

**POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES OF CATTLE
DEVELOPMENT**

A CASE STUDY OF A DEVELOPMENT BLOCK IN KERALA

**BY
T. PRABHAKARAN**

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PREFACE

This thesis is the product of research done under the guidance of Professor V. M. Dandekar at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona, with the aid of a fellowship awarded by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The problem selected for research concerns cattle development. It appears that no comprehensive study on this aspect of the agricultural economy has been made in India even though cattle constitute the backbone of agriculture by supplying the motive power and manure for cultivation and milk for human consumption. The role of cattle in Indian agriculture has, however, been largely that of an input item in crop production. Though this role is important and necessary it did not exploit the cattle wealth fully nor did it help in improving cattle. Thus in order to raise the position of cattle in agriculture from that of a mere input item in crop production to a complementary farm enterprise certain policies were framed and programmes implemented for their improvement during the Five Year Plans. Our study concerns primarily an appraisal of the effects these policies and programmes have had on cattle improvement during the First Three Five Year Plans. The study has also explored the cattle rearing and husbandry practices followed to understand the suitability or otherwise of the policies and programmes.

The thesis comprises three sections. The first gives

a detailed description of the various problems facing cattle development in the country and the programmes implemented during the First Three Five Year Plans for improving cattle. Chapters I and II constitute section I. In the second section we have analysed the conditions of cattle in Kerala State relative to those for the country as a whole and have also reviewed the literature pertaining to investigations on cattle development programmes. This section includes Chapters III, IV and V. Chapters VI to X come under the third section. Here we have presented the methodology of our study and the findings on the impact of the developmental activities and factors influencing cattle improvement. The last Chapter in this section contains a summary of the whole study.

Our study being in a field hitherto largely unexplored has revealed many important factors influencing cattle development, the knowledge of which has enabled an objective appraisal of cattle developmental activities. The study has thus contributed to a better understanding of the facts of cattle development besides providing a methodology for similar studies on development programmes.

In carrying out this research programme I am indebted to a very great extent to Professor V. M. Dandekar for his valuable guidance as well as for providing facilities at Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to him. For the financial assistance extended for the research project and thus

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