern and the North-Eastern regions. The themes, which did not receive enough attention, are:

- WTO and related issues,
- Concern of hill and backward areas, and
- Gender perspective.

Among the livestock, small ruminants did not receive much attention in the papers discussed in this section. A lively discussion took place on several issues listed below. The following suggestions/recommendations emerged in the discussion.

(a) Pattern and Change in Composition of Livestock

The analysis of regional variations in the composition of livestock and changes therein need to go beyond interpretation of numbers *per se*. The researchers need to look at the crop and livestock system in an integrated manner for an in-depth understanding of the changes in the composition of livestock across regions.

(b) Innovative Institutions:

Dairy activity has certain special features, viz., (a) perishable nature of the product (milk); and (b) the participation by a large number of small producers. Because of its perishable nature, the existence of supply chain is a pre-condition for its success. A provision for bulk coolers at the village level and its link with chilling/process plant is essential for an efficient marketing and distribution network. The small producers who sell milk are often not organised to obtain a reasonable share in market price. Even as members of the milk co-operative society, they do not necessarily get the remunerative price for their product due to lack of professional management of these societies. The present co-operative system has not fully succeeded in many areas of the country for various reasons. An alternative institutional set up is required to overcome the deficiencies in the governance of the existing co-operative model. Institutions like Producers' company or New Generation co-operatives combining the features of the co-operative system and that of a

* Director, Agricultural Economics Research Centre, University of Delhi, Delhi - 110 007.

company needs to be promoted in the areas not covered by the co-operatives or areas where co-operatives are not working efficiently. This institutional structure may become an effective instrument for improving the not so efficient existing co-operatives and empowering the women as well.

(c) *Infrastructural Support*

Cattle markets are virtually non-existent in most regions. The revenue generated through cattle fairs may be ploughed back for developing infrastructure for trading of livestock.

(d) *Fodder Banks*

Not only there exists an overall shortage of feed and fodder in most parts of the country, nutritional imbalances in normal feed of livestock are common. Seasonal and spatial shortages aggravate feed availability in many pockets of the country. In order to mitigate this hardship, development of fodder banks at the local level at strategic locations is imperative. Dry fodder may be converted into feed blocks and stored. Local entrepreneurs may be trained for making feed blocks. Self-Help Groups (SHGs), NGOs, and small entrepreneurs may be encouraged to step into this area.

(e) *Delivery of Quality Concentrate*

Delivery of quality concentrate is a serious constraint even in a developed region like Punjab. Private traders sell poor quality of concentrate at lower price than the one offered by the co-operatives. Awareness needs to be created among the farmers against spurious or low quality concentrate. The institutional structures suggested in (b) are relevant to the delivery of concentrate and certain animal health services as well.

(f) *Genetic Stock*

In order to conserve the indigenous genetic stock in the home tracts of the respective breeds, suitable policy measures may be taken.

(g) *Trade*

g.1. Barriers on inter-state movement and trade of cattle add to transaction costs significantly. The barriers may be done away with.

g.2. Since the international trade in livestock products is highly distorted on account of domestic support and export subsidies in many developed exporting countries (e.g. U.S.A., EU, etc.), there is a need to protect the domestic producers and efficient processors through appropriate measures like import duties. This needs to be supplemented by food safety measures in the domestic market. Simultaneously, India needs to have a forward-looking policy for exploiting the potential of exports to regions deficit in livestock products (particularly meat) in the countries of Asia, Africa and the Middle East.