



P-ISSN: 2349-8528  
 E-ISSN: 2321-4902  
 IJCS 2017; 5(3): 805-808  
 © 2017 JEZS  
 Received: 19-03-2017  
 Accepted: 20-04-2017

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## International Journal of Chemical Studies

# Dairy based farming system models for livelihood security of small and marginal farmers of N-E Karnataka

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### Abstract

Farming system is an integrated set of activities that farmers perform in their farms under their resources and circumstances to maximize the productivity and net farm income on a sustainable basis. The present study has been taken up to assess the potentialities of dairy based farming systems models for increasing farm income, employment through reallocation of resources in farming system during 2012-14 (2 years) at Main Agricultural Research Station (MARS), Raichur of N-E Karnataka. The results proved that, dairy based farming system helped to increase in net farm income, employment, nutritional value and livelihood of small and marginal farm family.

**Keywords:** Dairy based farming systems, marginal/small farmers, productivity, economics, employment, livelihood and nutritional security.

### 1. Introduction

Nearly 85% of the farming community is categorized as marginal, small and landless laborers (Singh *et al.*, 2010) <sup>[1]</sup> who constitute the bulk of the population living below poverty line. The vicious circle of poverty could not be broken even more than six decades of planned effort for bringing improvement in the living standard of the masses earning their livelihood through traditional pursuits. Livestock has been a built in component of the farming system throughout the world but its potentials have not been fully recognized and realized by majority of the farming communities. An average traditional farmer remains idle for four to six months per year following the tradition bound farming. Lack of gainful employment leads to loss of income and deep rooted poverty. Nutritional deficiencies problem is common among the poor's. Protein deficient diet based on cereals and pulses need to be supplemented by animal based protein sources for which dairy based products are well known.

Dairying plays a vital role in the country's agricultural economy, which being the second largest contributor to the gross agricultural produce and leading milk producer with 18.5% of world production (Anon, 2016) <sup>[1]</sup>. In the recent past, milk production has increased steadily due to the successful implementation of Operation Flood Programmes through combined efforts of research institutions, extension agencies, production and marketing networks, institutional credit policy and more important the enterprising, innovative nature of farmers practicing and operating dairy based farming systems. Dairy enterprise when combined with other enterprises on scientific lines offers great opportunities for increasing farm income and employment, particularly to the weaker sections of the rural community. Hence, the study of dairy based farming systems are helpful to the farmers in rational economic decisions by selecting the appropriate combination of enterprises by reallocating their scarce resources efficiently (Komala, 2002) <sup>[5]</sup>. Considering these, the study was undertaken to compare the two dairy based farming systems in terms of its productivity, economics, employment generation, nutritive value addition and livelihood security.

### 2. Material and Methods

#### Profile of experimental location

The present study was conducted at Main Agricultural Research Station (MARS), Raichur of N-E Karnataka. Raichur district lies between 15° 09' and 16° 34' North latitude and between 75° 46' and 77° 35' Eastern longitude. It is surrounded by Yadgir, Bijapur, Baglkot, Koppal and Bellary districts and in eastern side surrounded by Mahboobnagar district of Andhra Pradesh.

The two rivers Krishna and Tungabhadra flows through northern and southern boundaries of the district. Raichur district consists of 37 hoblis which falling in 5 talukas (Raichur, Manvi, Lingasugur, Devadurga and Sindhnur) of the district. Total geographical area of the district is 8383 sq. kms. Consisting of 883 villages. About 88 per cent of the farmers are small and marginal farmers. Raichur district consist of 9 veterinary hospitals, 21 dispensaries, 19 primary veterinary centers, 6 artificial insemination centers to take care of livestock. The district has potential irrigation source (canal, tank, wells, tube wells and lift irrigation). Various types of farming systems are being adopted by the farmers of North-East Karnataka. Integration of livestock component as a farm enterprise is most common. Major crops grown are cotton, paddy, tur, groundnut, sunflower, *rabi* jawar, maize *etc.* Among these, cotton and paddy occupy major area of the cultivable land in the district. With respect to livestock, dairy and sheep/ goat rearing occupies major subsidiary enterprise with cropping. Majority of the farmers rear desi/local cows

for daily dairy products requirement. Whereas, some farmers rear HF and jersey cows as they are known for outstanding milk production.

