



CEDSI TIMES

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India and Sri Lanka to collaborate on animal husbandry, dairy sectors



India and Sri Lanka are poised to strengthen their collaboration in the fields of animal husbandry and dairy with the signing of a joint declaration of intent. The agreement aims to enhance the quality of dairy products in Sri Lanka, achieve self-sufficiency in milk production, and improve the income of small-scale dairy farmers.

The proposed declaration, which has been approved by the Cabinet of Ministers, highlights the commitment of both countries to fostering agricultural innovation and rural development. Sri Lanka, facing a decline in fresh milk production due to the pandemic, seeks to leverage India's expertise and advanced technologies in animal husbandry and dairying.

Minister Bandula Gunawardena, the Cabinet Co-Spokesman, emphasized the potential benefits of collaboration, stating that India's status as one of the world's largest producers and consumers of milk positions it as a valuable resource for knowledge sharing, technical assistance, and capacity-building initiatives. Through these efforts, Sri Lanka aims to improve productivity, efficiency, and quality standards in its dairy industry.

Govt may seek cut in ghee, butter GST



The Indian government is considering a proposal to reduce the goods and services tax (GST) on ghee and butter from the current 12% to 5%, according to government documents reviewed by Mint. The move is aimed at addressing the rising retail prices of milk, which have increased by 10.1% in the past year and 21.9% over the last three years due to higher feed and fodder costs for cattle.

The animal husbandry and dairying department has urged the finance ministry to include the proposal in the GST fitment committee's agenda. The committee will then present it to the GST Council, the federal indirect tax body, for further consideration. The current 12% GST rate on ghee is seen as a burden on both consumers and farmers. India relies on imports to meet 70% of its edible oil consumption, which is taxed at a lower 5% GST rate.

Rupinder Singh Sodhi, the president of the Indian Dairy Association, highlighted that a 12% GST on ghee puts additional financial strain on farmers, as it takes 12-14 liters of milk to produce one kilogram of ghee. Sodhi emphasized that reducing the GST on ghee to 5% would benefit both consumers and farmers, ensuring a fair price for agricultural produce and helping to stabilize inflation.

Dairy cooperative society for women opens in Appukodu



A Women Primary Milk Producers' Cooperative Society was inaugurated in Appukodu village, located in the Ithalar panchayat of Ooty, by T Mano Thangaraj, the Minister for Milk and Dairy Development. The cooperative society, constructed at a cost of 22 lakh, aims to support local women in cattle rearing activities. During the inauguration, the minister also distributed loans worth 1.42 lakh on behalf of the district lead bank to eight women beneficiaries, enabling them to purchase cows.

Minister Thangaraj highlighted the suitability of the Nilgiris region for cattle rearing due to the abundance of green fodder in the hills. He emphasized the growing demand for milk by Aavin, the state-owned dairy cooperative, and encouraged the younger generation to engage in cattle rearing.

The newly inaugurated cooperative society is expected to contribute to the overall development of the local dairy sector by increasing milk production and promoting self-sufficiency. It will also help improve the income and economic well-being of women in Appukodu village and surrounding areas.

Kerala Govt to uniformize milking of cows: Minister Chinchurani



The Kerala government will take measures to uniformize the timings for milking cows across the state, Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development said Ms J. Chinchurani. Authorities have initiated steps on this front 'with cooperation from members of the state's milk cooperatives, she said after inaugurating the distribution of 500 automatic milk collection units across the area of operation of Milma's Trivandrum Regional Coop. Milk Producers Union

(TRCMPU), near Nooranad, in Alappuzha district. Envisaged under a central government project with 90 per cent subsidy, the programme at Thathamunna is part of the government's efforts to strengthen the primary milk cooperatives while ensuring high-quality milk. The government plans to ensure a gap of 12 hours between milking of cows. "This can be achieved by installing bulk milk coolers in all cooperative units of the state," Chinchurani said.

