

Punjab to roll out new agriculture policy by Mar 31: Agri. Minister Dhaliwal



Punjab Agriculture Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal said the state government will roll out a new agriculture policy by March 31, 2023.

The new agricultural policy will be prepared to focus on the geographical situation, soil health, availability of crops and water, and consultations are being held with renowned agricultural scientists, experts and farmers' organisations.

Dhaliwal speaking during a 'Kisan Goshti' said that creation of a separate policy for natural farming, the minister said, people are facing health problems due to excessive use of fertilisers, chemicals, weed killers and pesticides in agriculture.

He said to bring natural farming, it is necessary to work according to its climate. The state government will make every possible effort to strengthen the agricultural sector with the help of agricultural experts, agronomists and experienced people, the minister added.

2000 Kisan Khidmat Centres Set up in Jammu and Kashmir



As many as 2,000 Kisan Khidmat Centres' have been set up across Jammu and Kashmir to provide all facilities to farmers at their doorsteps, Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, said Atal Dullo.

He said the government is supporting farmers, both financially and technically, and should take benefit from it.

"The government has set up 2000 Kisan Kidmat Centre for farmers to provide them all facilities at their doorstep," Mr. Dullo said speaking at a Kisan Sammelan' organized by J&K Advisory Board for Development of Kisans here.

Kisan Kidmat Center in Jammu And Kashmir are the single window points for delivery of financial schemes, and agriculture services to citizens in rural and remote areas of the country.

Kerala Milk producers' union to focus on diversification strategies



The Ernakulam Regional Cooperative Milk Producers' Union (ERCMPU), as part of its diversification plans, will set up a bakery, spices powder unit, and a chocolate paste-making facility, besides manufacturing bottles for its own brand of clarified butter.

ERCMPU is spread over Thrissur, Ernakulam, Kottayam and Idukki districts and has a dairy farmer base of around one million under 1,000 primary milk societies.

The expenses of commissioning the diversification projects were likely to be met through the union's own funds, said ERCMPU chairman M.T. Jayan. He added that the projects were being finalised and that the actual investment involved would have to be worked out on the basis of the project reports.

Sri Lanka turns to India for help to boost dairy production

In a bid to scale up its dairy production to become self-sufficient, Sri Lanka has sought technical assistance from India’s National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB) and market leader Amul, reviving a collaboration that the island attempted in the late 1990s, but failed to take forward.



Officials from Sri Lanka’s Agriculture Ministry and National Livestock Development Board held a “preliminary discussion” with visiting Indian authorities from the NDDDB, said the President’s media division. President Ranil Wickremesinghe has appointed a committee with representatives from Sri Lanka’s public and private sectors, to work with the NDDDB and “prepare a short, medium and long-term plan to increase local milk production to reduce the country’s dependence on imported milk powder”, his office said in a statement.

The partnership is not new to Sri Lanka, where former president Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga invited India’s “milk man” Verghese Kurien to set up the ‘Kiriya’ dairy project but the project did not take off, in the wake of resistance from Sri Lanka.

Currently, Sri Lanka’s domestic dairy production meets less than half of its requirements. The dollar-strapped island nation spends about \$300 million annually on dairy imports, mostly from New Zealand. As the country’s economy crashed earlier this year, leading to severe shortages, milk powder widely used in Sri Lanka where fresh milk is scarce.

With living costs soaring through the year, milk products, locally produced or imported, remain out of reach for many poor families. They have been forced to ration their dairy intake. UHT milk costs nearly LKR 500 (roughly ₹111) a litre, while 1 kg of milk powder rose to LKR 1300 this year (about ₹290).

Apart from India, Sri Lanka is also exploring greater collaboration with New Zealand, its main source of dairy imports for four decades now. According to a Colombo-based official, New Zealand’s dairy cooperative, Fonterra, has in recent years expanded its Sri Lanka business. It has been building partnerships with Sri Lankan farmers, and “is considering how to expand this when conditions allow”, the official said.

Milk card holders have to link ration card or Aadhaar, says TNMPCF

The Tamil Nadu Milk Producers’ Co-operative Federation (TNMPCF) made it mandatory for card holders to provide ration cards or Aadhaar at the time of renewal. The renewal of milk cards for Aavin full cream fell by 10,000 after the mandate.

“To ensure that subsidy given for milk is availed only by (domestic) consumers, we have asked card holders to either provide a copy of ration card or Aadhaar (not mandatory) at the time of renewal. About 10,000 cards were not renewed last month,” said N Subbaiyan, MD, Aavin. Those who purchase toned (blue packs) and standardised (green packs) variants can renew as usual, he added.



In Chennai, a large chunk of cardholders don’t purchase milk directly from the depot. Milk is cater through delivery person. As per data, six lakh consumers in Tamil Nadu purchase milk using monthly cards and Aavin sells 29 lakh litres of milk daily. Milk cards have to be renewed between the 1st and 15th of every month at milk cooperative societies.

Tomar inaugurates Integrated 'Agriculture Investment Portal'



Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the integrated 'Agriculture Investment Portal'.

