

IMPACT OF CATTLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES ON CATTLE ECONOMY IN A DEVELOPMENT BLOCK

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Part I. Methodology of Study and Description of holdings and cattle.

PROGRAMMES for better utilisation of the cattle resources in India so as to improve cattle commenced in a planned and organised way with the First Five Year Plan. The Key Village Scheme which is comprehensive in nature covering the various aspects of cattle development, viz, breeding, feeding, disease control, management and marketing was introduced in the first plan and vigorously pursued during the second and third Five Year Plans. Besides this there were schemes aimed at tackling the various aspects of cattle development individually and the official reports claim to have met with a fair degree of success. Till the end of the Third Five Year Plan, however, the projects in the aggregate have formed only a small part of the requirements for developing the 227 million (1961 census) cattle in India.

Computations made from the annual reports of the department of animal husbandry, Kerala, indicate that till 1966 facilities were available for breeding about one-third of the breedable cattle population and for disease control at the rate of one institution to every 8000 heads of cattle in the state. But schemes for developing the feed and fodder resources and for marketing cattle and their products have registered very little success.

The reports published by Government departments, which invariably give a lopsided view of the achievements are the major sources of information on developmental activities. Literature on studies aimed at understanding the real progress or the suitability of the policies and programmes for cattle development in India is scanty and even the available studies show only a few of the many aspects of cattle development. For instance, studies like those conducted by Bhattacharya and Prabhu (1952), Planning Research and