

President-IDA Addresses Veterinary, Dairy & Fisheries Symposium at MAFSU, Nagpur

The 2nd National Veterinary, Dairy & Fisheries Symposium - 2026 was organized at the Nagpur Veterinary College campus, Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University (MAFSU), Nagpur. The event brought together students, academicians, and industry professionals from across the country to deliberate on key issues concerning animal health, dairy development, and fisheries. Organized by AGRIVISION in collaboration with Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University, the Veterinary Council of India, and Vidyanidhi, the symposium was centred on the theme, "**Integrated One Health Approach: Strengthening Veterinary, Dairy & Fisheries Sectors for Rural Resilience.**"

Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, inaugurated the Symposium as the Chief Guest.

While addressing the symposium, Prof. Baghel stated that advanced breeding technologies such as sex-sorted semen and IVF-based embryo transfer can significantly enhance milk production and farmer incomes. He highlighted that sex-sorted semen can ensure up to 90% female calf births, directly improving dairy productivity and reducing the burden of non-productive male cattle. The Minister expressed a vision of achieving near 100% female calf births through the combined use of sex-sorted semen and in-vitro fertilisation (IVF).

He noted that indigenous breeds such as Gir, Sahiwal, and Rathi produce premium A1 and A2 milk, further enhancing farmer returns. With an investment of around Rs. 750 per semen straw, farmers can potentially gain Rs. 20,000-30,000 per high-yielding cow over time.

Prof. Baghel also stressed that IVF-based embryo transfer enables rapid multiplication of genetically superior, disease-resistant cattle, thereby improving overall herd quality and milk yield. He pointed out that mechanisation has reduced the role of bullocks, making female calf production more critical.

INDIAN DAIRYMAN

Emphasising a "One Health" approach, he called for better veterinary care, infrastructure, and awareness to maximise benefits, adding that livestock and dairy remain stable sources of income amid climate uncertainties and crop risks.

Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh, President of the Indian Dairy Association, attended the event as the Lead Speaker. In his address, he shared valuable insights into the current Indian dairy scenario, emphasising the sector's pivotal role in supporting rural livelihoods and enhancing farmers' incomes.



He highlighted the importance of adopting an integrated approach that aligns animal health, human health, and environmental sustainability to ensure the long-term resilience of rural systems. His address also provided a comprehensive perspective on the future direction of the Indian dairy sector and its potential contribution to strengthening the rural economy.

Haryana State Chapter of IDA Conducts Training on Hygienic Milk Production

The Indian Dairy Association Haryana State Chapter organized a field orientation programme on hygienic milk production at Village Rindal, Karnal district, on March 28, 2026. Around 40 milk producers participated in the awareness programme aimed at promoting clean milk production, udder health, and better farm management practices.

Dr. Parveen Kumar, Executive Committee Member of the Haryana Chapter, welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of milk in ensuring both nutritional security and economic well-being. He also briefed the farmers about the mandate and activities of the Indian Dairy Association and introduced Prof. G.S.



Rajorhia and Dr. Mahendra Singh, Chairman of IDA Haryana Chapter.

Addressing participants, **Dr. Mahendra Singh** emphasized the importance of identifying and preventing subclinical and clinical mastitis in dairy animals. Mastitis, caused by microbial infection through the teat canal, reduces milk yield, quality, and reproductive efficiency. Subclinical cases show somatic cell counts (SCC) above 200,000 cells/ml, while clinical mastitis is detected through California Mastitis Test (CMT) and symptoms like clots, abnormal milk, swollen udders, and fever. Milk from affected animals is unsafe due to contamination. He advised strict hygiene, including clean sheds, lime application, and washing floors with disinfectants such as phenyl or potassium permanganate solution.

Teat hygiene and post-milking teat dipping are essential, as the teat canal remains open for 30 minutes; animals should be kept standing during this time. He also recommended green fodders such as hybrid Napier grass and balanced homemade concentrate mixtures prepared from grains, oil cakes, bran, salt, and mineral mixture to help animals cope with heat stress and maintain productivity.