### HF cows

Holstein Friesian cows have distinctive markings and known for outstanding milk production. They are large, generally black-and-white marked animals or they can also be red and white. Crop residues, straw, fodder cowpea, Hy. Napier grass, pillipesara and agati were used in the study as per the diet need (Table 1& 2). Dung and refuge of cow were collected and composted separately. The compost was recycled in the respective treatments. Milk yield during morning and evening were recorded. Other attributes namely residues added, employment generated, income etc were calculated during the study period (2012-14). During study period, various crops (commercial, fodder and horticulture) taken along with dairy component to evaluate compatibility and synergetic effect on dairy farming (Fig. 1& 2).

**Table 1:** Details of the experimental treatments

| Treatments  | Livestock components | Crops on bunds                              |
|---|----------------------|---|
| F <sub>1</sub> Cotton + Cowpea (F) 1:1<br>Maize + Cowpea (F) 1:1 - Bengal gram<br>Pillipesara | HF Cow (1)           | Agati and Hy. Napier<br>Grass (CO-4)        |
| F <sub>2</sub> Cotton + Onion 1:2<br>Maize + Cowpea (F) 1:1 - Bengal gram                     | HF Cow (1)           | Banana, Agati, Drum stick<br>and Curry leaf |

**Table 2:** Details of varieties and hybrids used

| Crop          | Variety      | Crop                                      | Variety              |
|---------------|--------------|---|----------------------|
| Bt Cotton     | Jaadoo       | Curry leaf                                | Suvasini (Dharwad-1) |
| Maize         | Hero-555     | Banana                                    | Grand nine(G-9)      |
| Bengal gram   | Annigeri-1   | Hybrid napier grass                       | Sampoorna (DHN-6)    |
| Onion         | Nasik Red    | Agati ( <i>Sesbania grandiflora</i> )     | Local                |
| Fodder cowpea | Swad (DFC-1) | Pillipesara ( <i>Phaseolus trilobus</i> ) | Local                |
| Drum stick    | Dhanraj      |   |                      |

## 3. Results and Discussion

### Productivity of milch animals (Table. 3)

The result on total milk yield indicated that, different crops residues, fodder crops in the farming systems adopted has markedly influenced the total milk yield of cow integrated in F<sub>1</sub> and F<sub>2</sub> farming systems. Both the systems supplied with sufficient quantity of green fodder and dry hay to meet the diet needs of the cows. Twenty months milk yield was recorder from the cows taken in both farming system models

and HF cow of F<sub>1</sub> system gives higher milk yield and consistent milk yield per day compared to F<sub>2</sub> with 3671.7 liters, 6.04 liters day<sup>-1</sup>, 3442.5 liters and 5.68 liters day<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. Cow component of F<sub>1</sub> system, produced 6.24 per cent of higher total milk yield over F<sub>2</sub> system. It might be due to supply of balanced nutrition by pillipesara, agati and Hy. Napier grass incorporated in F<sub>1</sub> system. Dairy animal supports farmer with daily returns by sale of milk produce. This agrees with the findings of Menale Kassie *et al.* (2008) [7].



**Fig 1:** F<sub>1</sub> model of dairy rearing



**Fig 2:** F<sub>2</sub> model of dairy rearing

Total dung and urine yield of HF cows are taken for study and found that, milk yield was directly proportional to the total dung and urine yield. Dung and urine yield of HF cow was, collected and composted to recycle nutrients to the soil of respective systems in both the years. Between two farming

systems, cow belonging to F<sub>2</sub> system yielded higher total dung and urine yield of 24,114 kg and 17,026 liters, respectively compared to F<sub>1</sub> with 22,511 kg and 16,865 liters, respectively during 20 months study period.

**Organic manure and nutrient addition (Table. 4)**

The results clearly indicated that, both the farming systems markedly influenced the organic residue addition in both the years. Total residue added by the F<sub>1</sub> & F<sub>2</sub> systems were 11303, 12027, 11208 & 12088 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, respectively for first and second year of study. The NPK addition followed the same trend of organic waste addition during both the years (237.5, 86.4, 123.8, 251.5, 94.3, 130.8, 247.4, 90.3, 137.7, 262.1, 99.3 & 144.7 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> in the first and second year, respectively). Similar observations are noticed by, Tilman *et al.* (2002) [14], Sanchez *et al.* (2004) [10], Bationo *et al.* (2004) [2] and Makinde *et al.* (2007) [6].

