

Milma launches insurance scheme for dairy farmers



The Kerala Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (Milma) has launched an insurance scheme for dairy farmers to offset loss of income due to a fall in milk yield during the summer.

Milma on Wednesday inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Agricultural Insurance Company of India Ltd (AIC) for introducing the cattle insurance scheme titled 'Saral Krishi Bima.'

The scheme, which covers cows and buffaloes, guarantees insurance benefits for farmers if the temperature exceeds the specified limits for six consecutive days or more, resulting in drastic fall in milk yield.

The farmers will get a compensation of ₹140, for more than eight days ₹440, for more than ten days ₹900 and for more than 25 days, ₹2,000, a statement by Milma said.

BL Agro to enter the dairy segment with an investment of Rs 1,000 crore



BL Agro, one of India's leading FMCG company, is planning to enter the dairy segment in collaboration with the Ministry of Animal Husbandry and Dairy and will invest Rs 1,000 crore by the end of the year 2025, said Ashish Khandelwal, Managing Director.

The company has already acquired 109 acres of land in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, and Amreli Gujarat to open farms for cow breeding.

"We are planning to venture into animal husbandry. We will be getting the best of the Brazilian cows to India as they are known for the best produce," Khandelwal said. "And then eventually, we will introduce dairy products like milk and cheese into the market," he added.

"We aim to develop 7,200 cows during the first year of operations. It will take us at least 2 years to venture into the dairy segment post that," he further added.

Milk trade emerging as strong means of self-reliance: U.P. minister



The milk trade is helping farmers and dairy owners increase their income, according to the animal husbandry and dairy development minister in India. State animal husbandry and dairy development minister Dharmpal Singh said milk trade had emerged as a strong means of self-reliance and helping farmers and dairy owners in cities and villages enhance their income.

He was addressing a function organised by the dairy development department here to distribute "Gokul" and "Nandbaba" awards to milk producers for maximum milk production.

Singh said people were adopting animal husbandry and dairy development as an allied activity along with agriculture to supplement their income. "70-80 % of the people in animal husbandry and dairy development are landless or marginal farmers," he said.

World would gain \$1 tn by closing agriculture gender gap: UN



Closing the gender gap in the agriculture and food system, where women still earn less than men, would add \$1 trillion to the global economy, said UN report.

The report, updating the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 2011 study into the matter, found that women continue to occupy a "marginal" place in agrifood systems.

Women must "cope with work conditions that are often more difficult than those of men, in that they are confined to jobs that are casual, part-time, informal or low-skilled", it said. Women represent more than half of the agricultural workforce in many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, and just under half in Southeast Asia.

Around the world, they are lagging behind when it comes to access to land, resources like fertilisers and seeds, financing or technology, while they are often more dependent on agriculture to survive.

"The share of men who hold the rights to property or are guaranteed rights of agricultural land is two times higher than that of women," in more than 40 percent of countries that provide data on women's land ownership, the FAO said.

Due to their lack of resources and information, "women also have a lower capacity for adaptation and resilience during climate shocks". During the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic, "22 percent of women lost their jobs" in agri-food industries, compared to just two percent of men.

According to Singh, the country's milk output remained stagnant due to the impact of lumpy skin disease that killed 189,000 cattle last year and post-pandemic rebound in milk demand. "The impact of lumpy skin disease on cattle can be felt to the extent that total milk production is somewhat stagnant. Normally, milk production has been growing at 6 per cent annually. However, this year, it will be either stagnant or grow at 1-2 per cent," said Singh.

Yet "the elimination of these disparities that exist between women and men, as it pertains to agricultural productivity and wages would increase global GDP by 1 percent", or nearly \$1trillion. It would also reduce the number of food-insecure people by 45 million.

Mother Dairy has big plans for the value-added dairy market segment

Leading milk and milk products company Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetable Pvt Ltd announced that it is gearing up to strengthen its value-added dairy play with plans to launch nearly 100 products in the next three years.