Interacting with farmers, **Prof. G.S. Rajorhia**, Former President of the Indian Dairy Association sought feedback on challenges in animal management, veterinary care, breeding, and milk marketing. Farmers highlighted issues such as anoestrus, delayed maturity, limited availability of sex-sorted semen, low awareness of hygienic milk production, and low milk prices. He explained that sexed semen technology helps increase the probability of female calf births, supporting herd expansion and milk production, though its adoption is limited by high cost, limited access, and inadequate feeding and housing systems. He suggested that

institutions such as National Dairy Research Institute, National Dairy Development Board and relevant state agencies could be approached for support in accessing sex-sorted semen and milking machines at subsidized rates.

Farmers reported milk procurement at around Rs. 35 per litre. They were advised to form village milk producers' cooperative societies to improve bargaining power and secure better prices. Prof. Rajorhia also emphasized adopting modern technologies such as artificial insemination, embryo transfer, genetic improvement tools, and digital

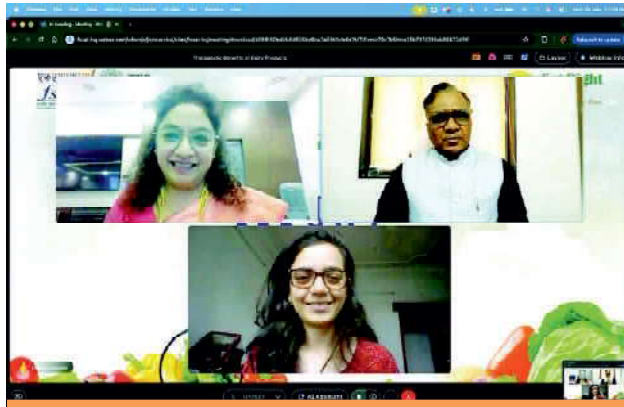
dairy management practices.

To improve feed and fodder security, he recommended silage making, total mixed ration (TMR), enriched straw feeding, and hay preparation. He stressed vaccination and preventive healthcare for better productivity, and encouraged adoption of biogas and solar energy systems. For delayed maturity, he advised balanced feeding to achieve about 175 kg body weight in heifers.

At the end of the programme, mineral mixture samples were distributed free of cost to participating farmers to demonstrate their benefits in improving milk production and animal health. Dr. Parveen Kumar concluded the programme with a vote of thanks to the Chief Guest, Chairman of IDA Haryana Chapter, and the participating milk producers for their active involvement and valuable interaction.

FSSAI Webinar on Therapeutic Benefits of Milk and Dairy Products

Dr. J.B. Prajapati, Chairman, IDA (WZ), was invited as the Guest Speaker in the Ayushman Bhav Samvad webinar series organised by FSSAI on March 30, 2026,



where he delivered an insightful talk on the therapeutic benefits of milk and dairy products. The webinar was moderated by Dr. Monika Punia, Deputy Director, FSSAI, and witnessed the participation of over 230 attendees from across the country.

The session highlighted the nutritional, therapeutic and scientific importance of milk and dairy products. It addressed several misconceptions associated with milk consumption, presented a comparison between dairy and plant-based alternatives, and discussed the significant role of dairy foods in the management of lifestyle-related disorders.



During his presentation, Dr. Prajapati emphasised that milk is a nutritionally complete and functional food, and that regular consumption of dairy products contributes to overall health and longevity. He further noted that many of the negative perceptions surrounding milk are largely myth-driven rather than evidence-based, and urged consumers to rely on scientific facts instead of social media narratives while making dietary choices.

Andheri. The workshop was designed to provide HoReCa professionals with a holistic understanding of dairy products, combining technical expertise with commercial insights.

The workshop was inaugurated by IDA (WZ) Chairman, Dr. J.B. Prajapati, who set the tone for the event by emphasizing the importance of quality and authenticity in dairy procurement. He also highlighted the critical role of the HoReCa sector in safeguarding consumer health by using genuine dairy products in their recipes. He was warmly welcomed by Secretary Shri Madhav Patgaonkar, whose efforts in organizing the session were acknowledged by all present. The inauguration was further graced by the presence of Vice Chairmen Dr. J. V. Parekh and Shri K. Shyju, along with Treasurer Shri Anil Hatekar, reflecting the strong leadership and collective commitment of the association.

The session opened with Prof. Dr. R.D. Kokane, a distinguished consultant who has worked with numerous dairy brands to establish production units. Drawing on his vast experience, Dr. Kokane explained the fundamentals of milk quality and the importance of purchase standards and product standardization. He emphasized how these parameters directly influence the commercial success of dairy products, offering practical guidance for procurement professionals in the hospitality and catering sectors.

