

Success Story of a Dairy Cooperative Society – Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Melkadakkavur Milk society is a primary milk cooperative society under Dairy Development Department of Kerala, in chorayinkil Block of Trivandrum District. The society which started its functioning with sale of milk and cattle feed, later started a Dairy plant by the name “MILCO” with the intention of producing and selling milk products also. At the time of starting the plant, they produced lassi, butter, ghee and frozen products like ice-cream, kulfi etc. Later on the society sent some of its employee for a 10 day training programme on “Indigenous Dairy Products” at Dairy Training Centre, Trivandrum. Also MILCO engaged a consultant, who retired as an officer from Dairy Development Department for the guidance and monitoring of the indigenous Dairy product section of the plant. Now MILCO is the one and only Dairy Plant in Kerala under cooperation sector which is selling milk and milk based value added products. Speciality of the indigenous products of MILCO is “Preservative Free” products.

In addition to the production and sales of milk products MILCO conducted exhibitions on several occasions, because the milk products which are mostly of North Indian origin, were are not familiar to the common people. MILCO conducted competition in the preparation of dairy products for creating awareness about the dairy products to the public. Now the common man includes dairy products in their daily diet. MILCO and the Department are really proud of it.

The plant is managed and run by Women employees. People from various districts of Kerala and outside the state visit the plant to learn about the administration and management.

When we hear the word Milk Society the first thought comes to our mind is the sale of milk and milk products. But we will be surprised to know that apart from production and marketing of milk products, melkadakkavur Milk Society is also engaged in other activities too. The society owns a heifer Park, Bio manure making, vegetable nursery, vegetable marketing, and fodder cultivation etc, carried out successfully. The cow dung and cow urine

is utilized for the preparation of bio-manure like 'Panchagavya' under the guidance of and supervision of Dr. Kamalasanan Pillai. In view of mitigating environmental pollution, the cow dung and urine from nearby farm and farmers is also collected and treated for bio-manure.

Azolla cultivation is also conducted here which can be used as a cattle feed, feed for chicken, Duck and also edible for human beings. In the Heifer Park, heifers are reared up to 1st calving. After 1st calving they are sold to the dairy farmers making a profitable income. This is the only one of its type in Kerala. The cow dung powder produced here is sold all over Kerala. The people who visit the society are from different states varying from farmers, students, research scholars etc;

