

## Foreword

The Integrated Rural Development Project (IRDP) of the 'seventies emphasised on providing the most needed capital to the poor in the rural areas. This was intended to finance self-employment schemes leading to poverty alleviation. Among the various schemes tried in the IRDP, dairy development was one of the most successful and that has spurred a significant change in the availability of milk and other dairy products in rural India. A certain amount was made available to the rural entrepreneurs in terms of loans for the purchase of cows/buffaloes. This yielded not only regular income flow in terms of sale of milk but at the same time multiplied through calves and generated bovine population. The results could be clearly located from the livestock censuses. Following this lead, Karnataka Backward Classes Development Corporation in collaboration with Karnataka Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation started a scheme to provide exotic breeds of cows to the small and marginal farmers belonging to backward classes. The scheme provided the most vital capital for these families.

This study was undertaken by Dr Manohar S Yadav to understand the implications of the first phase of implementation of the scheme. Dr Yadav being a social scientist from a qualitative background utilises a novel methodology to understand the nuances of the scheme. He has brought out the soft spots as well as the strengths of the scheme and at the same time suggested quite a few policy leads. I am sure that the study will be useful specifically from the policy point of view and will help to correct the future schemes of similar nature. I am also sure that the study will provide critical inputs to the administrators, researchers and others working in this field.

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*R S Deshpande*  
*Director, ISEC*