The second speaker, Shri Rajan Malik, an entrepreneur credited with introducing paneer to the B2B market, shared his journey of supplying paneer to leading chains such as McDonald's and Domino's. His talk focused on the varieties of paneer available in the market and the critical factors a purchase head should consider when selecting them. He also highlighted the growing issue of analogue or fake paneer, elaborating on methods to identify adulterated products and stressing the importance of authenticity in procurement.

The workshop attracted an impressive audience, including representatives from Taj Group of Hotels, JW

Master Class Dairy 360°: Workshop for HoReCa Sector

The Indian Dairy Association (West Zone) organized its flagship master class, Dairy 360°: Quality, Adulteration & Commercial Insights, on April 18, 2026, at the IDA (WZ) Mumbai office, Dynasty Business Park,



Marriott, Copper Chimney, Prashant Corner, Tarachand Bhagat Chand, Mohanlal Mithaiwala, Westin, FW Chefs, Radisson, Fairmont, Reliance, Mars Hotels & Restaurants, Box 8, Beyond Kitchen, Vibrant India, etc. Their participation underscored the relevance of the session and ensured that the insights shared by the



of ghee-making, their impact on quality, and the commercial implications. He compared varieties and price ranges available in the market, guiding participants on what to prioritize during purchase. Importantly, he stressed the need for Gas Chromatography (GC) certification as a scientific measure to authenticate purity.

By covering milk, paneer, and ghee comprehensively, the workshop provided

speakers reached decision-makers directly responsible for procurement and quality assurance.

The highlight of the workshop was the session by Shri Nilabja Dey, a seasoned professional with a distinguished career in the HoReCa industry. Formerly Purchase Head at Sodexo, followed by leadership roles in dairy companies as Sales Head, he brought unmatched authority to the discussion. With his vast experience in sourcing dairy products and selling reputed dairy brands to the HoReCa sector, Shri Dey delivered a comprehensive presentation on ghee-one of the most premium and most adulteration-prone dairy products. He explained traditional and modern methods

participants with a 360-degree perspective on dairy products. It bridged the gap between scientific expertise and commercial procurement practices, empowering HoReCa professionals to make informed decisions that balance quality, authenticity, and profitability. This was followed by an intense and enriching discussion. Many of the participants' concepts and concerns were addressed by the experts and IDA leadership.

The key takeaways from the workshop are:

- **Beyond Pricing - Focus on Authenticity**

Policy leaders in the HoReCa sector must look beyond price tags. A vendor offering products below production



cost raises red flags-authenticity and sustainability of supply should be the priority.

- **Quality Standards & Certification**

Purchase decisions hinge on quality requirements and certifications. There is a pressing need for third-party authentication to ensure certifications are genuine and trustworthy.

- **Bridging Knowledge Gaps with Training**

Purchase heads require formal training to align their understanding with scientific principles, technology, and practical applications. This will help them make informed, evidence-based procurement decisions.

- **Chef-Centric Understanding of Dairy Products**

Chefs need clarity on how genuine dairy products differ from analogues and how their functionality can be adapted to meet culinary requirements. This empowers chefs to innovate while maintaining authenticity.

The event reaffirmed IDA (West Zone)'s commitment to advancing knowledge and fostering collaboration within the dairy industry, positioning the association as a hub for professional development and industry leadership.

NATIONAL News

Workshop on SASCI, AI, Vaccination & Bharat Pashudhan Portal



According to PIB, a review meeting/workshop on key issues related to Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) for Livestock Sector Reforms, Artificial Insemination (AI), vaccination, and the Bharat

Pashudhan Portal was conducted on April 17, 2026 at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi, under the chairmanship of Shri Naresh Pal Gangwar, Secretary, DAHD, Government of India. The workshop witnessed active participation from senior officials and dignitaries of Animal Husbandry Departments from all States and Union Territories.

