



Research Paper

## Economic evaluation of commercial dairy farms in Western Maharashtra

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**ABSTRACT :** The study of costs and returns of commercial cattle farm forms an important base in determining its profitability. The six large commercial dairy herd and six migratory cattle herds were studied from Ahmednagar, Pune and Kolhapur districts of Western Maharashtra in 2007-08. The per farm feeding cost shared 70.23, 68.24 and 55.71 per cent of the total cost for in-house cow, buffalo in-house and migratory dairy cow herd, respectively. The net per litre production cost of milk production was worked out to Rs. 15.08 which was the highest in buffalo in-house farm, followed by Rs. 9.12 in-house cow farm and for migratory cow herd it was Rs. 8.10. Input-output ratio was the highest (1.66) in in-house cow followed by in-house buffalo (1.64) and migratory cow herds (1.60). It can be concluded that, the cow in-house owners were relatively more efficient in managing the cows as compared to the other categories of herds. Non-availability of pure breed in local market, difficulties in obtaining loans, malpractice followed by agents in market, low prices, high wage rate of labour, high cost of feed and fodder etc. were the major problems faced by the commercial dairy farm.

**KEY WORDS :** Economic evaluation, Dairy farms, Commercial

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