



# Problems And Prospects Of Dairy Farming In India: An Analysis Of Karnataka State

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## Abstract:

The dairy sector is a key contributor to India's economy, providing employment, supplementary income, and self-employment opportunities, especially for small and marginal farmers. India is the largest producer and consumer of milk, with production reaching 230.6 million tons in 2023. While Uttar Pradesh leads in milk production, Karnataka ranks ninth, contributing 5.34% to the total. Despite the sector's potential, it faces challenges such as unorganized production, low productivity, inadequate feed, and poor veterinary care. Most dairy farmers operate on a small scale using traditional practices, with limited access to modern technology, credit, and insurance. Only 10% of milk is processed by organized dairy plants, while the majority is handled by local traders. Climate change, inefficient supply chains, and animal diseases further impact dairy farming. Additionally, poor adoption of innovations like high-yield fodder varieties and cold storage facilities limits growth. Improving productivity and profitability requires better infrastructure, financial support, and access to training programs. Promoting climate-smart practices and expanding value-added products can boost growth and sustainability. Addressing these challenges will unlock the sector's potential, benefiting rural livelihoods and ensuring India continues to meet the rising demand for milk and dairy products.

**Keywords:** Dairy sector, Milk production, Problems and prospects, India, Karnataka,

## Introduction:

The dairy sector in India is contributing significantly to the national economy. India is the largest producer and consumer of milk in the world. There is immense scope of dairy farming in India. The demand for milk & milk product is increasing rapidly. It provides employment and supplementary income to a large number of farmers in India. It provides an excellent opportunity for self-employment of unemployed youth. It is an important source of income generation for small and marginal farmers and agricultural laborers in the rural area. Small scale dairy farming in India is no doubt playing an important role in the total milk production and economy of our country. Most of the dairy farmers in India are raising animals in small scale traditional methods. Around 70 per cent of small farmers in India are dependent on the rearing of livestock and dairying to supplement their farm income. Most of the milk procurement and sale in the country is through local private traders. The participation of cooperative society in the procurement of milk is varied across regions. Dairy cooperatives in Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra account for more than a half of cooperative milk procurement in India. The total quantum of milk produced in the county during 2015-16 is 155.5 million tonnes, and the presently production milk production is 230 million tons per capita availability of milk is 459 grams per day (according to Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics MoFAHD, DAHD, (GoI).

## **Present Status of Dairy Farming in India and Karnataka:**

Current year's dairy farming is considered as a remunerative activity; as it contributes good returns and helps develop socio-economic conditions among the rural poor people and urban center also. Besides, people can get regular income, employment opportunity, milk and milk by products and earns foreign exchange considerably. According to NDDDB report (basic Animal Husbandry Statistics MoFAHD, DAHD, GoI) the total quantum milk produced in the country during 2023-24 is 230.6 million tones and availability of per capita is 459 gram per day. India has 535.78 million in the country showing an increase of 4.6% over livestock census 2012 and according to 20<sup>th</sup> livestock census India has first rank in milk production and consumer also. In India Uttar Pradesh is the high milk production state and Karnataka has 9<sup>th</sup> position with the 5.34% of milk production.