Speaking at a meeting with the co-chairperson of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Melinda French Gates, the minister said that the government has full focus on promoting women farmers in the country.

Tomar added that there are many challenges in the agriculture sector. "The number of small farmers is more in the country. The government

believes that if their strength increases, as a result, the agriculture sector will improve and production will also increase."

He said that traditional farming methods used to run in the agriculture sector in India. "Now in the current perspective there is a need for investment in the agriculture sector. In view of this, the government has initiated many reforms, and incorporated technology in agriculture. To ensure the eligible farmers are provided aid with transparency, the digital agriculture mission has also started in the country."

He added that the 'Krishi Nivesh Portal' (Agriculture Investment Portal) will prove to be a milestone in terms of investment in the agriculture sector. "It will be a centralized one stop portal for agri-investors to avail benefits of various government schemes implemented by various departments related to agriculture and allied sectors. This portal would prove to be handy for the investors, they would get a lot of help from it."

Agriculture sector remains resilient; Rabi sowing got off to a strong start: RBI

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das said the agriculture sector remains resilient, and the rabi sowing has got off to a strong start. However, India is expecting some moderation in kharif production due to uneven rainfall.

India's total kharif crop production is estimated to moderate to 149.92 metric million tonnes (MMT) from 156.04 MMT in the previous kharif crop year, as per the first advance estimate.



On the supply side, Das said, "The agricultural sector remains resilient. Rabi sowing got off to a strong start. The area sown so far is 6.8 per cent higher than the normal sown area (as on December 2, 2022)".

Area sown to wheat has increased by 5.36 per cent year-on-year to 211.62 lakh hectares in the first two months of the ongoing rabi (winter) season, with higher coverage being reported in Rajasthan, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, according to the agricultural ministry released data.

The sowing of wheat, the main rabi crop, begins in October and harvesting in March-April. Besides wheat, rice and pulses, such as gram, and urad as well as oilseeds like groundnut and mustard.

On the Indian economy, Das said the outlook is supported by good progress of rabi sowing, sustained urban demand, improving rural demand, a pick-up in manufacturing, a rebound in services and robust credit expansion.

Atmanirbhar gaushalas, boost to by-products — welfare scheme for stray cows awaits central govt nod



Cow hostels, cow products, encouraging entrepreneurs to set up cow-related businesses, and providing financial assistance to outfits working for the welfare of bovines — these are measures that the central government is considering as part of a scheme to resolve the stray cattle problem rampant throughout the country.

The department of animal husbandry and dairying, which falls under the ambit of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying — has sought the Union government’s approval for its ‘welfare of cows’ scheme.

A senior ministry official said, is aimed at encouraging farmers not to abandon their livestock on the streets upon completion of their productive life, minimising “stray cattle and human conflict”, and providing additional income to farmers through by-products.

“The total proposed cost of the scheme is Rs 494 crore, spread over five years from 2022-23 to 2025-26. It will include funding (for) cow hostels, livestock tourism park, cow products...,” the official added. The official further said that the scheme is meant to “save the cow progeny” through utilisation of their products and by-products.

The scheme proposed by the ministry envisages making gaushalas self-sustainable by promoting the production of by-products other than milk, such as cow dung and urine, which are then used in the making of various products.

“Organisations are trying to make products, however, the quantity is less and they do not have marketing support. Further, the technology needs to be leveraged to produce innovative products like Bio-CNG, Lignin (an organic polymer) and organic fertiliser etc,” said the note.

Unable to order butter? Here’s why

Amul and Mother Dairy are ramping up production of butter to overcome a shortage by December.

“I believe that the availability will be completely normal at all locations in the next 10-15 days,” said R.S. Sodhi, managing director of Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), the owner of the Amul brand.

A Mother Dairy spokesperson said production has been ramped up and supplies will be normalised soon.



The availability of butter across the country was impacted by a fall in milk supply, along with exponential demand, starting in the peak July-October season. The milk shortage was triggered by the outbreak of lumpy skin disease in cattle, high fodder prices, and farmers leaving the dairy business, said industry officials.

The impact of lumpy skin disease on cattle was especially grave. The disease drastically weakens the animal and adversely affects the quantity and quality of milk that they can produce. Experts said lower milk production due to the disease and other factors impacted the organised sector’s milk procurement this year. Consequently, major producers said they would focus first on stabilising milk supply rather than dairy products.

Preserving Dairy Sector under Climate Change: The Race to Carbon Neutrality

Global milk production is projected to grow at 1.8% p.a. (to 1060 million tonnes by 2031) over the next decade, faster than most other main agricultural commodities. India has been the leading producer and consumer of dairy products worldwide since 1998 with a sustained growth. India is the largest producer of milk and ranked 1st contributing to 23 per cent of global milk production. Dairying is one of the most important sector, both in rural and urban areas.

The demand for animal based food is expected to double during the first half of this century and it is apparent that the livestock sector will need to expand. Due to the increase in population, rise in per capita income, changing lifestyle, food habits, export opportunities etc., the demand for milk and milk products is expected to continue and rise.

