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Research  
Paper

## Comparative economics of milk production of crossbred cow and buffalo in Parbhani district of Maharashtra

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### ABSTRACT

The average size of land holding in case of crossbred cow owners was 5.40 ha. Similarly in case of buffalo owners average size of land holding was 4.16 ha. Maintenance cost of crossbred cow was more than buffalo. Feed and labor were major items of expenditure. Net profit per year per animal was Rs.17742.4 in case of crossbred cow, Rs.13219.32 in case of Buffalo. Crossbred cow were more profitable than the buffalo, average milk yield per animal per day was 13.5lit and 12.4lit in crossbred cow and buffalo, respectively. Milk yield is positively associated with green fodder and concentrates. Dairy owners were mostly facing constraints regarding low productivity of animals, low price milk and lack of availability of credit.

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### INTRODUCTION

The dairy industry in India is going through major changes with liberalization policies of Government. India ranks first in livestock population and in milk production able to produce and provide the common man with enough milk for consumption. The per capita minimum availability of milk for consumption in India is about 245 g per day, which is nearly as recommended by Indian Council of Medical Research *i.e.* 280 g/day.

Milk forms an important constituent of human diet, so the importance of milk in human diet cannot be over emphasized in India. Milk is only source of animal protein, calcium and riboflavin. As getting an adequate quantity of animal protein, calcium and riboflavin is difficult solely from plant foods. Hence, it is necessary to include milk in any balanced diet particularly in vegetarian diet.

Large population of livestock is in India as compared to the other countries of the world. Livestock resource figures show that, next to agriculture, it is the major source of income and employment for the rural population. The overall average income generated in rural areas in 1992-93 was 72.6 per cent from agriculture and 26.4 per cent

from livestock. Among various agricultural products, milk was the single largest contributor to the output from agriculture in 1993-94 and it had an estimated gross value Rs. 437 million.

Scope for developing dairy enterprise in India is increasing day by day. Milk production can be made profitable through the maintenance of quality cattle, adoption of improved feeding and management practices and establishment of organized markets for milk to bring a remunerative price to the milk producers. The purchase of quality cattle required substantial initial investment which many small income families cannot meet from their own resources.

Few scattered attempts were carried out in Parbhani district of Maharashtra, which has large bovine population. The present study was undertaken to ascertain the economics of milk production (crossbred cattle and buffalo) selecting 30-house hold under each category of milk producer in Parbhani district.

The specific objectives of the study are to study input-output relationship in milk production, to study the costs and returns in milk production and to identify the constraints associated with milk production.