**Nutritional value (Table. 4)**

In general, both the systems resulted in higher nutritional value during the second year than the first year. This is due to, higher milk yield obtained in the second year. Higher milk yield was recorded in F<sub>1</sub> system (3671.7 lit during 2012-14) over F<sub>2</sub> system (3442.5 lit during 2012-14). Carbohydrate, protein, fat and energy output were recorded the similar trend of milk yield during both the study years. Results are in accordance with the findings of Devendra and Pezo (2004) [3].

**Economics and employment generation (Table. 4)**

The economics in respect of gross returns, net returns, B: C and returns per day was higher in the first year in F<sub>1</sub> system whereas, in second year F<sub>2</sub> system is more remunerative. This is due to milk yield obtained in the particular year. Among the two different dairy rearing systems, F<sub>2</sub> system recorded highest gross returns of Rs. 1,00,204 in the 2012-14 over F<sub>1</sub> system Rs. 96,827 during 2012-14. Similar trend was followed with net returns, B: C and return per day. This is due to higher milk yield in the F<sub>2</sub> system. The result is in accordance with the findings of Thelma Paris (2002) [13], Subhadra *et al.* (2009) [12] & Khondker and Diemuth (2011) [4].

The employment generation in terms of man days not varied considerably in dairy based farming systems during both the years. The employment generation is ranges from 50-52 during 2012-14 in both the systems. Integration of dairy component will generate extra man days by which increase the employment opportunity per year, uniform employment round the year and to make use of the family laborers of small and marginal category farmers effectively. Moll (2005) & Ram Suresh and Hubba Lal Singh (2008) [9] also obtained similar findings.

**Table 3:** Total milk yield, daily average milk yield, total dung yield and total urine yield of HF cows studied during 2012-14

| Treatments/ Month |      | Total milk yield (liters) |                | Average milk yield (liters day <sup>-1</sup> ) |                | Total dung yield (kg) |                | Total urine yield (litres) |                |
|-------------------|------|---------------------------|----------------|--|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|
|                   |      | F <sub>1</sub>            | F <sub>2</sub> | F <sub>1</sub>                                 | F <sub>2</sub> | F <sub>1</sub>        | F <sub>2</sub> | F <sub>1</sub>             | F <sub>2</sub> |
| 2012              | Aug  | 201.5                     | 129.0          | 6.50   | 4.16           | 1087                  | 1163           | 868                        | 887            |
|                   | Sept | 192.5                     | 144.5          | 6.42   | 4.82           | 1109                  | 1218           | 846                        | 855            |
|                   | Oct  | 192.0                     | 131.5          | 6.19   | 4.24           | 1173                  | 1311           | 856                        | 865            |
|                   | Nov  | 210.5                     | 118.0          | 7.02   | 3.93           | 1154                  | 1194           | 816                        | 823            |
|                   | Dec  | 223.5                     | 111.5          | 7.21   | 3.60           | 1195                  | 1194           | 893                        | 898            |
| 2013              | Jan  | 203.0                     | 110.5          | 6.77   | 3.56           | 1177                  | 1352           | 918                        | 918            |
|                   | Feb  | 216.5                     | 109.0          | 6.98   | 3.89           | 1057                  | 1126           | 784                        | 794            |
|                   | Mar  | 163.0                     | 79.0           | 5.82   | 2.55           | 1124                  | 1166           | 781                        | 790            |
|                   | Apr  | 0                         | 36.5           | 0  | 1.22           | 1112                  | 1122           | 780                        | 785            |
|                   | May  | 0                         | 0              | 0  | 0.00           | 1115                  | 1181           | 818                        | 797            |
|                   | Jun  | 0                         | 0              | 0  | 0.00           | 1088                  | 1185           | 732                        | 787            |
|                   | Jul  | 217.5                     | 0              | 7.02   | 0.00           | 1102                  | 1212           | 880                        | 885            |
|                   | Aug  | 239.5                     | 198.0          | 7.73   | 6.39           | 1164                  | 1197           | 868                        | 854            |
|                   | Sept | 243.5                     | 215.0          | 8.12   | 7.17           | 1145                  | 1101           | 876                        | 856            |
|                   | Oct  | 249.0                     | 229.0          | 8.03   | 7.39           | 1136                  | 1150           | 856                        | 883            |
|                   | Nov  | 264.0                     | 345.0          | 8.80   | 11.50          | 1088                  | 1149           | 838                        | 874            |
|                   | Dec  | 237.0                     | 369.0          | 7.65   | 11.90          | 1152                  | 1246           | 887                        | 916            |
| 2014              | Jan  | 227.2                     | 374.5          | 7.33   | 12.08          | 1180                  | 1342           | 893                        | 888            |
|                   | Feb  | 209.5                     | 376.0          | 7.48   | 13.43          | 1020                  | 1201           | 772                        | 781            |
|                   | Mar  | 182.0                     | 366.5          | 5.87   | 11.82          | 1133                  | 1305           | 905                        | 892            |
| Total             |      | 3671.7                    | 3442.5         | -  | -              | 22511                 | 24114          | 16865                      | 17026          |