Dairy cattle is considered as a popular asset especially in rural areas because they support livelihoods, provide regular source of food (dairy products) and income that can be obtained from selling dairy products, the whole animal or they can even be used as collateral for loans. Dairying provides economic stability; decent employment and means of fast returns.

No doubt animal based food industry is one of the contributors to emissions and climate change but the sector has focused in on this concern to become carbon neutral within the next few decades.

A variety of innovative technologies, climate smart farming as well as traditional solutions to easing the pressure on the environment from livestock sector, while increasing productivity and serving an ever-growing demand for animal-protein products. Adopting the right policies, such as penalizing carbon emissions and rewarding carbon sequestration, have the potential to reduce their net emissions by 89% according to recent studies.

Sustainability in dairying would help in protecting natural resources thereby ensuring the land's preservation for future generations and can make net zero carbon neutrality a reality. Embracing regenerative agricultural practices and innovative technologies, is key to make dairying an environmental solution while providing wholesome and nutritious dairy products to feed the world. Focusing on scaling climate-smart initiatives is crucial for attaining net zero environmental emissions by 2050, and will help reduce the carbon footprint.

Considering the importance of limiting global warming, SDGs and net-zero emissions, Nestle and Fonterra (New Zealand based global dairy nutrition co-operative) are collaborating to start a roadmap for mitigating environmental footprint, thereby developing commercially viable farms with net zero carbon emissions. This partnership aims to cut emissions by 30% by mid-2027 to reach net zero emissions in a decade. Recently NDDDB, Suzuki and Banas dairy joined hands together for deploying dung based bio-CNG plant for augmenting farmer's income through cattle manure sale and transformation towards low-carbon behaviour. Such type of projects needs to be replicated and encouraged by way of actively involving all stake-holders for developing climate resilient systems whilst protecting livelihoods of people and building sustainable animal based food production systems that can feed the world.

If net zero emissions are possible for dairy, other types of animal protein production systems shouldn't be that far behind. By leading the charge on committing to net zero emissions through operational change, technology implementation, market-based solutions and advocating for effective policy change, the dairy industry has the opportunity to pioneer change in the food production systems and demonstrate a pathway to a greater economic and environmental progress.



Credit : Dr Faazil Bashir, Directorate of Animal Husbandry Kashmir

Dairying & Sustainable Development Goals

Centre of Excellence for Dairy Skills in India (CEDSI) helps the empowerment and betterment of Livelihood for farmers, wage workers, and other stakeholders in the Dairy & allied sector value chain. We have taken this initiative to aware all the stakeholders on how working in dairy sector would bring real change. Every week we shall publish about how each goal is associated with dairy & livestock and is bringing holistic sustainable development for all. This is the 14th article in the series.

Goal 14 : Life Below Water

Sustainable Development Goal 14 aims to Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. SDG 14 Targets

- 1.Reduce marine pollution
- 2.Protect and Restore Ecosystems
- 3.Reduce Ocean Acidification
- 4.Sustainable Fishing
- 5.Conserve Coastal and Marine Areas
- 6.End Subsidies contributing to overfishing
- 7.Increase the economic benefits from the sustainable use of marine resources
- 8.Increase scientific Knowledge, research and Technology for ocean health
- 9.Support Small Scale Fishers

Livestock perfect partner for SDG 14

Over three billion people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods, while broadly the same number obtain almost 20 per cent of their usual intake of animal protein from fish. A substantial part of the global fish catch is turned into fishmeal and fish oil, and used to feed animals, which in turn leave their own footprint on the health of aquatic and marine ecosystems. Many watercourses suffer from pollution due to effluents from livestock and industry, with profound environmental and human health implications.



Nutrient runoff and leaching from livestock waste have serious environmental consequences if not properly managed and can be detrimental to coastal marine fisheries. Leaching rates vary depending on climatic and soil conditions, which can differ significantly between countries or regions within a country. Best management practices to reduce coastal eutrophication must, therefore, be context-specific, taking land and land-use data into consideration. In regions with high livestock density, improving waste management (SDG 7) can be a cost-effective way of reducing river-based nitrogen loads, which often end up in marine systems and contribute to coastal eutrophication. Identification and use of alternative feed resources for livestock and farmed fish can therefore do much to prevent further depletion of marine stocks.

Farming seaweed can make an important contribution to helping the fisheries and livestock sectors develop sustainably. Some seaweeds are good sources of protein and bioactive compounds, including prebiotics, for increasing production in a sustainable manner. Seaweed is also a source of various minerals that can be added to the feed of aquatic species and livestock, increasing their productivity and saving finite, land-based mineral resources. Algae for bio-oil production can be grown in seawater too.



Conclusion :

Goal 14 promotes the sustainable use of marine and coastal ecosystems. The world's ocean fish are seriously endangered. The main threat is overexploitation by fisheries, affecting the size and viability of wild fish populations, the genetics of target species, and their food webs and ecosystems. A significant, but declining, proportion of world fisheries production is processed into fishmeal (mainly for high-protein feed) and fish oil (as a feed additive in aquaculture, for human and livestock consumption, or as medicinal products).

Partner with CEDSI to Implement social development projects in alignment with SDG Goals



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