

ERP System for Dairy Cooperatives: Alternatives Available

As we all are aware, ICT has changed the way we live, and its increasing usage in the business processes is adding value. It is imperative to use ICT to remain competitive in the present market driven environment. Enterprise Resource Planning Systems (ERP) have been in use for quite long period of time.

ERP Systems brings in optimization of business processes, enables control and ensures that each process is strictly adhered to for a person to be able to accomplish his task. An ERP system would also enable an organization to have integration across the enterprise and have a complete view of the costs and results of the enterprise.

An ERP System would also provide **relevant and timely information** in form of reports to the management to support decision making. However, ERP projects are **difficult to implement**. ERP Implementation is an intense project and requires dedicated business personnel to be assigned full time to work on the project. More often than not, an ERP system necessitate **changes in the existing business processes** if benefits are to be reaped. Cost of implementation of the ERP is on a higher side making it unaffordable for smaller organizations.

The developments in the IT industry in recent times are throwing up possibilities where by ERP implementation and maintenance could become more affordable for smaller organizations. A new technology model called “Cloud Computing” is changing the way applications and infrastructure are deployed and made available to enterprises. The Cloud Computing model opens up the possibility of applications and infrastructure being made available on a **pay per use basis**. Moreover, new options are increasingly becoming available on “**Open Source**” platforms driving down costs substantially.

Pooling resources across cooperatives would also bring in huge benefits due to shortening learning curve and gestation period for realizing benefits.

We will work towards developing a common ERP solution for dairy Cooperatives of country.