The aim of the meeting/workshop was to discuss: (i) issues related to SASCI for Livestock Sector Reforms, (ii) SOPs and other issues related to vaccination, (iii) SOPs and other issues related to Artificial Insemination, and (iv) issues related to the NDLM - Bharat Pashudhan Portal. The Chairperson outlined the scheme's objectives under SASCI and informed participants about the criteria to be fulfilled to avail incentives. Furthermore, the Chairperson advised senior officials to coordinate with the concerned authorities for detailed implementation of SASCI preconditions, ensuring that proposals are aligned with the States' livestock development plans.

In his opening remarks, Shri Naresh Pal Gangwar, Secretary, DAHD, informed that most States/UTs' Animal Husbandry Departments have begun adopting uniform measures in line with guidelines issued by DAHD, Government of India. He highlighted that SASCI Livestock Sector Reforms aim to drive incentive-based capital investment through clear operational frameworks. He urged States/UTs to accelerate implementation, coordinate with Finance Departments for timely budget allocation, submit claims on schedule, and ensure that funds are directed solely towards livestock activities from the beginning of the financial year. He also stressed Centre-State convergence, timely reporting, use of digital

tools for improved service delivery, and regular monitoring of workshop action points.

During the workshop, a detailed presentation was made by Ms. Varsha Joshi, Additional Secretary (CDD/Trade/CE&P), DAHD, and deliberations were held on the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for vaccination and Artificial Insemination (AI), along with other related issues. Furthermore, matters concerning the National Digital Livestock Mission (NDLM) - Bharat Pashudhan Portal were thoroughly addressed, with key emphasis on achieving seamless

data integration, enabling real-time uploading of vaccination and AI records, and ensuring effective

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service delivery through a unified digital platform across States and Union Territories. Under RGM, States/UTs were urged to deploy MAITRI workers in every Gram Panchayat and submit proposals, while DAHD will expand Artificial Insemination to non-bovine species and promote IVF in sheep for genetic improvement.

During the review, progress under NLM-EDP was assessed, with directions to submit inputs for the second instalment within the defined timeline. Under LHDCP, States/UTs were asked to expedite action plans for NADCP, MVUs, and ASCAD. The meeting also reviewed livestock insurance, fodder planning in coordination with Rural Development Departments, influenza preparedness, FMD-free zones, and strengthening of district diagnostic laboratories.

The meeting concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session, during which DAHD officials addressed queries raised by States and Union Territories. Participants collectively reaffirmed their commitment to timely implementation of reforms and schemes, strengthening Centre-State coordination, and enhancing service delivery in the animal husbandry and livestock sector.

The workshop was also attended by Shri Rama Shankar Sinha, Additional Secretary (LH); Dr. Naveena B.

Maheswarappa, Animal Husbandry Commissioner; Dr. Muthukumarasamy B., Joint Secretary (NLM); and Shri Jagat Hazarika, Statistical Advisor, DAHD. Additional Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of Animal Husbandry Departments, Directors of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, and other senior officers from all States/UTs were also present.

LUVAS; Smt. Nivedita Tiwary, CGM, NABARD; Dr. N.S. Rathore, Former DDG, Indian Council of Agricultural Research; Er. Sumer Aggarwal, President, IDEA; Dr. I.K. Sawhney, Vice President, IDEA; and Dr. Sharanagouda B. Patil, Dean, CoDST, LUVAS.

Speaking on the theme, 'Dairy and Food Engineering: Innovations and Solutions for Viksit Bharat @2047', Dr. Shah emphasised the critical role of the dairy sector in building a developed India by ensuring livelihoods, nutritional security, and resilience for millions of rural families. He highlighted that dairying continues to act as a dependable buffer against agricultural uncertainties while significantly contributing to the nation's nutritional needs.

Outlining the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, he stressed the need to expand the organised dairy sector from the current 30% to 70% by 2047 through stronger cooperative frameworks and enhanced market access for farmers, with the support of the Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India, and the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (FAHD). In this direction, he noted that NDDB has been entrusted with the responsibility of establishing over 75,000 new dairy cooperative societies/multipurpose cooperatives across uncovered Gram Panchayats and villages under White Revolution 2.0, further strengthening the cooperative movement at the grassroots level.

He emphasised that increasing the share of the organised market, alongside strengthening systems, will play a crucial role in combating adulteration and ensuring better quality milk for consumers.

Focusing on the way forward, Dr. Shah underlined the importance of improving productivity through scientific and technological interventions, including NDDB's initiatives in animal breeding, nutrition, and health, such as the development of indigenous genomic chips, sex-sorted semen technology, and the Ration Balancing Programme.

