

A Study on Production and Marketing Aspects of Cooperative and Non-cooperative Dairy Farmers in Bangladesh

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The economy of Bangladesh is mainly based primarily on agriculture. Dairying is one of the major components of animal agriculture and part of a mixed farming system in Bangladesh (Samsuddoha,2000). It accounts for about 14.08 percent (2013) of agricultural GDP and contributes to the livelihoods of many small-scale farmers through income, employment, and food (FAO, 2012). Although dairying is the most ancient occupation established in the rural setting of Bangladesh, its development is unsatisfactory due to several problems (Bangladesh Economic Review 2017). The main problems concern breeding, feeding, management, diseases, and marketing. The dairy sector has also not received much attention in respect of information and research with present policies and issues (Ghosh, Maharhjan, 2001). In these regards, the dairy cooperative, Bangladesh Milk Producers Cooperative Union Limited (BMPCUL), is delivering diverse services to minimize farmer's production and marketing related problems. But still, farmers who are not member of this cooperative are facing various problems in production and marketing aspects. Therefore, the aim of the study is to understand whether there is a difference between cooperative and non-cooperative dairy farmer's production and marketing aspects. For this study, a simple random sampling procedure was applied to collect primary data from Sirajgonj district, 150 kilometres northwest from the capital city Dhaka. The oldest, biggest, and most important processing factories of BMPCUL were established in this area to develop dairy farming. More than 60% of Milk of BMPCUL has collected from Sirajgonj Baghabarighat Milk Shed area (BMPCUL, 2016). Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the data. Results show, through production and marketing services, cooperative farmers' herd size, lactating cows, lactating period, and production of milk increased than non-cooperative farmers. The results show that cooperative farmers enjoyed secured market and high marketed price and self-consumption of milk than non-cooperative farmers. Cooperative farmer faces less production and marketing constraints than non-cooperative farmers. All the results show that the better conditions of cooperative farmers than non-cooperative farmers. Therefore, the Government and policy makers should take steps and give support to establish and acceleration of agriculture cooperatives like BMPCUL. Government and ad hoc groups should provide the security and regularity of the cooperative arrangement, which give farmers more rooms to go ahead, and more reliable platform to enjoy support from cooperative. It is essential not only for rural dairy farmers but also for other agricultural sector farmers of Bangladesh.