



DAIRY DEVELOPMENT AND INCOME DISTRIBUTION IN INDIA

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AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

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**Dedicated
to
My Parents**

**C. THIAGARAJAN
& SUSHEELA**

Preface

Agricultural Development in India is recently facing various risks and challenges. Every year the central and states governments have allocated huge amounts of money for the progress of agriculture, but the government is unable to achieve the desired results, because of the various risks and uncertainties are mixed. A proper irrigational system, and irrigational planning helps to achieve the steady agricultural progress. The latest methods of drip water and sprinkler cultivation helps us to use the “Natural Gift” in a most efficient manner.

This book tries to deal the latest agricultural development and production in recent times.

To thank profusely scholars and authorities is a pleasure indeed.

I am greatly indebted to Dr. A. Arunachalam, M.A., M.Phil., M.L., Ph.D., M.B.A., Chairman and Correspondent of Adaikalamatha College, Vallam, Thanjavur.

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I take this opportunity to express my heart felt thanks

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I thank my wife without their constant pressure and co-operation.

I will failing in my duties, if I could express my profound thanks to my son for their. timely help in bringing his book in time.

I am thankful to Abhijeet Publications, New Delhi for their interest and co-operation in publishing this book.

I do not claim that could cover all the aspects of the Agricultural Development in India within the limited space, but I firmly believe that this book will be very useful to all concerned.

T. MAHENDRAN

May 2008

Thanjavur.

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Foodgrains Demand in India

Recently, there has taken place a heated debate in India on food demand projections to the 21st century. By using both log linear and Linear Expenditure System (LES) of equations, the Planning Commission has derived some estimates of food demand to 2010. The NSS data on consumer expenditure for 1973, 1977-78 and 1987-88 revealed a few important changes in consumption pattern in India. It is brought out that because of distinct changes in tastes and consumption habits, with a rise in per capita income, consumers spend a larger proportion of their income on superior foods and in many rich states, their per capita consumption of foodgrains has gone down significantly. Besides the visible decline in income elasticity of demand for foodgrains, increasing urbanisation, casualisation of work in rural areas and the availability of a wide range of consumer goods even in remote rural areas are said to be the other reasons for the decline in foodgrains consumption. More important, even poor households with inadequate calorie intake did not use additional income to purchase additional calories in the form of foodgrains, the cheapest available source [GOI, NSSO 1991].

Keeping in view these developments, some scholars have predicted that with—an acceleration in per capita income growth, despite some increase in indirect demand for foodgrains for feed, on balance, there would be a further decline in the growth rate of demand for foodgrains. It is argued that “if the GDP growth rate accelerates from 5.2 per cent during the 1980s to 7 per cent, there is likely to be further deceleration in the household demand for foodgrains and the total demand including that for animal feed may rise, but is unlikely to approach the observed long-term growth of 2.6 per cent in foodgrains output, let alone reaching the 3.96 per cent growth rate envisaged in the Eighth Plan”. Accordingly, this deceleration in the growth rate of demand is likely to provide an excellent opportunity to India for augmenting its exports of wheat and rice in which the country is said to have a distinct comparative advantage (Rao and Gulati 1994).

This chapter takes a radically different view about the likely demand for foodgrains in the context of a rapid increase in the growth rate of per capita income in India. It is argued that with a rise in per capita income, while direct demand for foodgrains may not increase as rapidly as earlier, the derived demand for foodgrains for feed and therefore the total demand for foodgrains would rise at an extremely rapid rate because of the shift of consumption from food to milk and meat and other animal husbandry products.

An attempt has been made to calculate food and feed demand to 2020 under different scenarios of growth of per capita income. These alternatives are: continuation of the current trend of 3.5 per cent growth in per capita income; acceleration of growth in per capita income to 5.5 per cent; raising the entire poor above the poverty line (‘non-poor India’); and ensuring that every one is well-fed in terms of calories (‘well-fed India’). In addition, three alternative assumptions have also been made about feed coefficients. Recognising that a rapid increase in demand for milk and meat and other animal husbandry products would

necessitate the modernisation of the animal husbandry sector which currently depends on traditional methods of rearing, outside grazing and feeding, the indigenous animal stock would have to be gradually replaced by cross-bred or imported high milk yielding cows like Jerseys and Holsteins and by better varieties of buffaloes. As the experience of all rapidly growing countries shows, all the new breeds primarily depend on stall feeding and require relatively much higher amount of cereals, concentrates and meals. Keeping this in view, an attempt has been made to make three alternative assumptions about the likely feed requirements, namely, those prevailing in India, China and Indonesia.

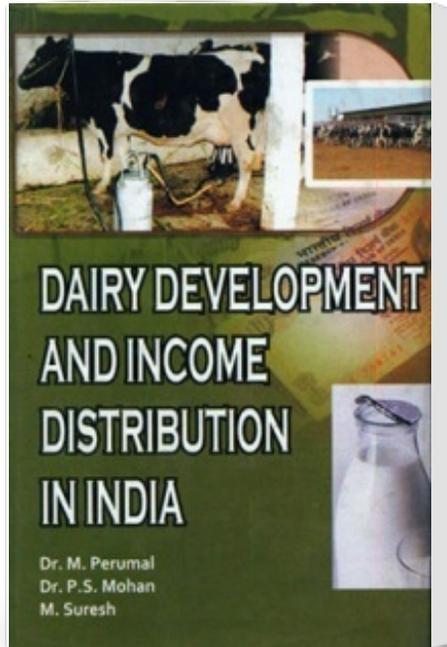
It turns out that the food demand to 2020 is quite high. This is specially so, if instead of Indian feed coefficients, Chinese feed coefficients are used. The demand becomes still higher if Indonesian feed coefficients are used. It appears that India would have to make extraordinary efforts by way of investment in irrigation, rural electrification, scientific research and extension, and other rural infrastructure to be able to produce enough food to feed its teeming million during the early next century.

Demand Estimates

In 1990-91, India produced 176.4 million tonnes of foodgrains including 162.1 million tonnes of cereals and 14.3 million tonnes of pulses. The net availability for human consumption after netting for seed, feed (about three million tonnes) and waste and after accounting for imports and changes in stocks was around 145 million tonnes. This was about twice the amount of cereals used only 25 years earlier.

The average household still spends about 60 per cent of its total budget on food, and cereals account for about 37 per cent of this share. The small amount of cereals fed to livestock reflects low budget shares for livestock products, and a high reliance on crop by-products, household waste, and open grazing for feeding livestock.

Dairy Development and Income Distribution in India



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