The state is keen to promote more such central government schemes, she added. Kerala is widely implementing facilities such as free treatment of cattle and artificial insemination of cows, besides ambulances for the animals in need of medical treatment. "Primary cooperative societies must strengthen for the advantage of the common farmers," Smt Chinchurani said, noting that cows in Kerala yield an average of 10.3 litres of milk daily, which puts the state second on the list in the country. Kodikunnil Suresh, MP, while addressing the gathering, said authorities will check any effort that 'will weaken the milk farmers in Kerala.

Farmers of the lower rung should make best use of the dairy schemes of both the union and state governments, Shri Suresh noted, after inaugurating the training programmes under the National Programme for Dairy Development for the current financial year. M.S. Arun Kumar, MIA, presided over the meeting, where TRCMPU convenor N. Bhasurangan delivered the welcome speech. TRCMPC Managing Director D.S. Konda presented a report, while Thathamunna Dairy Cooperative Society President B. Ashok Kumar proposed thanks.

'Farmers must find alternative means to boost income'

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar of Haryana announced the implementation of hi-tech and mini dairy schemes by the state government to facilitate small farmers and rural youth in starting their own ventures. These schemes aim to increase milk production and provide self-employment opportunities. Under the mini dairy scheme, a 25% subsidy is provided on the cost of animals for setting up a mini dairy with up to 10 milch animals. Additionally, a 50% subsidy is offered under the scheme for employment generation among Scheduled Castes (SCs) for opening a dairy with two or three milch animals. Interest subvention is also available for establishing hi-tech dairies with 20 or more milch animals. The government has successfully established 13,244 dairies under these schemes thus far.



Chief Minister Khattar engaged in an audio-conference with mini and hi-tech dairy owners as part of the 'CM ki Vishesh Charcha' program. During the interaction, he acknowledged the crucial role played by dairy owners in strengthening the rural economy and providing employment opportunities. As land holdings diminish, Khattar emphasized the need for farmers to explore alternative sources of income, with dairying being a viable option.

Addressing the recent heavy rainfall that caused crop damage in several districts, Khattar instructed the deputy commissioners to procure green or dry fodder from unaffected areas and make it available to cattle rearers. He assured comprehensive support to cattle rearers in the state, recognizing the vital role of animal husbandry in the rural economy's development.

The Chief Minister highlighted the significant contribution of the cooperative movement in revolutionizing the dairy sector. Drawing upon the success of Amul, he emphasized its availability across the country and the presence of a network of cooperative milk societies in Haryana.

Maharashtra fixes Rs 34/ litre procurement price for cow's milk



The Maharashtra government has set a minimum procurement price of Rs 34 per litre for cow milk, which is the lowest rate that dairy firms must pay to farmers for purchasing milk. This rate is a slight increase from the previous rate of around Rs 32. The government plans to review and revise the rates every three months. However, consumers are concerned that this could lead to periodic increases in milk prices.

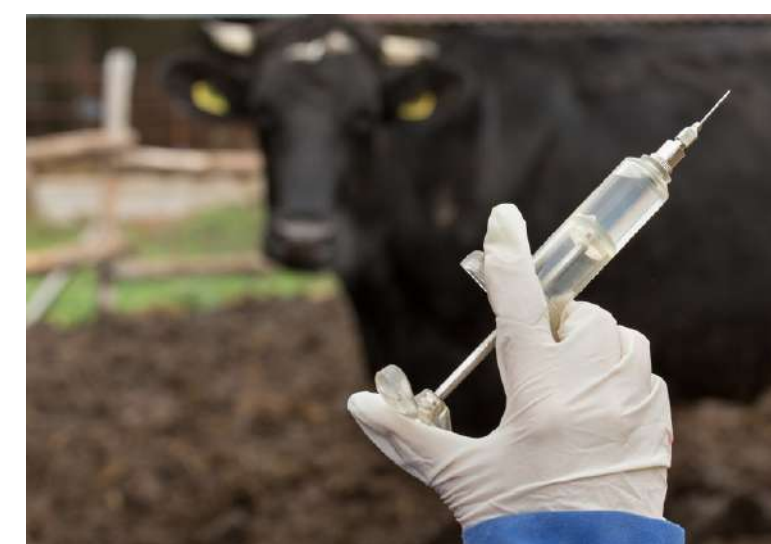
The decision to set the minimum procurement price followed discussions between the minister, milk farmers, and fodder manufacturers. A committee was formed to determine the revised minimum procurement price based on their recommendations. The committee will monitor milk prices in national and international markets and recommend any necessary procurement rate adjustments every three months, with the option to suggest price revisions sooner in exceptional circumstances. Local dairy commissioners and district dairy development officers have been instructed to provide monthly implementation reports.

