

Chhattisgarh govt launches scheme to develop cow sheds as Rural Industrial Parks



Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel launched a new scheme to develop 'Gauthans' (cow shelters) as rural industrial parks for livelihood generation.

Officials said that around 300 Gauthan cum industrial parks will be set up under the scheme named Mahatma Gandhi Rural Industrial Parks (MGRIP). A total budget of ₹600 crores has been pooled in the current financial year's budget.

The state government has set up gauthans in over 8,000 villages under its flagship scheme Suraji Gaon Yojna (village good governance scheme).

Cow dung procurement is being carried out in these gauthans at ₹2 per kilogram under Godhan Nyay Yojna and the dung is being used to prepare vermi-compost. These same gauthans would now be used to promote activities like poultry farming, fisheries, along with food processing.

Amit Shah inaugurates dairy conclave in Gangtok



Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the dairy cooperative conclave of the eastern and northeastern zones in Sikkim.

He unveiled a statue of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel at Rajbhavan in Gangtok following the inauguration.

"Speaking at the "Cooperative Dairy Conclave- 2022" of the Eastern and North-eastern regions in Gangtok, Shah told the media that PM Modi-led government has decided to create 65,000 active Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS).

The day marked the inauguration of phase 1 and kicking-off of the phase 2 of the Manure Management Project. Under phase 1, biogas fuel plants have been published in over 120 houses connected with this program.

Agriculture ministry, NAFED sign MoU to boost international year of millets 2023



The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing federation of India signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Monday to boost the initiative to promote millets towards the celebration of the International year of Millets 2023.

Both organisations will work together for the promotion and marketing of millet-based products, keeping in view the initiative of the international year of millets (IYOM)-2023, according to the statement by the agriculture ministry.

In 2018, the government decided to mark the national year of millets. In the same year, the government also notified millets as nutri-cereals and included them under the POSHAN Mission Abhiyan.

Later, they pitched the proposal to the United Nations for declaring 2023 as the International Year of the Millets.

Fodder inflation at 9-year high

The Wholesale Price Index or WPI-based fodder inflation stood at 25.54 per cent in August 2022, the highest in the last nine years.

Rising fodder prices have put a huge burden on agricultural households, particularly with massive crop damage due to late and heavy monsoon rain, and the lumpy skin disease, which has spread across 15 states, and killed almost a lakh cattle. The fodder price rise has a direct bearing on the milk prices too.



Flagging the shortage of green and dry fodder in the country, Amaresh Chandra, Director, Indian Grassland & Fodder Research Institute, said, “One of the reasons for the shortage is that paddy and wheat straw is not fully converted into good quality fodder. In many parts of the country, farmers burn stubble, which causes a further shortage of fodder.”

The excessive fodder inflation has a direct impression on rural livelihoods since as per the Nationwide Statistical Workplace report ‘Scenario Evaluation of Agricultural Households and Land and Livestock Holdings of Households in Rural India, 2019’, 48.5 per cent of the entire 17.24 crore rural households (or an estimated 8.37 crore) reported proudly owning cattle ‘in milk’, younger cattle and cattle in ‘others’ class throughout July-December 2018. Additional, 43.8 per cent of the entire 9.3 crore agricultural households use inexperienced fodder, 52.4 per cent dry fodder, 30.4 per cent concentrates, and 12.5 per cent different animal feed in the course of the interval.

India Mobile Congress : How 5G technology can boost agriculture production?



Prime Minister Narendra Modi formally introduced 5G services in India. Promised to transmit high-speed internet like never before, with low latency and more stability, this new age technology is set to bolster the digital revolution of India.

One such application of 5G is smart farming solutions, displayed in the ongoing India Mobile Congress, the event where 5G was launched.

A joint initiative of telecom major Airtel, along with a leading manufacturing firm L&T Smart World and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC)-backed AgroW Smart, is working to raise the yield of agricultural produce by integrating smart sensors and controllers in agricultural fields.

These sensors sense the crop and soil conditions. The data is then sent for processing to a 5G powered cloud-based infrastructure, which outputs suggestions for optimal farming practice for the farmers on their smartphone through an app.

“For a plant to give optimum yield and also for getting optimum growth of the plant, the particular parameters have to be in the soil. Moisture, temperature, everything has to be kept at a particular range,” said Anish Sathyan, Joint Director in Control & Instrumentation Group of CDAC Thiruvananthapuram.

