

PRESENT STATUS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS OF MILK PRODUCTION IN HOROWPOTHANA DIVISIONAL SECRETARIAT AREA IN ANURADHAPURA DISTRICT

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At present, local milk production satisfies only 18% of the national milk demand and a large sum of foreign exchange is used annually to import the milk and milk products. Because the divisional secretariat area, Horowpothana in Anuradhapura district is famous for milk production this study was conducted there. Study focused on present status and future prospects of the industry, ways to raise milk production and to estimate the contribution of dairy industry to household income. Data were collected from a random sample of 150 farmers and simple tabular methods were used in data analysis.

The average milk yield of a cow is 1.06 liters per day. The highest daily milk yields of a local and an improved cow are 2.00 liters and 5.00 liters respectively. This indicates the potential to increase milk production by improving animals. Major constraints to increase milk production are low availability of grazing lands and improved grasses, lack of veterinary facilities and credit facilities, and unfair milk prices. Nearly 80% of farmers have reduced the herd size due to lack of grasses / fodder while 21% of farmers have cultivated improved grasses. The contribution of dairy industry to monthly household income is 31.82% and the average family income is Rs. 4,100 per month. State intervention in above areas is mandatory for the betterment of the industry. This would in turn enhance the nutritional status of the villagers while supplementing the farm income on one hand, while contribute positively to reduce rural poverty on the other hand.

Key words: Milk production, Household income, Grazing lands, Milk production and Rural poverty.