Some milk farmers had appealed for a procurement price of Rs 40 per litre due to increasing fodder costs and other overheads. However, leading private and cooperative dairies argue that they already pay fair prices, given the fierce competition among buyers.

Concerns have been raised by consumers that the new mandate may lead to milk producers increasing retail milk prices. Many households are already burdened by rising food costs and overall inflation. Some consumers have called for a committee to address the issues faced by the middle class. The move to set a minimum procurement price aims to support the welfare of milk farmers in Maharashtra, while the impact on retail milk prices remains to be seen.

Animal husbandry dept starts vaccination drive against lumpy skin disease for cattle in state

The animal husbandry department in Maharashtra has initiated a vaccination drive against lumpy skin disease (LSD) for cattle in the state. In response to fresh cases of LSD, the department has procured a stock of at least 75 lakh vaccine doses. Pune district recently received a stock of 6 lakh vaccine doses for the vaccination of cattle against this viral infection. Lumpy skin disease is a contagious viral infection that primarily affects cattle, causing fever and nodules on the skin, and can lead to death. The disease was first reported in Odisha in 2019 and is primarily spread among animals by biting insects such as mosquitoes and flies. The infection can rapidly spread when infected animals are in close proximity to healthy ones.



Sheetalkumar Mukane, joint commissioner of animal husbandry, stated that the government aims to prevent a recurrence of LSD havoc among the cattle population this year. Vaccination of cattle against LSD has been initiated as a preventive measure. As of May, Maharashtra has reported 3,450 fresh cases of LSD, with 27 suspected cases in Pune district alone. In 2023, Pune district witnessed thousands of cattle infections and 1,400 deaths due to the disease.

Mukane emphasized that vaccination is the only way to prevent the spread of LSD among cattle. With a cattle population of 1.39 crores in Maharashtra, the animal husbandry department plans to distribute over 65 lakh doses of the vaccine across the state. The goal is to immunize the entire cattle population in order to prevent a disease outbreak.

The animal husbandry department is collaborating with local administrations, including the Pune Municipal Corporation, Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation, and Zilla Parishad, to implement biosecurity and sanitary measures, movement control of animals, and vaccination whenever required. Two squads have been formed for LSD disease management and prevention, and awareness programs for cattle owners have been initiated.

Enhancing Milk Productivity: Practical Approaches to Optimize Animal Housing with CEDSI's Support

Introduction:

Continuing our series on factors that impact milk productivity, we turn our focus to animal housing. Adequate and affordable housing plays a crucial role in the health, welfare, and productivity of dairy animals. The Center of Excellence for Dairy Skills in India (CEDSI) recognizes the significance of optimized animal housing and extends its support to farmers in this regard. In this blog, we will delve into the importance of animal housing, explore the current scenario in India, highlight CEDSI's role in promoting practical approaches, and discuss affordable ways for farmers to create optimal animal housing.



The Link between Animal Housing and Milk Productivity:

Animal housing has a direct impact on the overall health and productivity of dairy animals. It provides shelter, protects animals from extreme weather conditions, reduces stress, and facilitates proper feed intake. Optimal housing conditions positively influence milk productivity, leading to higher milk yields.

Current Scenario in India and its Impact:

According to the Livestock Census 2019, only around 35% of farmers in India have proper animal housing for their cattle. This means a significant number of dairy animals are still housed in traditional or makeshift structures, which can hinder their well-being and milk productivity. Inadequate animal housing negatively affects milk productivity in several ways. Poor ventilation and insulation lead to increased heat stress, which can reduce feed intake and milk production. Improper flooring can cause injuries and lameness, affecting cows' mobility and milk yields. Overcrowding and lack of space limit animals' comfort, hindering their ability to rest and ruminate efficiently.

