



**National Workshop on
Dairy Cooperatives in Contemporary
Setting : Issues and Strategies
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ABSTRACTS

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Milk Cooperatives In Kerala: Issues and Strategies

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Abstract

In the state of Kerala, as on date 2702 primary Milk Producers Cooperative Societies were in operation with the membership of 7.78 lakhs. The milk cooperatives in Kerala are functioning with three-tier structure. Primary cooperatives are affiliated to three Regional Cooperative Milk Producers Unions. The apex institution is Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (KCMMF), popularly called Milma was established in April, 1980 with its Head Office at Thiruvananthapuram. The individual milk producers and the institutional cooperative network in Kerala are facing many problems though there are prospects for the industry.

Mostly milk producers in Kerala are landless agricultural labourers or small and marginal farmers. Mushrooming growth of commercial ventures and connivance of real estate mafia caused land alienation of the hitherto farmers. Of late with the small plot of land rearing one or two milch animals becomes a Herculean task. The study reveals the following factors that adversely influence the cost of milk production:

1. Absence of grazing land and fodder cultivation
2. Scarcity of dry grass/paddy straws
3. Every increasing cost of cattle feed
4. Poor Animal Health Care
5. Inadequate Risk Management
6. Occupational Mobility of farming community
7. Structural and Operational setbacks of milk cooperatives

Though there are quite good number of problems exists the sector is having high prospects because of the Transformation of Homestead farming to commercial farming

The ever increasing demand for milk drove the Government of Kerala to evolve a policy last month (February 2010) to ensure better price for both farmers and consumers.

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