Derivatives can de-risk Agriculture

The central problem that various policies in the agriculture sector strive to solve is the risk associated with the enterprise of farming. The risks are umpteen — monsoon cycles, price uncertainty, supply-chain inconsistencies, perishable output, etc.

To protect farmers from these risks, the focus has traditionally been on crop insurance, primarily through the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. This scheme covers the yield risk, but farmers are still left unprotected against the price risk. This gap can be filled by leveraging the derivatives market for agricultural commodities.



Futures and options are derivative instruments that derive their value from an underlying asset, and derivative contracts involve an agreement to buy or sell the asset at an agreed price on a future date. Specifically, put options can be of great use to lock onto a minimum price for farmers at the time of sowing itself while also allowing them to gain from the open market in case prices rise.

Through this mechanism, the risk is transferred from the farmer to the market participants who are willing and capable of taking risks for a premium. The government must consider creating an AgriPut Fund to pay fully or partly the initial premium.

Kerala's Agriculture startup launches end-to-end supply chain for bananas



The share of crops in India's agriculture fell to 55.5% in 2019-20 from 62.4% in 2011-12, said the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

The start-up, Greenikk, has built enablement centres (EC) in the major banana producing agricultural-belts in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to provide farmers with production and marketing-related support.

"These ECs will provide the farmers with required supports such as finance, seeds, crop advisory, insurance coverage, agri inputs, including weather tips, and market connect, covering the entire gamut of production and marketing both inside the country and outside," it said.

"Similar ECs are planned in other south Indian states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and further scaling across the whole of India," the start-up said. The platform would also help farmers to better utilise the organic waste that is left behind after the harvest, as manure and poultry feed. Such measures would help generate additional income for the farmers and curb the air pollution caused by burning of post-harvest waste, it added.

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 5th article in the series.

Goal 5 : Gender Equality

SDG 5 is aimed to “achieve gender quality and empower all women and girls”, or simply on “Gender Equality”. SDG 5 is focused on pursuing the main goal of real and sustained gender equality in all aspects of women and girls’ lives which includes

1. Ending gender disparities,
2. Eliminating violence against women and girls’ lives
3. Eliminating early and forced marriage,
4. Securing equal participation and opportunities for leadership, and
5. Universal access to sexual and reproductive rights

Livestock perfect partner for SDG 5

The livestock sector provides livelihoods for the majority of rural communities worldwide. Livestock performs multiple functions in this setting, providing food, fertilizer, cash income and fuel, as well as promoting savings and social functions. Consequently, women livestock keepers typically need to overcome greater economic and institutional barriers, and frequently lack the means necessary to fully engage in, sustain and upgrade their farming activities. Increasing and upgrading livestock production/management, processing and marketing with a focus on gender equality and women’s empowerment can play a significant role in helping achieve the various targets and indicators set by SDG 5.



Animal rearing is considered as an important task and responsibility of women, providing 36 percent of household income through wool processing and sales. Furthermore, livestock ownership greatly contributes to rural women's economic empowerment, providing a source of cash for immediate household needs. At household level, women with greater control over livestock assets have been shown to contribute to better food security for all family members and to the nutrition and education of their children. Many rural women make a living out of livestock and related activities, traditional gender roles greatly affect their opportunities both to fully engage in, and profit from, the sector, and to move up from subsistence to commercial livestock production, and from informal to formal markets, which typically represent more profitable outlets.

Customary gender discrimination limited women's ability to enter high-value markets and fully profit from livestock production. Developing programmes, policies and extension services tailored to local conditions and targeting rural women livestock keepers can help achieve several SDG 5 targets such as ending discrimination against women and girls; recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work; ensuring women's participation in decision making in political, economic and public life; and promoting equal rights for women to productive and natural resources, as well as services. The present scenario of growing global demand for animal protein represents a real opportunity for poor rural women working with livestock, offering considerable benefits not only for the women themselves and for their households, but also for the agricultural sector as a whole and the global economy.

Conclusion :

Goal 5 seeks to empower women and girls to reach their full potential. Throughout the developing world, women and girls in rural areas are deeply involved in livestock production. However, women livestock farmers typically face greater challenges than men, including economic, social and institutional barriers. To enable women to meaningfully operate in, and benefit from, the livestock sector, policies and programmes should work to remove the root causes of gender inequalities as well as the obstacles and constraints facing women.

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





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