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**CAPACITY STRENGTHENING/BUILDING AND PARTNERSHIP FOR
ENHANCED ANIMAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVISION AND
DEVELOPMENT IN ETHIOPIA**



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Milk production enhancement activities through milk cooperatives of Ethiopia: An explorative study

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Abstract

The Federal Government of Ethiopia has identified Cooperative form of business organizations as an instrument of socio-economic change. Many Cooperatives have emerged in the recent past to serve the suppressed and depressed community of Ethiopia. Due to the encouragement given by the present government, there were 4039 Agricultural Cooperatives and 3338 Non-agricultural cooperatives in Ethiopia as on the last day of September, 2003. The Milk and Milk Marketing Cooperatives in Ethiopia are spreading at a significant level. As on date we have 42 Milk and Milk Marketing Cooperatives and one Dairy Marketing Union in the Oromia region. Cattle population in Ethiopia are around 41,527,142 in the year 1994 EC. The abundant cattle population in Ethiopia is underutilized both for milk and for meat. Considering the topography of the country the scope for Cooperative Milk marketing Network is ample. Hence, in this paper the researchers are trying to identify the potential of Milk Cooperatives in the milk production enhancement activities. The major objectives are the study are to frame a model for milk marketing in Ethiopia and to suggest the possible milk production enhancement activities. The study was carried out with secondary data only. In spite of the fact that Ethiopia possesses huge bovine stock, the milk consumption is very low. The demand for milk is rising rapidly due to urbanization and rise in level of income. Hence, the authors advocate the establishment of Milk Cooperatives. Though Ethiopia has the potential and opportunities to start milk cooperatives, farmers have not yet risen to the occasion. The development of milk cooperatives in the Oromia region with one Dairy Union is worth mentioning. The milk cooperatives are collecting and marketing the milk of their farmers. The Cooperatives are trying to supply cattle feed to the farmers. Effective functioning of milk cooperatives is possible in Ethiopia if we adopt the Structure and functions of successful Anand Model of

India. The package of Milk Production Enhancement Activities through Cooperatives, on effective implementation, would certainly make a significant change in the socio economic life of rural mass of Ethiopia. At the same time the urban consumers will also get good milk and milk products at a fair price

Introduction

A Cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise.

The people of Ethiopia have got a very long social history of working together to fulfill their socio-economic needs. Agriculture, Trade and Military Operations were carried out through cooperative efforts. Many social events are still taking place in rural Ethiopia through collective effort. The Federal Government of Ethiopia has identified Cooperative form of business organizations as an instrument of socio-economic change. Many Cooperatives have emerged in the recent past to serve the suppressed and depressed community of Ethiopia. Due to the encouragement given by the present government, there were 4039 Agricultural Cooperatives and 3338 Non-agricultural cooperatives in Ethiopia as on the last day of September, 2003.

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Objectives of the research

The major objectives of the study were:

- to frame a model for milk marketing in Ethiopia
- to suggest the possible milk production enhancement activities

Methodology of the study

The study was carried out with secondary data only. To justify the first objective current status of Milk and Milk Marketing Cooperatives were taken in to consideration. Then the cattle population was also considered for determining the potential for starting more milk cooperatives. The second objective was analyzed by taking in to consideration the Indian experience. The attempt lacks primary empirical evidences. The authors feel that this modest attempt can become a basis for further research and development.

Findings of the study

The findings of the study was made in accordance with the objectives framed viz., Model for Milk Marketing in Ethiopia, Milk Production Enhancement Activities through Cooperatives.

Model for milk marketing in Ethiopia

Cattle play a significant role in the economic life of rural Ethiopia. They have remained as the keystone of Ethiopian farming since time immemorial. Cattle remain as the sole motive power of agriculture and without them no cultivation is possible and no produce could be transported. They provide much need milk and milk products. The following table indicates the bovine population of Ethiopia. Regional disparities noticed in the figure needed not be taken seriously since area is limited in those regions where cattle are less. Oromia and Amahara regions are having high population with 43 and 25 percentages to total respectively. The Tigray and SNNP also have six and 21 percentages to total respectively.

Table 1 Livestock Number and Location 1994EC

Sl.#	Region	Cattle	Percentage to total
1	Tigray	2,668,078	6.43
2	Afar	346,635	0.83
3	Amahara	10,512,770	25.31
4	Oromia	18,035,686	43.43
5	Somali	612,320	1.23
6	Behshangul Gumuz	309,627	0.75
7	SNNP	8,831,450	21.27
8	Gambela	120,98	0.30
9	Harari	34,008	0.08
10	Addisabaha	67,215	0.23
11	Diredawa	54,155	0.13
12	Ethiopia Total	41,527,142	100

Source: CSA Ethiopian Agricultural Sample Enumeration, 2001/02(1004EC)