Chairman, NDDB Addresses the 15th IDEA Convention and National Seminar

Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman, NDDB, addressed a distinguished gathering of scientists, engineers, industry leaders, policymakers, academicians, and students at the 15th Indian Dairy Engineers Association (IDEA) Convention & National Seminar, organised in collaboration with Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Hisar.

Distinguished dignitaries present included Prof. (Dr.) Vinod Kumar Verma, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor,



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He further stressed the need to leverage digital tools and advanced technologies to improve efficiency and empower farmers, while promoting sustainability through circular practices such as biogas and manure management. Highlighting the unique strength of India's dairy cooperative model, he noted that nearly 75-80% of the consumer rupee is passed back to farmers, making it one of the most inclusive value chains.

Calling for greater collaboration among stakeholders, he encouraged young professionals to develop innovative, scalable solutions that directly benefit farmers and enhance the global competitiveness of the sector. He reaffirmed NDDDB's commitment to innovation, capacity building, and technology adoption to strengthen India's position in the global dairy landscape.

Uttar Pradesh Signs MoUs Worth Rs. 3,000 Crore to Boost Dairy Sector Investment

Uttar Pradesh has secured fresh investments of over Rs.3,000 crore in the dairy sector with the signing of 59 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) at a high-profile conclave in Lucknow, aimed at strengthening dairy infrastructure, boosting production capacity and promoting private sector participation across the value chain.

The investments are expected to generate more than 13,000 jobs while accelerating modernization, value-added dairy processing and rural livelihood opportunities. The event, marking 50 years of the state's Dairy Development Department, witnessed participation from around 10,000 stakeholders including farmers, producers and investors.

Leading private dairy players such as Ananda, Gyan and Param were part of the investment push, reflecting growing industry confidence in the state. The government highlighted that the dairy sector contributes about Rs.1.72 lakh crore to the state's Gross State Value Added (GSVA), reinforcing its role as a key pillar of the rural economy.

Uttar Pradesh continues to be India's largest milk-producing state, with production rising from 277.70 lakh tonnes in 2016-17 to 1,836.85 lakh tonnes in 2025-26, while per capita milk availability has increased from 352 gm/day to 450 gm/day.

The state has already signed 796 MoUs worth about Rs.25,000 crore in the dairy sector, with potential to

create over 60,000 jobs, indicating strong long-term investment momentum. Policy initiatives such as the Nand Baba Dugdh Mission have further supported the sector, with Rs.84 crore disbursed via DBT to over 10,000 beneficiaries and more than 4,000 primary milk cooperative societies connecting around 1.5 lakh producers.

Dodla Dairy Expands its Footprint in Eastern India



Dodla Dairy Limited, a Benefactor Member of Indian Dairy Association, has taken a significant step towards expanding its footprint in Eastern India, with its wholly owned subsidiary, HR Food Processing

Private Limited, securing 7.15 acres of land in Bihar on a 90-year lease.

The proposed facility will manufacture a diversified range of dairy products, including milk, dahi, paneer, butter, and traditional milk-based sweets. The company is currently completing the required legal and administrative formalities related to the land acquisition.

This development marks a strategic milestone in Dodla Dairy's expansion plans, particularly in Eastern India. The new plant is expected to enhance production capacity while improving supply chain efficiency and regional market access. Bihar's location offers a strategic advantage for catering to neighbouring markets, including Jharkhand and West Bengal.

The move builds on Dodla Dairy's earlier acquisition of HR Food Processing Private Limited in July 2025, which marked its entry into Eastern India through the 'Osam' brand. The acquisition enabled the company to leverage an established market presence, and the current land lease further reinforces its regional growth strategy.

Once operational, the new manufacturing unit is expected to strengthen Dodla Dairy's product portfolio and support the supply of fresh dairy products to consumers in the region. The initiative aligns with broader industry trends, where major dairy players such as Hatsun Agro Product Limited, Parag Milk Foods Limited, and Heritage Foods Limited are expanding their production and distribution capabilities across India.

The project's progress will depend on the timely completion of land-related formalities, following which further details on construction timelines, investment plans, and operational commencement are expected.