CEDSI's Role in Promoting Practical Approaches:

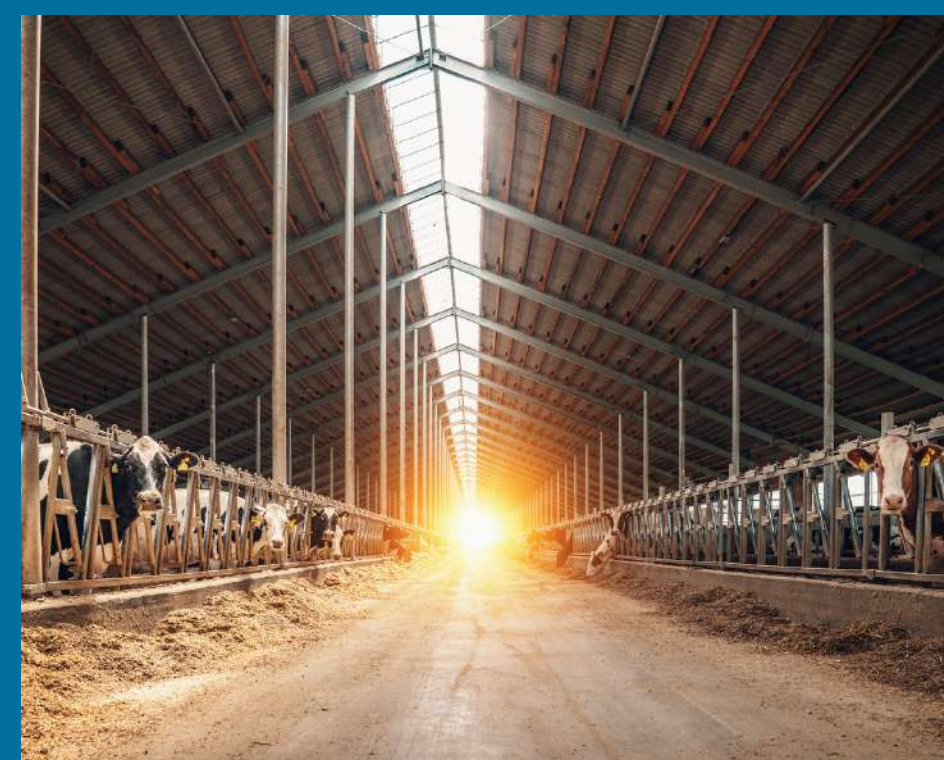
CEDSI recognizes the need for practical and affordable solutions in animal housing. Through its training programs, CEDSI educates farmers on cost-effective methods to create optimal housing for their livestock.

Shed Design: CEDSI provides guidance on designing animal sheds using locally available materials such as bamboo, thatch, or low-cost roofing sheets. These designs prioritize ventilation, lighting, and space allocation, ensuring a comfortable environment for the animals.



Flooring: CEDSI emphasizes the importance of comfortable flooring materials, which can be achieved through options like sand bedding or rubber mats. These affordable alternatives provide cushioning, reducing the risk of injuries and lameness.

Ventilation: Simple techniques such as installing ridge vents, windows, or low-cost exhaust fans help improve air circulation and regulate temperature inside the shed. Natural ventilation methods, like proper positioning of windows, can effectively reduce heat stress.



Waste Management: CEDSI educates farmers on low-cost methods of waste management, such as composting, which helps maintain cleanliness and prevent the spread of diseases.



Affordable Ways for Farmers to Create Optimal Animal Housing:

Farmers can adopt affordable approaches to create optimal animal housing by utilizing locally available resources:

Utilizing Local Materials: Farmers can leverage locally available materials like bamboo, wood, or recycled materials to construct animal sheds. These materials are cost-effective and environmentally friendly.

Improving Insulation: Farmers can insulate animal sheds using straw or locally available materials to maintain favorable temperatures during extreme weather conditions.

Natural Light and Ventilation: Strategic placement of windows and open vents can maximize natural light and airflow, reducing the need for artificial lighting and ventilation systems.

