

PT project catalyses change in lives of dairy farmers

A meagre income from 10-15 litres milk yield per day, from four cows was the only source of livelihood for Shri KB Munishyama Reddy, a landless farmer from Kalavara village of Karnataka. He supplied milk to Milk Producers Society (MPCS). Despite working as daily wage basis, his income remained insufficient to meet life's basic needs. As part of the Progeny Testing (PT) project, initiated by NDDDB through KMF-AI network in Kolar and Bengaluru Milk Unions, Reddy's animals were inseminated with one of the top ranked bulls from Nandini Sperm Station, which was put under test as part of the project.

All his cows conceived and gave birth to superior progeny, who were registered and tagged by the project. As they grew up, they were also inseminated by another top-ranked test bull. As on today, each of the daughter



cows is producing 17-18 litres per day in their first lactation. Reddy pours 70 litres milk every day and earns on an average ₹32,000 per month. He feeds his own formulated concentrate feed and green along with dry fodder purchased from the market.

Better dairy farming practices



Smt. Obili Padmavati, a resident of Chennareddy Gari Palli village in Chittoor district, owns four cows and has been a dairy farmer for years. However, she and her husband were unable to afford education for their children – two daughters and a son. The milk her cows yielded did not get much value due to low content of fat and SNF.

Through an awareness programme conducted in the village by Shreeja Mahila Milk Producer Company (SMMPC), which is based in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, she learnt about the RBP. She owned 3 Holstein Friesian (HF) cows which yielded 33 litres per day. After following RBP guidelines, milk yield improved to 39 litres a day. With the additional income, she bought two more cows and poured 20,402 litres milk, at the daily average of 56 litres. After following RBP practices, she was able to bring down the cost per animal, per day.

Jambahal WDCS brings success

Life wasn't easy for 34-year-old Smt. Himadri Budek, a resident of Jambahal village of Bolangir district in Odisha, as it was difficult to make ends meet for a family of six people by working as casual labourer. Budek also had a cow, through which she sold an average eight litre of milk in a day to a nearby hotel, at ₹17/litre. But the earnings were barely sufficient. In August 2018, things changed for Budek and many dairy farmers in the village when, Jaymata Women Dairy Cooperative Society was established by the BKN Milk Union, as part of NDP-I and they joined it.

Six months after the society was formed, Budek purchased one more cow. Today, she pours 15 litres milk/day, and earns ₹27/litre. She makes ₹15,000/month from dairy farming alone. At present, the society has about 100 members who collectively pour 280 litres/day.

