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## **RESEARCH PAPER**

## Cost and returns of milk production in selected arid district of Rajasthan

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Abstract : The significance of the sector further increase in arid western Rajasthan where frequent droughts are the primary concern. Milch animals are kept as farming household from very long time in India. The Bikaner district of Rajasthan is selected for the study purposively as it is having largest cattle population and another reason for selecting the district is that if has higher indigenous cattle population in the area is second largest enterprise after crop production. Predetermined samples of 180 farmers, selected farmers were categorized into small, medium and large herd-size categories using cumulative square root frequency method. It was evaluated region wise cost of concentrate of indigenous cows; green fodder and total feed cost per day per indigenous cow were highest for canal irrigated region causing highest variable cost also. Due to good feed, the returns were highest in the area. It was found by the perusal of result that per litre cost of milk production was highest for unirrigated region followed by canal irrigated region and least by tube well irrigated region but average per day milk production and net return per day per buffalo was highest on tube well irrigated region followed by canal irrigated region, respectively.

Key Words : Cost, Returns, Herd size category, Milk production

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