Biogas Shields Karnataka Dairy Homes from LPG Crisis

Dairy farming families in Karnataka equipped with biogas plants have remained largely unaffected by the ongoing LPG shortage, as cow dung-based energy systems provide a reliable and self-sufficient alternative for cooking fuel. The trend is especially visible in regions like Dakshina Kannada, where farmers have integrated dairy and energy production.

Farmers with operational biogas units are able to completely bypass dependence on LPG cylinders, using dung from their cattle to generate daily cooking gas, ensuring uninterrupted household operations despite supply disruptions.

For instance, dairy farmers managing herds of 15 to over 50 cattle are utilising dung efficiently to produce biogas, which not only replaces LPG but also delivers a clean, smoke-free, and cost-effective fuel solution.

The model also supports circular farm economics, where waste is converted into energy and the residual slurry is used as organic manure, reducing fertiliser costs and improving soil health.

Experts highlight that biogas offers a sustainable, locally available renewable energy source, helping reduce reliance on firewood and fossil fuels while strengthening resilience against supply shocks like the current LPG crisis.

The development underscores how integrating dairy farming with decentralised energy systems can enhance rural self-reliance, lower input costs, and provide long-term sustainability benefits for India's dairy ecosystem.



India Eyes One-Third Share of Global Milk Production in Next Decade

India is poised to significantly strengthen its dominance in the global dairy sector, with Shri Jayen Mehta, MD, GCMMF indicating



that the country could account for nearly one-third of the world's milk production over the next decade.

Currently contributing around 25% of global milk output, India already holds the position of the world's largest milk producer. The projected growth reflects a strong upward trajectory driven by scale, robust cooperative structures, and supportive policy initiatives.

According to leadership at Amul, this expansion will be underpinned by the strengthening of cooperative networks and the implementation of initiatives such as White Revolution 2.0. These efforts aim to boost milk procurement, expand infrastructure, and enhance farmer participation across the country.

The initiative envisions integrating millions of additional dairy farmers into the organized sector, thereby improving efficiency and ensuring better price realization. Increased milk collection and improved supply chain systems are expected to play a critical role in achieving these targets. Beyond volume growth, the focus is also shifting toward value addition and global market expansion. India is positioning itself not only as a leading producer but also as a major supplier of processed and branded dairy products in international markets.

As dairy continues to be the largest agricultural commodity in the country, the sector is increasingly prioritizing exports, productivity, and higher-value segments. Industry experts underline that the cooperative model-supported by millions of farmers-remains central to this vision, enabling inclusive growth and strengthening rural livelihoods.

If successfully executed, India's ambition to emerge as the "dairy to the world" could reshape global dairy supply chains and trade patterns in the coming years.

Sumul Dairy Achieves India's First Water Credit Recognition for Rainwater Recharge Initiative

On the occasion of World Water Day, Sumul Dairy has achieved a significant milestone in advancing



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sustainable rural development by becoming the first cooperative union in India to receive international Water Credit recognition.

The recognition has been awarded for its Rainwater Recharge Project, implemented across 100 dairy cooperative societies in the Surat and Tapi districts. Through this initiative, approximately 25 million litres of rainwater have been successfully recharged into the groundwater, resulting in the generation of around 25,000 water credits.

This initiative represents a progressive approach to water resource management by integrating conservation with economic value creation. The concept of water credits introduces an innovative mechanism through which cooperative societies can generate additional income by trading these credits, while also ensuring the long-term sustainability of recharge systems.

The project aligns with multiple United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land). By leveraging existing infrastructure and adopting a low-cost, low-maintenance approach, Sumul Dairy has developed a replicable blueprint for other cooperatives and industries in water-stressed regions.

Sumul Dairy's intervention highlights the potential of cooperative-led models in addressing critical environmental challenges such as groundwater depletion. While continuing its legacy of contributing to the White Revolution, the Union is now playing a proactive role in promoting environmental sustainability, water security, and climate resilience at the grassroots level.

This initiative sets a benchmark for cooperatives across the country, demonstrating how integrated water management practices can strengthen both ecological sustainability and rural livelihoods.

Milky Mist Dairy Surpasses FY26 Growth Targets; IPO Plans Progress

Milky Mist Dairy has exceeded its growth projections for FY2025-26, supported by robust demand for value-added dairy products and continued market expansion. The company has also reaffirmed that its much-anticipated IPO remains on schedule.

