

Dairy Sector: Development for whom?

The milk production in the country has gone up so that now India stands the largest producer of milk. For the past five years, the sale fluid milk remained stagnant. At the same time, the sale of and export of high value and branded milk products have increased. The same feature is reflecting both the private dairies and the co-operative sector.

Though the per capita availability of milk is on the rise, in fact, the use of milk by the common man is decreasing. As the fluid milk sales stagnated the dairies are converting the milk to high value branded products for export and sales in the cities. While the milk production grew, it became unaffordable for the common people.

This was happened in the case of fish and meat and poultry. While the fish and prawn production in the country grew and export earning from this sector grew, it became unaffordable for the common people. Thus the people India are facing problem of lack of nutritious food. At the same time, thousands of acres are being diverted from production of food grains to aquaculture and to grow feed for the meet –animals. Thus the lop-sided policies habeen endangering the food security of Indian masses.

Now the situation is going to be worsened with entry of foreign capital into the dairy setctor. Many mid-sized private dairies are being sold to foreign capital. Thirumala Dairy, for instance, was sold to Lactalis, the French dairy gaint, last year. Many MNC s and PE fund are lining up buy the private dairies in India such as Creamline Dairy, Dodla Dairy and Dinshaw's Dairy. There are atleast 20 dairy companies in various states with annual turnover between Rs. 300 to 1000 crore.

As the foreign capital grabs the dairy sector in India, the milk becomes a unaffordable for the common people of India while the country's resources meant for the people of India are being utilised to benefit the foreign capital.
