

PROMOTING ANIMAL HUSBANDRY TO PRODUCE RURAL POVERTY IN SINDH

**By
M.H. PANHWAR**

Before advent of barrages in Sindh starting with one at Sukkur 1932 every farmer in Sindh was raising animals side-by-side with cultivation on inundation water. The income from animal husbandry to some families was more than the agricultural land, depending upon manpower available with the family for grazing cows and buffaloes in the field providing some green grasses, fodder, oil cakes etc., milking animals and churning butter –milk to extract butter for sale.

This situation has changed now, with better transportation facilities and establishment of large cities and increase of urban population from original 10 to 45% now. Milk is now readily brought in towns but increase population has created per capita milk shortages both in rural and urban areas. Per capita milk production has also reduced and this is a major ingredient in dwindling of rural economy.

Our policy shall be to increase milk production and this can be achieved by intensive methods of producing feed and establishment of small cattle colonies at a number of places in each Taluka, as well as in major village and small towns. This should generate extra employment as well as extra income for rural population.

This is an aspect which has been ignored in the past 50 years.

We will give it a priority to improve rural economy and alleviate poverty.