Not statistically analysed

**Table 4:** Nutrient management, nutrition value, economic and employment generated by dairy enterprises during 2012-14

| Parameters             |   | First year (2012-13) |   |   |                |   |   | Second year (2013-14) |   |   |                |   |   |
|------------------------|---|----------------------|---|---|----------------|---|---|-----------------------|---|---|----------------|---|---|
|                        |   | F <sub>1</sub>       |   |   | F <sub>2</sub> |   |   | F <sub>1</sub>        |   |   | F <sub>2</sub> |   |   |
| Nutrient Management    | Residue addition (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )                               | 11303                |   |   |                |   |   | 12027                 |   |   |                |   |   |
|                        | NPK addition (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )                                   | N                    | P | K | N              | P | K | N                     | P | K | N              | P | K |
| Nutritional parameters | Milk yield (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )                                     | 1603                 |   |   |                |   |   | 969                   |   |   |                |   |   |
|                        | Carbohydrate yield (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )                             | 7.1                  |   |   |                |   |   | 4.3                   |   |   |                |   |   |
|                        | Protein yield (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )                                  | 5.1                  |   |   |                |   |   | 3.1                   |   |   |                |   |   |
|                        | Fat yield (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )                                      | 6.6                  |   |   |                |   |   | 4.0                   |   |   |                |   |   |
|                        | Energy output (K cal ha <sup>-1</sup> )                               | 10785                |   |   |                |   |   | 6521                  |   |   |                |   |   |
| Economic & Employment  | Production cost (Rs.)   | 7832                 |   |   |                |   |   | 8531                  |   |   |                |   |   |
|                        | Gross income (Rs.)  | 44427                |   |   |                |   |   | 42314                 |   |   |                |   |   |
|                        | Net return (Rs.)  | 36595                |   |   |                |   |   | 33783                 |   |   |                |   |   |
|                        | B: C  | 4.67                 |   |   |                |   |   | 3.96                  |   |   |                |   |   |
|                        | Return per day (Rs.)  | 100                  |   |   |                |   |   | 93                    |   |   |                |   |   |
|                        | Employment generation (man days ha <sup>-1</sup> year <sup>-1</sup> ) | 50                   |   |   |                |   |   | 50                    |   |   |                |   |   |

Not statistically analyzed

#### 4. Conclusion

Results on evolution of different dairy based farming system depending upon their suitability and preferences were found encouraging. Hence, it can be concluded that, to enhance the productivity, economic returns, nutritional values and employment, - integration of dairy component is advisable for NE Karnataka instead of conventional cropping alone. Recycling of organic residues in form of dung, uring and other wastes could be beneficial in improving the soil health and productivity over a longer period of time with lesser environmental hazards. Livelihood of small and marginal farmers could be upgraded by adopting dairy based farming system on a larger scale.

#### 5. Acknowledgement

Author acknowledge the contribution of multi-disciplinary research team of RKVY-IFS group of Department of Agronomy, University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur (India) during the course of studies conducted for evaluation of various integrated farming system models.

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