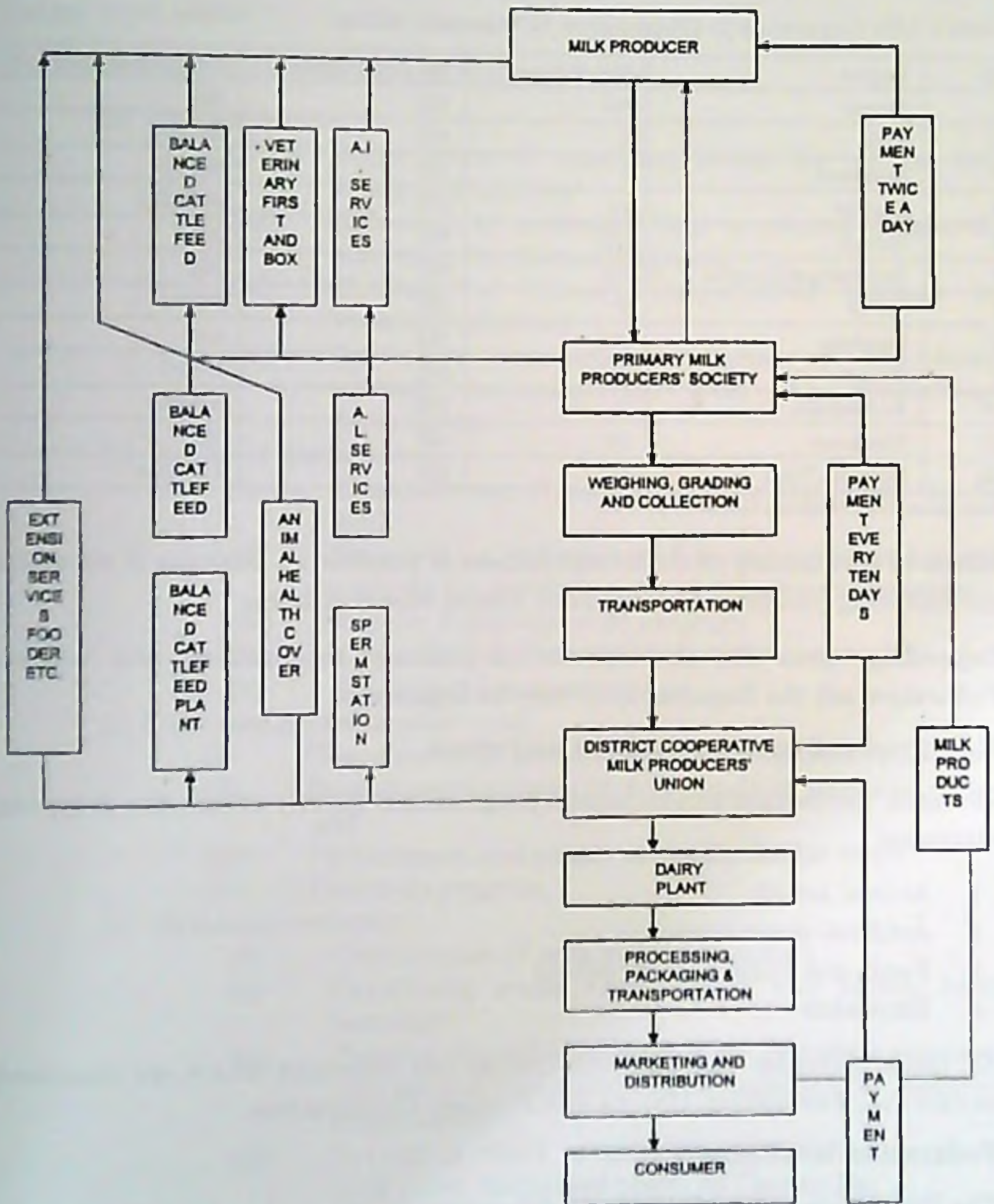
In spite of the fact that Ethiopia possesses huge bovine stock the milk consumption is very low. The demand for milk is rising rapidly due to urbanization and rise in level of income. Hence, the authors advocate the establishment of Milk Cooperatives. Milk Cooperatives are for improving the economic lot of the large number of small farmers and agricultural laborers. In a mixed farm, crop production and dairy development mutually contribute and would result in added income to the subsistence farmer. Widespread unemployment and underemployment also presents a strong case for the adoption of dairy farming and mixed farming to mitigate this problem.

Despite the potentialities and prevailing opportunities the progress and performance of dairy cooperatives is far from satisfactory. The dairy industry in Ethiopia suffers from the following problem:

- Too many milch animals producing too little milk have been the problem of Ethiopian dairy industry. Unless the lactation yield of Ethiopian bovine animals is improved there is no hope of developing dairy industry on sound and economic lines.
- Dairy industry is highly unorganized and substantially in the hands of private traders
- Dairy industry in Ethiopia is less modernized and consequently less efficient with high cost of operation.

Milk Cooperatives in Ethiopia gives a better hope to the planners and it will be a strong movement in the years to come. The following table gives the status of Milk cooperatives in Ethiopia.

