

SUMUL Dairy hikes purchase price of cattle milk by Rs 30



In the highest hike in its history, Surat District Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Ltd, commonly known as SUMUL dairy, increased the purchase price of per kilo fat of cattle milk (both cow and buffalo) from dairy farmers of Surat and Tapi districts by Rs 30.

As a result, farmers will get Rs 780 per kilo fat of cow milk compared to Rs 750 previously and Rs 810 per kilo fat of buffalo milk as against Rs 780 earlier.

"It (the current hike) is the highest in history. Ours is a cooperative society, so we share profits with the milk producers," said Jayesh Patel, senior director of Sumul Dairy.

Sumul Dairy purchases around 14 lakh litres of milk daily from around 2.5 lakh registered milk producers of Surat and Tapi districts.

Digital technologies contribute immensely to Dairy and Animal Husbandry Sectors, in A.P says Minister Appalaraju



Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries Seediri Appalaraju on addressing the delegates in Global Tech Summit has said that the adoption of digital technologies by the State government in the areas of animal husbandry, dairy farming and fisheries has provided ample opportunities to Andhra Pradesh for the promotion of these sectors.

Citing an example, he said that artificial insemination of cows and buffaloes was being done for the past decades. However, the outdated procedures has a low success rate of only 28 to 30%. The introduction of digital applications has improved the success rate up to 40%. Sex sorting has also been made possible and more female calves could be produced to increase milk output.

The Minister said that the adoption Of embryo transfer technology has helped in promoting breeds like Ongole and Murra breeds.

Youth should contribute to bring more benefits to agri sector: Tomar



Union Minister for Agriculture and Family Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar said that students and youth associated with agriculture should contribute to bring more benefits to the sector.

Addressing the 4th Convocation ceremony at Charan Singh National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (CCS-NIAM), the minister said that the government is continuously making efforts through various schemes for the betterment of the agriculture sector.

Tomar added that there is livelihood in the sector, but there is also the patriotism of the farmers. "Everything will come to a halt without agriculture production. There are many challenges in the sector, which the Central Government, by using technology, is successfully moving ahead to solve with the cooperation of the States."

National roll-out of Digital Livestock Mission likely in April'



The National Digital Livestock Mission (NDLM) is expected to be rolled out in the country by April this year to create a technology enabled and farmer-centric ecosystem to help the Indian dairy sector scale greater heights, R.K. Singh, secretary, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, has said.

Besides creating a digital database of the country's livestock wealth for planning and strategising, NDLM would greatly improve delivery of services to farmers and help them receive all information in right time,

Singh said, addressing a national seminar on 'Indian Dairy Industry—Vision 2030' held here recently in connection with 'Ksheera Sangamam 2023' organised by the Kerala Dairy Development department.

The speakers shared their perspectives on the dairy sector growth building. The event was jointly organised by Milma, Indian Dairy Association, and the Department of Dairy Development.

Presiding over the seminar, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development Minister J. Chinchurani said the efforts Of the State government and Milma in assuring a stable price for farmers and affordable price for consumers were the basic factors for the growth of the dairy sector in Kerala.

Delivering the key-note address, Meenesh C. Shah, chairman, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), said there were five thrust areas that needed attention for further growth Of the dairy sector—increasing animal productivity, enhancing quality Of milk, tapping export potential, strengthening the organised sector, and adopting sustainable practices.

Dr R.S. Sodhi, president, Indian Dairy Association, said the existence of a strong supply chain, built, owned and managed by farmers, was the greatest contributor to the success Story of Indian dairy sector.

KS. Mani, chairman, Milma, said it was a matter Of pride for Kerala that it was the home State of Dr Verghese Kurien, who is hailed as 'Milkman of India'.

Jammu and Kashmir approves Rs 463 cr project for sustainable agriculture

Giving a huge push to sustainable agriculture in the Union Territory, the J&K government has approved a five year project on "Innovative Extension Approaches for Revitalising Agriculture in Jammu and Kashmir", said officials.

The project, worth Rs 463 crore, is aimed at empowering farmers and educated youth through technology driven and inclusive agri-extension services.



One of the critical outcomes of the project would be creation of 2,000 Kissan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs), which will serve as a One Stop Centre for extending farmer-oriented services.

"The extension system in Jammu and Kashmir faces many challenges, including serving a large clientele with structural complexity and functional diversity. Currently, there is a significant gap between extension workers and

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farmers, with a ratio of 1:1100 and contact intensity of one hour per farmer per year. The existing system is also plagued by defects such as lack of realistic base-level information, poor coordination and cohesiveness among the extension players and a low level of public confidence," Additional Chief Secretary, Agricultural Production, Atal Dulloo said.

"The project aims to address these issues by developing a dynamic agri-extension system using IoT-enabled real-time big data for farm-centric planning and resource allocation. This technology enabled system will form the basis for a proactive agriculture extension system with a cluster approach. This approach will use real-time regional analysis of climate and agro-ecology information to promote niche agriculture under given agro-climatic conditions", he added.

"Innovative Extension Approaches for Revitalizing Agriculture in Jammu and Kashmir" is one among the 29 projects, which were approved by the Jammu and Kashmir administration after being recommended by the UT Level Apex Committee for holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors in the UT.

Eying To Cash In The Booming Organic Food Market Via Cooperatives



With estimated global organic food market to be around Rs 10 lakh crore where India's share is paltry 2.7 per cent, the Government is eying to harness the unlimited opportunities on the platter to boost income of farmers for which it has set up a national level cooperative society for organic products.

The first-of-its-kind initiative aiming to enhance the livelihood of farmers and help India become 5 trillion economy as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the umbrella body will assist cooperatives and ultimately

their member farmers, in getting benefits of high price of organic products through aggregation, branding and marketing at large scale by facilitating testing and certification at affordable cost.

There are 8.54 lakh registered cooperatives in the country having more than 29 crore members especially from the rural areas engaged in activities related to agriculture and allied sector. This strength of the cooperative sector will be utilised for development of organic clusters and its entire supply chain.

The society will utilize various related schemes and policies of different ministries of the Government in a focussed manner through the 'Whole of Government Approach'.

3 leading cooperatives viz., Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Limited (GCMMF), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED), National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF) and other 3 national level organizations viz., National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) have joined hands for establishing this national level entity.

The need for such an umbrella organization has been consistently felt given that India, despite having the largest number of organic producers in the world, its overall contribution in the organic product market is suboptimal due to smaller land holding per producer and inadequate yield.

In fact, there are around 34 lakh organic producers across the world with land coverage of 749 lakh hectares. Almost half of the total organic producers in the world, 16 lakh are from India.