Growth has been largely driven by increasing consumption of premium and processed dairy categories, including cheese, paneer, curd, and other

value-added products, which are significantly outpacing the growth of traditional liquid milk.

According to the company's CEO, a strong emphasis on automation, product innovation, and supply chain efficiency has been instrumental in delivering higher-than-expected performance while enhancing profitability.

Milky Mist is further strengthening its distribution network and brand presence to capture a larger share of the rapidly expanding value-added dairy segment.

With steady financial performance and scaling operations, the company is advancing its IPO roadmap, reflecting confidence in its growth trajectory and rising investor interest in India's evolving dairy industry.

Farm-to-Market Dairy Model Drives Income Stability and Sectoral Transformation



India's evolving dairy ecosystem is underscoring a key shift in agricultural economics, where stable and predictable income is emerging as a stronger driver of farmer retention than productivity gains

alone. The journey of Akshayakalpa Organic reflects how direct market linkages can address persistent income volatility in agriculture.

Founded in 2010 with an initial investment of Rs.1.4 crore, the company initially focused on improving farm productivity. However, limited impact on farmer incomes led to a strategic shift in 2012 toward direct procurement of organic milk, leveraging dairy's daily cash flow advantage. Despite this, reliance on distributor-led channels caused payment delays and working capital stress, pushing the company close to bankruptcy multiple times until 2019, as reported by The Financial Express.

A turning point came in 2016 with the adoption of a direct-to-consumer (D2C) model, supported by a digital platform and prepaid subscriptions. This ensured steady cash inflows and reduced dependence on intermediaries. By 2019, revenues reached around Rs.30 crore.

The company has since scaled significantly, reporting profitability in FY26 with EBITDA margins of about 8% and monthly revenues near Rs.50 crore. Its farmer network has grown to nearly 2,800, with average monthly incomes of around Rs.1.28 lakh."Backed by investors including Lok Capital and Nithin Kamath, the model highlights how market access and assured cash flows are reshaping dairy-led rural growth.

INTERNATIONAL News

International Dairy Market:

Overview

As per the latest USDA data during March 16-27, 2026, international market overview are as follows:

EUROPEAN

Western European

UK dairy markets are moving through the spring flush with strong milk output, as England's production continues to track seasonally higher into April and adds to already ample supplies. Elevated volumes are weighing on near-term price direction, while broader EU production remains firm in the background, reinforcing a well-supplied market despite early signs of stabilization.

Adverse weather conditions in March led many Irish dairy producers to bring cows indoors, disrupting typical grazing patterns during the early spring period. The shift toward housing reflects ongoing challenges with ground conditions, which may influence feeding practices and near-term milk production efficiency as the season progresses. EU milk prices have remained stable in early March at around 42 cents per liter, as balanced conditions across key producers including Germany and France offset minor adjustments seen in Spain and Italy.

Variations at the country level have largely evened out, supporting a steady overall market despite localized shifts in supply and demand dynamics.

Eastern European

Georgia's dairy import profile shifted notably in early 2026, with milk purchases from Russia increasing sharply to record levels and strengthening its position as the leading supplier. The surge highlights changing trade dynamics and growing reliance on external sources, even as imports remain diversified across several competing exporters.

Infant formula recalls have expanded across Europe following contamination concerns, with additional withdrawals reported in Eastern EU markets including Poland, Romania, and Hungary. The situation has introduced added scrutiny across regional dairy supply chains, as processors and regulators monitor ingredient sourcing and product safety while managing potential disruptions to trade flows and consumer demand.

OCEANIA DAIRY MARKET

New Zealand

Following Global Dairy Trade (GDT) Event 401, a group

in New Zealand that forecasts milk prices decreased their milk price forecast for the 2025/2026 season by 4 cents, from \$9.83 per kilogram milk solids (kgMS) to \$9.73/kgMS. The spot value of milk decreased to \$10.59/kgMS from \$10.54/kgMS. Prices were lower for all commodities except buttermilk powder at GDT Event 401, with anhydrous milkfat and butter down 7.1 percent and 8.1 percent, respectively.

The 2026 - 2027 season milk price forecast has been revised down from \$9.64/kgMS to \$9.41/kgMS. This update reflects an NZD-USD exchange rate assumption of 0.5900 and maintains a forecast range of \$9.10 to \$10.02/kgMS. The 2026 - 2027 Milk Price Futures contract last settled at \$9.43/kgMS.

