

Need to develop advanced breed of cows, set up dairy committees in villages: U.P CM



U.P Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, emphasised the need for preserving and developing an advanced breed of Indian cows and turning the effort into a mass movement.

He also recommended the establishment of dairy committees in rural areas to help the populace become self-sufficient.

Dedicating the Shri Shri Krishna Balarama temple in Mathura, the chief minister said, "In order to protect the Indian breed of cows, the improved breed must be developed first. We should begin making an effort in this direction".

The chief minister insisted that women self-help groups should be included in the dairy committees, saying that the committees "would collect milk from door to door and help in meeting the required quantity for consumption".

He said that in each tehsils, a processing facility for cow-based products (Gau Prasanskaran Kendra) should be established. "We won't be able to fulfill the goals of Gram Swaraj without doing this. The state government supports all positive initiatives in this direction," he said.

"To boost the income of agriculture and livestock farmers, milk-based products like curd, butter and ghee need to be pushed," he said.

Cooperation in Agriculture important to ensure food security



Cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors is important to ensure food security, nutrition, environmental sustainability and livelihood support, said minister for agriculture and farmer welfare Narendra Singh Tomar.

Addressing the second agriculture ministerial-level meeting of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), the minister said that along with digital and precision farming, initiatives under the 'One Health' approach are taking shape in India. "It is required to increase technical and economic cooperation to deal with the challenges of climate change, agro-biodiversity, microbial preventive resistance under the 'One Health' approach and other programmes."

Tomar urged the member countries to cooperate in developing a comprehensive regional strategy to strengthen cooperation for the transformation of agriculture. "India has made efforts to promote millet as a nutritious food and its products during the International Year of Millets 2023. I urge the member countries to adopt a conducive agricultural food system and a healthy diet for all."

Despite flush season, dairy farmers in Maharashtra fetch good procurement prices

Dairy farmers in the Maharashtra state are enjoying a rare spell of good price, which has seen dairies increase their procurement price even as the sector enters its flush season when production increases. Dairies say there is a 10-15 per cent dip in output in many milk-producing states, which has led them to increase the procurement price for their farmers.

States like Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka have reported incidents of lumpy skin disease in their cattle population, which has affected milk production. Dasarath Mane, Chairman cum Managing Director (CMD) of the Pune-headquartered Indapur Dairy and Milk

Products Ltd (popular as Sonai Dairy) said most dairies have reported a 10-15 per cent dip in production. “Our procurement price for milk with 3.5 per cent fat and 8.5 per cent SNF (solid-not-fat) at present is Rs 36/litre. The tight supply-demand situation led us to increase our prices last month,” he said.

With the flush season starting on a tight note, Mane hoped the situation would improve a bit by February. In dairy trade, the terms ‘flush’ and ‘lean’ refer to the months when milk production increases and decreases. Thus from October to February when animals naturally produce more milk, the trade enters the flush season. March onwards, animals reduce their milk production and the trade enters what is called as the lean season. Dairies normally reduce their procurement price during the flush season.



Mother Dairy planning Rs 800 crore capex in 3-4 years, foresees positive demand momentum



To cater to the exponential demand, milk and milk products major Mother Dairy has planned a mega capex fund worth around Rs 800 crore for the next couple of years. Company Managing Director Manish Bandlish said that a proposal for capacity expansion by setting up new plants has been planned.

“Some of the proposed plants will produce processed food items for our Safal brand (fruits and vegetables arm of Mother Dairy) others will focus on milk and milk products,” Bandlish said. “We will soon be presenting our capex proposal to the Board. The capex is expected to be of around Rs 700-800 crore for the next 3-4 years,” he said.

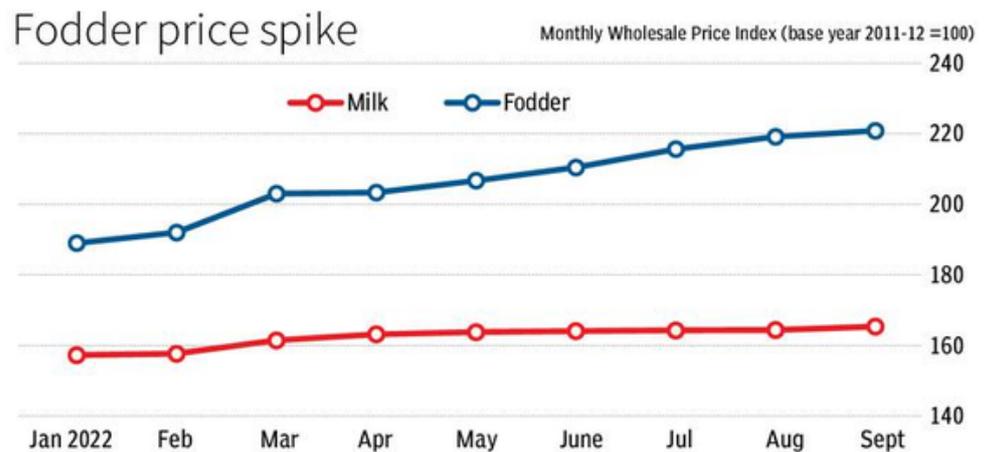
According to Bandlish, the inflationary trend might last for the next six months. “It will take six months to a year for the supply side to normalise in the agriculture industry,” he said. “We can expect farmers and the rural sector to make the much-needed investments during this period. This will smoothen out supply disruptions,” he said.

