



## Livelihood security of buffalo rearers through community organisation

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### ● ABSTRACT ●

The present study adopted a participatory action oriented approach for promoting livestock production technologies with smallholding farmers in selected clusters in order to strengthen the livelihood security of buffalo farmers, who were unorganised and have very minimum access to the inputs and services available from various developmental departments and agencies. The approach takes advantage of the capacity of farmers to experiment and solve their livestock rearing problems on their own. The dissatisfaction of the villagers about existing conditions and problems were given expression with the formation of buffalo rearers' groups in each study village. The importance was given to collective work and necessity of the groups was stressed. The villagers also got the benefits of regular health camps and training programmes about improved buffalo rearing practices.

**KEY WORDS :** Community organisation, Livelihood, Buffalo rearers

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### INTRODUCTION

Extension work in India has passed through a series of developments in its philosophy, approach, organization and execution including the development of concept of community organization by the applied sociologists in a parallel manner. It was emphasized that the idea of thrusting technological change upon the rural communities was not sociologically sound. The alternative was to organize, integrate and develop the various natural ways of planning and implementation in the community and help them to proceed at their own pace. It was believed that in this way, the communities could work together, solve their problems themselves and muster external help whenever they felt the

need for it. Ross and Lappin (1967) emphasized that community organization is the process by which the social system of a community provides integration and adaptation within the community. This is a process which continues regardless of the work of community organizer whose function is to initiate, nourish and develop this process.

The buffalo rearing in Bidar is unorganized and rearers' have less access to the various inputs and services like credit support, transport, banking facility, proper marketing channel, health care services, lack of irrigation facility, extension services, artificial insemination etc. So, it has been a non-profitable venture for them. But the buffalo rearing which adopts scientific practices known to provide regular source of income, employment for youth and women, food security for the whole family, social status and asset value.

So, it was realized that the mobilization and organization of buffalo rearers' could help them to have easy access to inputs and pull down the services from various developmental departments and agencies. Keeping this in view, in collaboration with National Agriculture Innovation Project team, buffalo rearers' groups were promoted in study villages.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The Bidar district was purposively selected for the present study considering the fact that Bidar is one of the

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