Efficient Space Utilization: Designing the animal housing layout to optimize space usage ensures that each animal has enough room to move and rest comfortably.

Strategic Drainage Systems: Implementing proper drainage systems within the animal housing area prevents waterlogging, improves hygiene, and minimizes the risk of diseases.

CEDSI's support in promoting affordable and practical approaches empowers farmers to optimize animal housing within their budgetary constraints, thus improving milk productivity.

Conclusion:

CEDSI's commitment to supporting farmers in creating optimal animal housing through practical and affordable approaches is crucial for enhancing milk productivity. By educating farmers on cost-effective techniques, leveraging locally available resources, and emphasizing the importance of proper housing, CEDSI enables farmers to provide a comfortable environment for their cattle. With improved animal housing, farmers can expect higher milk yields, improved animal welfare, and overall sustainable dairy farming practices.

Announcement

Skill Training Program for Primary Milk Producers in Rajasthan by CEDSI!

CEDSI is thrilled to announce an exclusive Skill Training Program aimed at empowering primary milk producers in Rajasthan. Affiliated dairy and milk producer associations have a unique opportunity to provide their members with comprehensive 3-day training covering end-to-end dairy farming and animal husbandry practices. The program will cover essential topics such as cattle breeds, feed management, animal health, breeding, milk quality, and farm management, among others. Participants will gain in-depth knowledge and practical skills to enhance their dairy operations.

Moreover, milk producers will undergo assessment and receive a formal certification upon successful completion of the program. This certification will serve as a recognized credential, aiding them in expanding their dairy business and building trust among stakeholders.

CEDSI will bear the program expenses, while affiliated dairies or producer associations will arrange the training venue, participants, and training aids. Each batch can accommodate a maximum of 25-30 farmers, ensuring personalized attention and focused learning. Two batches can be organized to cater to a larger number of milk producers. If your dairy or producer association is interested in uplifting and empowering your affiliated milk producers through this skill training program, don't miss this opportunity!

Centre of Excellence for Dairy Skills in India



Join Our Membership Drive and Get Benefits of

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| ✓ Platform to interact with other members in the sector | ✓ Recognize your organization with CEDSI Yearly Awards and Recognition |
| ✓ Networking opportunities with corporate leaders and government authorities | ✓ Chance to reach across the board through advertising in our press releases, news and articles |
| ✓ Special costs of training in Skill India Certified Programmes | ✓ Consultative and advisory services to help members |
| ✓ Access to our Journal and Publications | ✓ Consulting and advisory services to help members |
| ✓ Expert advice in day-to-day operations and management of livestock /farm productions | ✓ Periodic e-newsletter for the latest news, govt. announcement and schemes in dairy sectors |
| ✓ Free registration on the job portal and regular updates on job vacancies in the sector | ✓ Updates on training programs of CEDSI and access to the training calendar |

Who Can Become a Member -



Corporates/
Enterprises



NGO's/CSR
Foundations



Dairy Farmers



Students



Professional

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.

CEDSI : Reviving Skills and Generating Livelihood

Skill Training Programme for Farmers/ Students/ Entrepreneurs

- Dairy Farmer/ Entrepreneur
- Dairy Farm Supervisor
- Dairy Worker
- Animal Health Worker
- Artificial Insemination Technician
- Veterinary Field Assistant
- Veterinary Clinical Assistant
- Calf Rearing
- Farm Equipment Technician
- Dairy farm Economics and Management
- Industry Aligned Certification Programs (Unemployed Youth and Students)

FPO Oriented Training Programs

- FPO Member Orientation on Product Technology and Processes.
- FPO Market Linkage
- FPO Governance
- FPO Accounting

Flagship Skill Training Programme for Dairy Corporates and Cooperatives

- Chilling Plant Technician
- Bulk Milk Cooler Operator
- Village Level Milk Collection Centre Supervisor
- Milk Tester
- Green-house Gases Mitigation
- Milk Quality Assurance
- Milk Delivery Boy
- Milk Procurement & Input Supervisor
- Waste Management In Dairy Industry
- Feed And Fodder Management
- Clean Milk Production
- Decision Support System/ Data Analytics