Furthermore, he cited that a lot of pricing mechanisms now depend on the ‘flush’ phenomenon. In 2022, the company has hiked milk prices three times. On his part, Bandlish did not rule out further hikes. He asserted that the company has absorbed the maximum impact of commodity inflation.

Fodder inflation could really shrink milk output

The recent increase in fodder costs have played a major role in rising milk prices, hitting dairy farmers hard.

Fodder inflation has seen a sharp hike in the last four months, despite the softening of overall WPI inflation in the recent months. The overall WPI inflation has eased to 10.70 per cent in September from 12.41 per cent in August. But the inflation rate of fodder remains more than double the wholesale inflation rate. Fodder inflation in September was 25.23 per cent, while it was at 20.57 per cent in the same month of last year.



The genesis of fodder inflation lies in the deficit of feed and fodder for livestock. The recent reported deficit in green fodder is 11.24 per cent while the country is experiencing 23.4 per cent shortage in dry fodder and around 29 per cent in concentrates. Massive crop damage due to late and heavy monsoon has also jacked up the prices of both fodder and feed to unaffordable levels for the animal owners, most of whom are landless or small farmers.

Farmers across States are switching from crossbred cattle to indigenous breeds whose feeding expenditure is much lower. If this trend continues, it will hit national milk production in a big way in the coming years.

Notably, feed and fodder alone accounts for 60-70 per cent of the production cost of milk, meat and other items. Yet, due policy attention is not being paid to address fodder deficit issues. Only around 4 per cent of the country's farmland is devoted to fodder farming, although the livestock sector's contribution to the farm sector's GDP is higher than that of cereals.

A tiny fraction of the total animal husbandry budget goes to fodder development. Organised fodder farming requires attention. The fodder crop should get a central place within the various agro-ecosystems and be treated at par with the facilities provided to agricultural crops, like crop insurance, minimum support price and other benefits. NABARD must be directed to promote rural enterprises working in the fodder-space.

In fodder supplies, the situation is paradoxical; in many parts of the country there is surplus fodder during monsoon and a deficit during the lean season. This is especially so in far-flung areas. Therefore, efforts must be directed towards developing "fodder banks" at block level to store surplus fodder during rainy months and meeting the deficits at various levels in other months.

Agriculture Ministry okays setting up 100 fodder-centric FPOs in 2022-23

The government has finally designated National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) as the implementing agency for setting up of 100 fodder-centric Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) during this fiscal to address the fodder deficit situation in the country.

The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying in 2020 had proposed the establishment of fodder-centric FPOs and requested the agriculture ministry to allow such FPOs under the central scheme "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 new FPOs".



Last month after a review meeting on the fodder crisis, a senior ministry official had said that in a normal year, the country has a fodder deficit of 12-15 per cent, 25-26 per cent and 36 per cent when it comes to green fodder, dry fodder and concentrated fodder, respectively. The deficits are mainly due to seasonal and regional factors.

However, the current inflationary trend in fodder is due to decline in wheat crop and rise in input costs like diesel, the official had said. The total area under fodder is limited to about 4.6 percent of cropped area and this has remained static for the last four decades.

Animal Husbandry, Dairy going Hi-Tech



In a bid to deploy the latest technologies and devices like biometrics, Internet of Things (IoT), and drones in animal husbandry and dairy, the central government will soon engage such entities specializing in this sector. These entities will include leading IT companies, livestock and dairying organizations, startups, and research and educational institutes.

The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) has begun the process of engaging IT organizations for the use of biometrics for animal identification, use of IoT devices for livestock animals, traceability solutions for dairy and livestock products using blockchain or any other technology, and use of drone technology in the livestock and dairying sector.

A year ago, the government launched the National Digital Livestock Mission (NDLM) to uniquely identify every livestock. As of now, cattle identification in India is done mostly through ear tags. However, a need has been felt for a biometric method for animal identification which will make the unique ID a fool-proof mechanism for all purposes. Hence, the emphasis is on biometric identification through digital means.