Australia

Dairy Australia recently released export data for Australia showing milk export volumes from July 2025 - February 2026 totaled 116,420 metric tons, an increase of 18.2 percent compared to export volume totals from July 2024 - February 2025.

Dairy Australia is working with industry partners to address ongoing fuel and fertilizer supply constraints and rising input costs caused by global supply chain disruptions. With pressures expected to continue, Dairy Australia has activated its Issues Management Framework to coordinate a unified industry response, collaborating with Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF), the Australian Dairy Products Federation (ADPF), and government agencies to assess on farm impacts and ensure farmers are supported. Industry groups are also engaging through the federal government's National Coordination Mechanism and the Minister's Agriculture Fuel Supply Roundtable, while peak farming bodies advocate for government recognition of potential impacts on food production and regional communities.

SOUTH AMERICA DAIRY MARKET

Although seasonally changes are taking place in South America that lighten milk production, stakeholders indicate milk supplies remain strong. According to latest data from CLAL.it, data 2026 January through February is up compared with the prior year by 7.08 percent for Uruguay, 10.1 percent for Argentina, and 3.6 percent for Chile. On the other side of the coin, the latest farm gate milk price data from CLAL.it compares the same year over year time frame and shows farm gate milk prices decreased 10.05 percent for Uruguay, 30.4 percent for Argentina, and 0.9 percent for Chile. Favorable weather contributed to noticeable milk production growth in 2025. Stakeholders anticipate wetter weather in key dairy areas to take place this year, which could put pressure on milk output.

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No changes to milk powder demand from buyers in South America are noted. Demand from buyers outside of South America varies from steady to stronger. Production of milk powders varies from steady to lighter. Energy costs for producers are increasing. Industry sources indicate production costs are generally increasing quicker than milk prices, and consumer purchasing power is weakening. Industry sources note Nicaragua's Ministry of Development, Industry and Trade authorized duty-free powdered milk imports to help with domestic supply shortages, which may positively impact global demand for milk powders produced in South America.

UK Dairy Faces Price Pressure Amid Milk Surge

The UK dairy sector has entered 2026 under pressure, as rising milk production in domestic and global markets has led to oversupply, impacting prices and farmer margins. According to the latest Q1 2026 review by Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board, supply growth has outpaced demand, creating downward pressure across the value chain.

GB milk deliveries have remained above last year's levels, with January 2026 output reaching 1,080 million litres, up 3.3% year-on-year. Total seasonal production is forecast at a record 13.49 billion litres, around 4.9%

higher than the previous year.

The surge in supply has led to declines in wholesale and farmgate prices, with some contracts falling by up to 15 pence per litre. Globally, milk production across major regions has also increased by 4.4%, further limiting price recovery.

Despite a 0.9% decline in herd numbers, higher yields, favourable feed conditions, and earlier strong prices have supported output. Organic milk volumes have also grown, with January deliveries rising 10.7%, indicating continued demand in premium segments.

While production growth is expected to stabilise later in the year, elevated supply levels may continue to strain processing capacity and keep prices subdued in the near term.

Event CALENDAR

IDF World Dairy Summit 2026

Date: 15-20 November, 2026

Venue: New Zealand International Convention Centre, Auckland, New Zealand.

The theme of the event is "Healthy People, Healthy Planet, Healthy Economies".

Visit: <https://www.idfwds2026.com>

Email: idfwds@idfwds2026.com

GDT Event 402: Dairy Prices Decline Further

At the latest Global Dairy Trade (GDT) Event 402 held on April 21, 2026, the GDT Price Index fell by 2.7%, marking the second consecutive decline after earlier gains this year. The average price eased to about USD 4,143 per tonne, reflecting cautious buyer sentiment.

Among key products, AMF (-9.6%) and butter (-7.9%)

saw sharp declines, while SMP (+3.2%), lactose (+7.2%), and cheddar (+1.1%) recorded gains. WMP edged down by 0.6%, and BMP was not traded.

Total volumes stood at around 17,000–18,000 tonnes, slightly lower than previous events. Despite tighter milk supply in Oceania, demand weakness and existing inventories continue to weigh on global dairy prices.