## **Objectives of Study:**

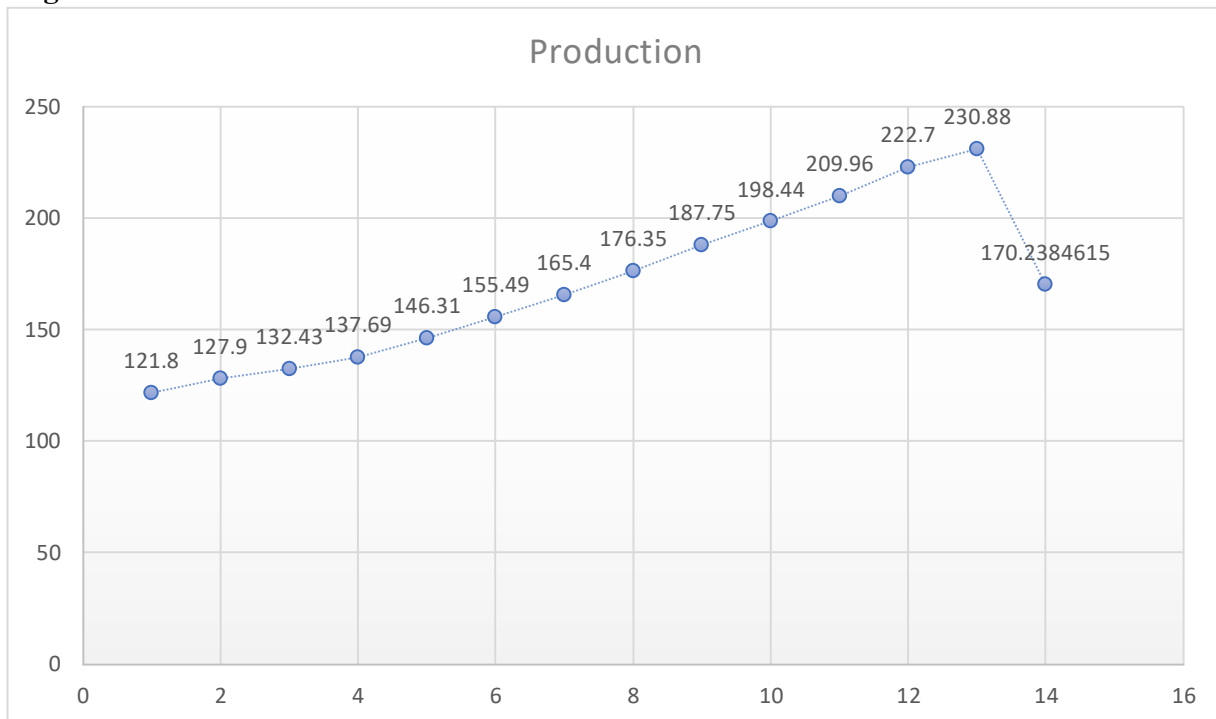
- ✓ To Understand the Current Status of Dairy Farming in India and Karnataka.
- ✓ To Analyze the Problems and Prospects of Dairy Farming in India and Karnataka.

## **Research Methodology:**

This study is based on secondary data only, data will collect from such as E-book, Research Articles and Govt of Karnataka and Govt of India official websites. Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics MoFAHD, DAHD, Govt of India. Annual Report of National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB).

## **Problems and Prospects of Dairy Farming in Karnataka:**

1. Lack of Standard feed and fodder
2. Unorganized Indian dairy sector
3. Inefficient supply chain and infrastructure
4. Low milk processing capacity
5. Limited access to credit and insurance
6. Low productivity and quality standards
7. Product diversification
8. Poor returns
9. Lack of education and training
10. Poor adoption of technology

**Fig 1: Milk Production in India 2011-2023:**

**Source: Sandhya et.al. 2024**

This fig 1: shows the annual production trend from **2011 to 2023**, highlighting steady growth in output over the years. In **2011**, production stood at **121.8 million tons**, which increased consistently, reaching **230.88 million tons in 2023**. This reflects nearly a **90% growth** over 12 years. The most noticeable rise occurred after **2015**, when production jumped from **146.31 million tons** to **230.88 million tons** in 2023, indicating rapid development in the sector. The continuous growth suggests improvements in dairy farming techniques, adoption of modern practices, better veterinary care, and enhanced access to markets.

Government initiatives supporting dairy farmers through subsidies, better infrastructure, and cooperative models may have also contributed to this upward trend. Furthermore, increased consumer demand for milk and milk products could have boosted production. The absence of any decline or stagnation during these years shows the sector's resilience, even during challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, the data demonstrates a positive trend in dairy production, reflecting both **economic opportunities** for farmers and **increasing demand** for dairy products. This steady growth provides scope for further investment, value addition, and technological innovations to sustain the momentum.

- **Prospects of Dairy Farming:**

1. Providing Quality feed and fodder for live Stock.
2. Promoting former producer Organization, Co-operative Societies and encouraging direct Procurement by dairy Campines Can help ensure better returns for farmers
3. Providing access nonveterinary Services in remote areas can help improve the overall Health of dairy animals
4. To Capitalize on the opportunity
6. Providing Access to credit and insurance

**Conclusion:**

The dairy sector in India holds significant potential for enhancing rural livelihoods, supporting economic growth, and meeting the increasing demand for milk and dairy products. As the largest producer and consumer of milk globally, India must leverage its strengths, such as a vast livestock population and a strong cultural affinity for dairy consumption. However, to fully realize this potential, the sector must address critical challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, low productivity, and unorganized production. Implementing targeted policies and initiatives can improve access to quality feed, veterinary services, and financial support for small-scale dairy farmers. Encouraging the adoption of modern technologies and climate-smart practices will also play a crucial role in boosting productivity and sustainability. Strengthening dairy cooperatives and enhancing the processing capacity can facilitate better market access and fair returns for farmers. By overcoming these challenges, India can ensure the dairy sector not only contributes significantly to the national economy but also provides meaningful employment and income opportunities for millions of farmers and their families. A collaborative approach involving government, private sector, and farmers will be essential for driving innovation, improving efficiency, and securing the future of dairy farming in India.

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