

**STUDY ON SUPPLY OF MILK IN MILK COLLECTION
CENTERS IN TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT**

By



MISS MYTHILI VIVEKANANDHAN



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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

EASTERN UNIVERSITY SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

Milk is a major component of the food basket of the Sri Lankan population. The dairy industry has a potential in contributing to the development of the economy of the Sri Lanka. Milk production has been traditional industry, playing a key role in infant feeding and alleviating nutritional poverty in all age groups. Milk is marketed mainly through the formal milk market and also partially through informal milk market. The dairy sector is important due to the extensive employment opportunities in it offers.

The objective of the study was to examine the collection and supply of milk to the Milk Collection Centers by dairy producers, retail collectors and Farmer Management Society (FMS), to identify the marketing chain in milk supply and distribution forms of milk supplied , to analyze the Milk Collection Centers in Trincomalee district, and to identify the constraints faced by the milk suppliers and Farmers Management Societies and milk collection centers in collection and disposal of milk.

The study used both primary and secondary data. A field survey was conducted using a pre tested questionnaire. Forty dairy farmers, forty milk collectors and twenty five secretaries of Farmer Management Societies were selected for the study by using random sampling method.

Analysis of primary data showed that the daily collection and disposal of milk in Trincomalee district was mainly through the Milk Collection Centers found in the selected DS divisions. The average volume of milk collected and disposed to the processing firms by Milk Collection Centers was 1,820 liters per day. There was no significant difference among the volume of cow milk collected daily by milk collectors in

Muthur and Town and Gravets DS divisions. There were no significant differences in the volume of buffalo milk collected daily by milk collectors in Muthur and Kanthale DS divisional areas.

The constraints faced by milk suppliers were low volume of milk collected in lean season, transport problems to reach the MCC, financial problems, price fluctuations and impacts of adverse climatic conditions (flooding, heavy rainfall and drought) in the study area. The average price per liter of milk paid by MCC was Rs. 42.52. The monthly average total expenditure of MCCs was Rs.113, 500, and the average cost of collection for liter of milk was Rs. 3.12.

The average number of producers, retail collectors and FMS supplied milk to the MCCs were 25, 20 and 15 respectively. The constraints faced by Milk Collection Center were inadequate space, inadequate buildings for milk collection, insufficient number of employees working at MCC, low volume of milk supplied and adverse climatic conditions for milk collection.

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