In the next 3 years, we aim to introduce over 100 new products in order to reaffirm our position as one of the leading and consumer-centric dairy players in the industry; this year marks the beginning of this journey," said Manish Bandlish, Managing Director, Mother Dairy Fruit & Vegetable Pvt Ltd.



The dairy firm also announced the launch of its new portfolio with over 15 new products for the summer season of 2023. "The introduction of these new products couldn't have been timed any better as we move towards sprucing up our dairy products portfolio," Bandlish added.

The new product line-up for this year includes a ready-to-consume Custard, 2 Cold Coffees and over 10 Ice Cream variants. In addition, the company has enriched its Nutrifit Curd offering with Vitamins A & D, Mother Dairy said.

Centre denies plans of Milk and Dairy Import



A senior official clarified that the central government has not made any decisions to import dairy products, despite recent media reports suggesting that the government was considering buying from foreign markets due to local shortages.

As per media reports, the official labeled these reports as misleading and confirmed that there have been no plans to import dairy products so far

"The (animal husbandry) department has not made any decision on the importation of dairy products and this department always keeps the interests of dairy producers at the forefront when making policy decisions," Singh said.

According to a reports, private imports of milk products in India increased by over 1000% to reach \$4.77 billion in the 2022-23 period. This increase comes at a time when export of fat items like clarified butter (ghee) saw a surge to record levels due to high global prices. "Inventories of butter and ghee substantially improved in February 2023 in comparison to December 2022 and is expected to be better", Singh said.

Stocks of skimmed milk powder in the country were adequate to keep supplies steady in the lean summer months, he added.

According to the animal husbandry secretary, the flush season for milk production in India has been extended due to the unusually heavy rains in March. This move was necessary to maintain the profitability of dairy farming and to encourage continued milk production. However, this has also led to a rise in retail milk prices, which has affected household budgets and caused concern among consumers.

Reliance to enter ice-cream market, compete with Amul, Mother Dairy

After announcing its plan to revive the iconic soft drink, Campa-Cola, to build its presence in India's soft drinks market, Reliance Industries backed Reliance Consumer Products is all set to compete with dairy brands like Amul and Mother Dairy by venturing into the ice cream and dairy market.



The Mukesh-Ambani-led company is planning to launch ice cream products under its brand, Independence, starting from Gujarat, and may also enter into a contract with a manufacturer in the state, reported Business Standard citing anonymous sources.

As per the report, Reliance is planning to directly compete with dairy brands like Amul and Mother Dairy. As part of its mega-expansion plan, the company is also planning to make some key acquisitions in the value-added space in the market, said the report.

The recent appointment of the former managing director of Amul, Rupinder Singh Sodhi in Reliance Retail Ventures Limited, can help the company in building its edge in the dairy market. Other than RS Sodhi, Reliance has also hired Sandipan Ghosh as the business head of the dairy and frozen foods wing of Reliance Retail. He has a work experience with Milk Mantra and Lactalis India.

Notably, this will be the second attempt of the group to enter the dairy market. Earlier, the Reliance group had exited the dairy market in 2016 after selling its business to Heritage Foods.

CEDSI organising a Milk Quality Management training program for the staff of Lactalis India

CEDSI has organised a Milk Quality Management training program for the staff of Lactalis India in Shrirampur, Maharashtra. The training program is aimed at providing hands-on training to the staff of Lactalis in the best practices for milk quality management, including testing and grading, storage, and transportation. The program will also cover topics such as hygiene and safety protocols, quality control, and compliance with food safety standards. Total 27 staff members of Lactalis were trained in the session



Who are we ?

“The Centre of Excellence for Dairy Skills in India (CEDSI)” an autonomous institution working under the aegis of the Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, to help the empowerment and betterment of Livelihood of farmers, wage workers, and other stakeholders in the Dairy value chain.

CEDSI Membership will provide a unique platform for the industry leaders, policymakers, development practitioners, dairy scientists, researchers, students, and farmers to debate and discuss the issues of imminent importance to the dairy industry.

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