The above table indicates the poor status of milk cooperatives. Though Ethiopia has the potential and opportunities to start milk cooperatives, farmers have not yet risen to the occasion. The development of milk cooperatives in the Oromia region with one Dairy Union is worth mentioning. The milk cooperatives are collecting and marketing the milk of its farmers. The Cooperatives are trying to supply cattle feed to the farmers. They face the problem of marketing during the fasting months. They need to go a long way in procurement of milk on quality and quantity basis, processing of milk in to milk products like powder, butter, cheese, ghee, standardized and pasteurized milk, and marketing the same in their own outlets.



Source: Milk Procurement and Technical Input Manual, National Dairy Development Board, Anand, 1988

Figure 1. Cooperative Milk Producers Organization and Patterns

Table 2. Milk Cooperatives in Ethiopia as on 30 September, 2003m

Sl.	Region	No. of Coops	No. of Members	Total asset(ETB)
1	Tigray	Nil	Nil	Nil
2	Afar	2	NA	26160
3	Amahara	6	NA	62387
4	Oromia	23	676	1052218
5	Somali	Nil	Nil	Nil
6	Behahangul G umuz	Nil	Nil	Nil
7	SNNP	3	NA	80870
8	Gambela	Nil	Nil	Nil
9	Harari	2	Nil	87000
10	Addisababa	7	308	440968
11	Diredawa	Nil	Nil	Nil
12	Ethiopia Total	42	NA	1749603

Source: Records of Federal Cooperative Commission, Addis Ababa

Effective functioning of milk cooperatives is possible in Ethiopia if we adopt the following Structure of successful Anand Model of India:

Depending upon the development of primary cooperatives and unions, Federation at the Regional level may be organized.

Milk production enhancement activities

The milk production enhancement programmes mainly covers the following activities:

1. Animal health
2. Artificial insemination
3. Feeds and Fodder Development
4. Extension

All these activities can be controlled by the structure which we discussed earlier viz., Federation, Unions and Primary Cooperatives.

Federation level input

The Federation can undertake the following activities:

1. Central diagnostic laboratory
2. Frozen semen production and supply
3. Liquid nitrogen production and delivery
4. Centralized publication units

Union level input

The Unions can undertake the following activities:

(a) *Animal health:*

- (i) Organization of veterinary routes for regular and emergency services
- (ii) Extension of necessary help to central diagnostic laboratory for disease diagnosis
- (iii) Training of Primary Cooperatives' workers in Veterinary first aid
- (iv) Preventive vaccination/inoculation of the dairy animals in cooperation with the government departments

(b) *Artificial insemination:*

- (i) Establishment of semen banks for organizing the AI work
- (ii) Procurement and storage of frozen semen and liquid nitrogen for regular supply to primary cooperatives
- (iii) Regular follow-up on AI program
- (iv) Organization of sterility/infertility camps
- (v) Training of lay-inseminators

(c) *Feeds and fodder development:*

- (i) Organization of feed and fodder development program
- (ii) Production/procurement and supply of balanced cattle feed
- (iii) Procurement and supply of quality fodder seeds
- (iv) Follow-up program

(c) *Extension activities:*

- (i) Organization of milk yield competition
- (ii) Organizing audio visual shows and kabele level meetings
- (iii) Helping the publication unit by providing required information and distribution materials to member cooperatives
- (iv) Arranging visits of producer members to union's milk plant, cattle feed plant, AI Center, etc.
- (v) Establishment of demonstration dairy farms and fodder farms.

Primary cooperative level inputs

The primary milk cooperative at kabele level can extend the following inputs cover to the dairy farmers:

(a) Animal Health:

- (i) To provide veterinary first aid in the kabele
- (ii) To assist the milk union in preventive vaccination and inoculation

(b) Artificial Insemination:

- (i) To carry out artificial insemination as and when required
- (ii) To help maintain proper recording of artificial insemination
- (iii) To extend help to milk producers for identification of animals for ear tagging
- (iv) To follow-up AI activity, pregnancy diagnosis, and its feed back

(c) Feed and Fodder Development

- (i) To procure and supply quality balanced cattle feed from the milk union
- (ii) To demonstrate improved fodder cultivation
- (iii) To procure and supply quality fodder seeds to farmers

Implementation strategies

After reviewing the strategies adopted by the Indian cooperative dairy industry, the authors advocate the following suitable implementation strategies for Ethiopia:

- There must be a national level program like Operation Flood program of India.
- The financial needs can be met from the sale of material assistance received in the form of milk and milk products, and ploughing back the funds for the development activities
- The major factor for the success of cooperative dairy industry is Professionalisation of management. Appointment of veterinarians in all endeavors is recommended
- The movement should be under an independent National body established and patronized by the Federal Government.

Conclusion

The advent of the dairying has been a boon for dairy farmers, but it has been of particular importance to those segments of the society that have been traditionally weak. These are the small landholders, the landless laborers, and women. It has provided people, who could only depend on payments from small seasonal crops or from occasional labor, with a year round source of

income. The package of Milk Production Enhancement Activities through Cooperatives presented above, on effective implementation, would certainly make a significant change in the socio-economic life of rural mass of Ethiopia. At the same time the urban consumers will also get good milk and milk products at a fair price

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