

IDA (WZ) Organized a National Seminar on Dairy Development in Goa

The National Seminar on "Dairy Development in Goa - Opportunities and Challenges", was held during November 7-8, 2025, at the NIO Auditorium, North Goa. Organized by the IDA (West Zone) in association with Goa Dairy; SUMUL Dairy; and the Department of Animal Husbandry, Government of Goa; the two-day seminar brought together more than 525 participants, including farmers from Goa, SUMUL, Gokul, and Govind Dairies, officials from the Government of Goa, industry experts, and professionals from across the dairy sector.



The Inaugural session was presided over by Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry, Government of Goa, Shri Nilanth R. Halarnkar, along with senior officials including Shri Yatindra Maralkar, Secretary (Cooperation), and Shri Ashutosh Apte, Registrar of Cooperative Societies. In his welcome address, Dr. J.B. Prajapati, Chairman, IDA (WZ), expressed gratitude to the Government of Goa for its support and highlighted the need to strengthen dairy development in the state. He urged farmers to leverage IDA's training opportunities, tap into Goa's thriving tourism economy, and enhance milk production to achieve greater self-sufficiency in dairy products. He also emphasized sustainable practices, methane reduction, and productivity enhancement.

The President of IDA Dr. R.S. Sodhi, in his address, focused on bringing "smiles to the faces of cattle rearers" by making dairying more profitable for farmers and attractive to future generations. He stressed that growth in the dairy industry depends on farmers, consumers, and policymakers working together. He called for better breed improvement, reduced NECO cases, improved feed conversion efficiency, and greater investments in dairy processing to ensure farmers have stable markets for increased production.

A special message was delivered by Shri Arun Purohit, MD, SUMUL, who discussed integrating Goan farmers into new initiatives, while Minister Shri Halarnkar highlighted the need for technology adoption, enhanced training, and strengthening cooperatives for Goa's dairy growth.

The inaugural session also featured the IDA (WZ) Women Farmer Awards, recognizing exceptional women dairy farmers from Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh for their exemplary milk contributions and modern farming practices. Awards were presented by the Hon'ble Minister, Shri Nilanth R. Halarnkar. The award consists of a citation, shawl, memento, and a cash prize of Rs. 20,000/- for the winner and Rs. 10,000/- for the runner-up.

A Special Award of Rs. 25,000/-, along with a shawl and memento, was presented by Goa Dairy to Shri Kushali Savant, a 103-year-old farmer.

The seminar's technical sessions covered a range of topics relevant to farmers, cooperatives, and dairy professionals. The First Session was chaired by Shri Madhav Sahakari Ex-Chairman, Goa Dairy & Ex Vice Chairman IDA (WZ) IDA. The session focused on milk productivity, animal

health, and supportive government policies. Experts including Dr. Jadhav and Dr. Nilesh Nayee emphasized scientific breeding, balanced feeding, heat detection, genomic selection, and IVF technologies. Ms. Sinjini Guha highlighted circular economy opportunities through biogas, bio-slurry, and waste-to-energy systems, while Shri Abhishek shared insights on the upcoming Dairy Industry Conference in New Delhi.

The Second Session, chaired by Shri Parag Nagarsenkar, Chairman, Goa Dairy, emphasized smart dairy farming, feed and fodder management, climate resilience, and sustainable practices suited to Goa's tropical environment. Speakers of the session – Dr. Sant, Shri Ghosh, Dr. Juneja, Dr. Parag Ghogale and Dr. Dayavardhan – addressed profitability enhancement,



fodder shortages, balanced nutrition, animal selection for productivity, and ethno-veterinary approaches that reduce antimicrobial resistance.

Second day of the Seminar commenced with a Third Session on processing, marketing, and innovations. It was chaired by Dr. Jayant Khadse, Vice President BAIF Pune. Speakers – Shri Hiral Shah, Ms. Richie, Shri Anil Hatekar, Ms. Swaroopa Naik and Shri Santosh Upadhyay – explored value addition, traceability, quality assurance, local brand development, and disease prevention. Experts stressed the need for strong local brands, clean milk production, and wider adoption of modern technologies to increase consumer trust and industry competitiveness.

The Fourth Session was chaired by Dr. Praveen Kumar, Director, ICAR-CCARI, Goa. This session highlighted dairy's contribution to nutrition, public health, and livelihood improvement. Dr. J.B. Prajapati underscored the nutritional importance of milk in preventing lifestyle diseases. Dr. Aparnathi shared details about the importance of milk in human nutrition and why it should not be ignored.

Dr. Jadhav discussed about the training needs for farmers and managers, the need for Cadre of AI Technician Development for breeding work, Pashusakhi for extension work and input supply, innovative / progressive farmers exposure visits, Capacity building and awareness

generation through training on management, Breeding, feeding and housing and disease management. Dr. R.B. Dhuri, discussed the importance of green and sustainable dairy production in Goa.

Shri Vishal Kuyate, DeLaval India, spoke about Future - Smart & Digital Farming, that Cow Centric Design & Planning is very important for cow friendly & smooth operations, Use of Big Data & Automation at dairy farm would be the basic necessity for future growth.

The Valedictory Session summarized the seminar's outcomes, emphasizing the need for improved farmer training, investment in dairy infrastructure, and stronger collaboration among cooperatives, government agencies, and private enterprises.

Based on the deliberations during the two-day National Seminar, the following key recommendations emerged:

- There is a need to strengthen farmers training on modern animal husbandry practices including breed improvement, veterinary care, feed and fodder. Field demonstrations and model demonstration farms are required to be established at strategic locations.
- Promote Fodder Development by encouraging cultivation of high-yielding green fodder crops and community silage projects. Use of forest land, shadow areas of coconut and areca palm gardens should be used for green fodder farming. Technology for growing fodder in vertical farms can also be adopted to meet the requirement of fodder in the state.
- Support/subsidize manure management, waste-to-energy initiatives, and carbon footprint reduction under the circular economy framework. This will give supplementary income to farmers and make the business sustainable.
- Encourage Milk Processing and Value Addition, strengthen local processing infrastructure and promote new dairy enterprises for value-added products such as curd, paneer, ghee, and flavoured milk.
- Introduce startup schemes for young entrepreneurs in the dairy value chain.
- Policy and Institutional Support, simplify access to government schemes and credit facilities for small and medium dairy farmers.
- Nutrition and Public Health Promotion, Promote awareness on the nutritional importance of milk and dairy products in public health and school nutrition programs. Encourage consumption of locally produced milk and dairy products to support farmers and improve community health.
- Promote brand of local Goan dairy products. The tourism economy of Goa will complement the local production and will make Goa and its milk producers independent, sustainable and free from outside competition.

Dr. J.B. Prajapati, Chairman IDA (WZ) concluded the event by thanking the Hon'ble CM Shri Promod Sawant; Department of A&H, Cooperation & Government of Goa; farmers; sponsors; speakers; and delegates for making the seminar a resounding success.