Use of IoT devices in the livestock sector will help farmers measure various relevant vitals of the animals, such as their movement, body temperature, humidity, heat detection, other medical parameters, and intake of food, sources said.

With reformations in agriculture sector, 'Agripreneurship' becomes buzzword for J&K



With reformations in the agriculture and allied sectors, 'Agripreneurship' has been the buzzword for Jammu and Kashmir since the beginning of the year. According to a report, Jammu and Kashmir stands among the country's top five states and Union Territories in income generation through agriculture.

The easy credit system, subsidized quality seeds, free seminars and workshops on scientific agriculture and marketing of agricultural produce, and assistance in selling the final product are a few of the ways the government is boosting the farming culture of UT.

"The results have been so overwhelming that youngsters have opted out of well-paying private and government jobs to join their parents on the farm. With the stabilized atmosphere, the business has been smooth and the profit trajectory is high, except for a few weather glitches that are outside human control," the report stated.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha recently urged the NABARD and the banking sector to strongly increase their lending in the agriculture and allied sectors in Jammu and Kashmir. While chairing a high-level meeting of the J&K Advisory Board for Development of Kisans and J&K's Agriculture Department officials on November 5, the LG planned a roadmap for holistic development of this sector.

Israel to open two 'Centres of Excellence' in J&K as part of agriculture project

Indo-Israel Agriculture Project (IIAP) is establishing proposed Centres of Excellence (CoE) in Jammu and Kashmir.

Under the agriculture attache MASHAV (Israel's agency for international Development Cooperation) at the Embassy of Israel in India, centres are going to develop, via the establishment of Centres of Excellence IIAP aims to introduce crop diversity, increase productivity and optimise water use efficiency.



MASHAV will guide the CoE and transfer Israeli knowledge into the IIAP. CoE will comprise nursery management, best practices cultivation techniques, irrigation, and fertigation. MASHAV is ready to establish two centres one each in Jammu and Kashmir divisions for which a detailed project report would be prepared in consultation with the agriculture department.

India and Israel have strategic cooperation on the government-to-government level in the field of agriculture. Centres will establish under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) scheme with authorizing, budgeting and monitoring the project while state governments allocate staff, land and another budget.

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 10th article in the series.

Goal 10 : Reduced Inequalities

Sustainable Development Goal 10 aims at reducing inequality within and among countries. This SDG calls for reducing inequalities in income as well as those based on age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status within a country. SDG 10 targets on

- 1.Reduce income inequalities
- 2.Promote universal social, economic and political inclusion
- 3.Ensure equal opportunities and end discrimination
- 4.Adopt fiscal and social policies that promotes equality
- 5.Improved regulation of global financial markets and institutions
- 6.Enhanced representation for developing countries in financial institutions
- 7.Responsible and well-managed migration policies

Livestock perfect partner for SDG 10

Livestock are a source of food and income for 600 million poor smallholders whose livelihoods depend partially or entirely on keeping animals. The proportion of poor women and elderly individuals involved in agriculture, in the broad sense of the term, is increasing. Greater opportunities for rural households to become involved in livestock production, processing, and marketing will lead to reduced inequality as livestock husbandry and livestock value chains are potent catalysts for smallholder income growth with relatively low investment and input costs.



Goal 10 calls for reducing inequalities in income. Institutional reforms in the livestock sector can be very effective at stimulating smallholder entrepreneurship and closing inequality gaps. Livestock rearing is a potent catalyst for smallholder income growth, involving relatively low investment, input, and labour costs. Enabling livestock to contribute effectively thus means going beyond policies and investments specific to the sector.

Global demand for livestock products is booming as a result of population growth, increased purchasing power and changes in diets. The livestock sector has become and will continue to be one of the fastest-growing in agriculture for the next decades. As such, it offers substantial opportunities for income generation and job creation, especially in the dairy sector.

With the right investments and policies, and providing national and regional authorities support a form of livestock development that is inclusive and sensitive to the needs of women and young people, the sector can make a significant contribution to the reduction of inequalities in income, as well as of discrimination based on sex and age. Greater opportunities for rural households to become involved in livestock production, processing, and marketing will lead to reduced inequality as livestock husbandry and livestock value chains are potent catalysts for smallholder income growth with relatively low investment and input costs.



Conclusion :

Goal 10 calls for reducing inequalities in income. Institutional reforms in the livestock sector can be very effective at stimulating smallholder entrepreneurship and closing inequality gaps. Livestock rearing can be a potent catalyst for smallholder income growth, involving relatively low investment, input, and labour costs.

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



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