

## Govt to merge two large dairy schemes to aid private sector



The government has decided to merge two dairy-sector schemes – Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) and Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF), with a view to making available the funds from the balance outlay to the private sector dairy and meat processing units.

The AHIDF was launched in 2000 with an outlay of Rs 15,000 crore while DIDF, which was implemented for five years till the last fiscal, saw under-utilisation of the Rs 10,000 crore outlay.

With more than half of the allotted fund under the two schemes yet to be disbursed, There won't be any additional requirement of funds," an official told.

Through the merger of AHIDF and DIDF, the govt is aiming to encourage private sector participation in creating dairy and meat processing infrastructure.

## India needs to raise maize production by 10 mn tonnes in 5 years to meet demand

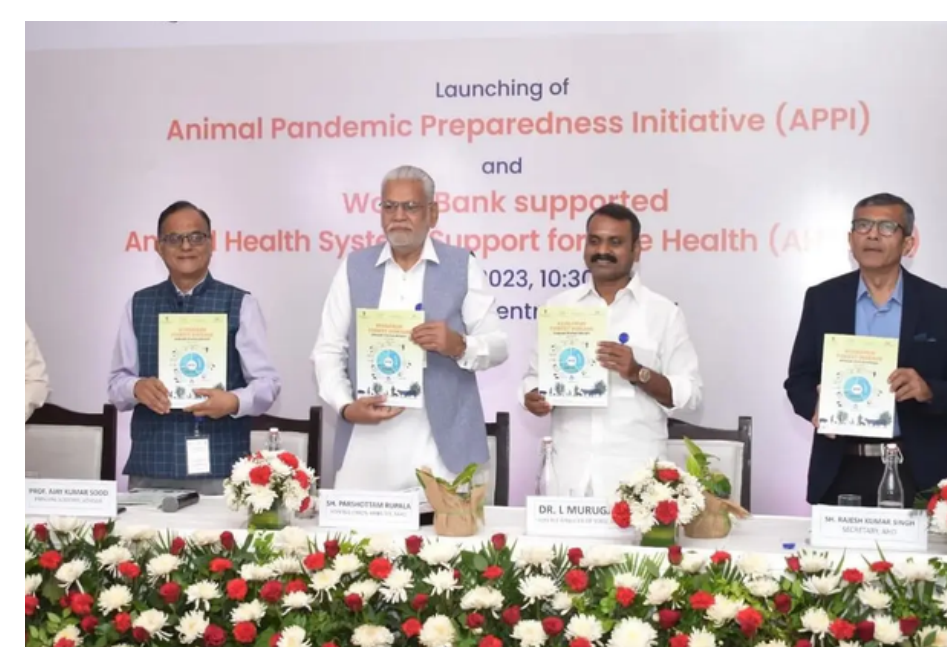


The Indian government, said it estimates maize output to increase by 10 million tonnes (mt) over the next five years if the growing demand for ethanol production and poultry industry has to be met.

Inaugurating India Maize Summit, organised by FICCI, Union Agriculture Secretary Manoj Ahuja stressed the need to cut down losses in the entire value chain of maize in a systematic manner.

"Currently, maize production is in the range of 33-34 MT. We need a quantity jump in maize to 44-45 MT in the next five years in order to meet the rising demand for ethanol and the poultry industry," Ahuja said. As the potential is high to achieve the target, making better seed availability, providing storage and marketing linkages, public and private partnerships should be the focus when agriculture is threatened by climate change impact, he said.

## Parshottam Rupala Launches APPI & World Bank-funded Animal Health System Support for One Health



Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala launched the Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative and World Bank-funded Animal Health System Support for One Health to enhance India's preparedness and response to potential animal pandemics, in line with the One Health approach on 15th April.

This initiative aims to enhance India's preparedness and response to animal pandemics, with a focus on zoonotic diseases that pose a threat to both animal and human health.

The event also saw the launch of the World Bank-funded project on "Animal Health System Support for One Health (AHSSOH)" that aims at creating an ecosystem for a better animal health management system using the One Health approach covering five (05) states in India.



## Kerala CM launches 'Repositioning Milma 2023' initiative to rebrand dairy major



Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched an ambitious rebranding initiative of the cooperative dairy major Milma focusing on an image makeover of the brand.

The rebranding envisages bringing uniformity in packaging, design and product quality to meet the challenges from domestic and global competitors while reinforcing its position as the market leader.

Rolling out the 'Repositioning Milma 2023' project, drawn up by Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (KCMMF) that is known by the brand Milma, the Chief Minister told the dairy major to give due attention to product diversification and expansion of marketing network as part of the rebranding exercise to meet the demands of the time.

The government has been making effective interventions in the dairy sector considering the nutritional value of milk and the livelihood its production provides to a large section of people, he said.

These initiatives were aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in milk production while ensuring remunerative prices for farmers, he said. When the price of milk was revised recently, it was assured that 85 per cent of the revenue accruing from the hike went to farmers, the Chief Minister added.

National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) Chairman Meenesh C Shah, who addressed the function through videoconferencing, appreciated Milma's initiative and extended all the support of NDDB.

The project also aims at extending the marketing network of Milma, ensuring the availability of all dairy products of Milma in remote areas across the state.

## Union Agriculture Minister Tomar launches SATHI Seed Traceability Portal

Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Mr. Narendra Singh Tomar yesterday launched the SATHI (Seed Traceability, Authentication, and Holistic Inventory) Portal and Mobile App. It is a Centralized Online System for seed traceability, authentication, and inventory designed to deal with the challenges of seed production, quality seed identification, and seed certification.



It has been developed by the NIC in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on the theme of 'Uttam Beej – Samriddh Kisan'. On this occasion, Mr. Tomar said that the Government of India is constantly trying to overcome the challenges and difficulties faced by the Agriculture sector through various schemes and programs.

Mr. Tomar said that seeds, pesticides, fertilizers, and irrigation play a major role in agriculture. Inferior quality or spurious seeds affect the growth of agriculture. This causes loss to the farmers, it also affects the agricultural production of the country.

SATHI portal will ensure quality assurance system, and identify the source of seed in the seed production chain. The system will consist of integrated 7 verticals of the seed chain – Research Organisation, Seed Certification, Seed Licensing, Seed Catalogue, Dealer to Farmer Sales, Farmer Registration, and Seed DBT.



## Amul likely to set up 1st international plant in Sri Lanka



Gujarat-based dairy giant Amul is likely to set up its first international plant in Sri Lanka. This comes four months after Sri Lanka sought assistance from the Indian government in setting up a sustainable dairy cooperative.

A team of senior members from the cooperative, led by Amul's managing director Jayen Mehta, has visited Sri Lanka twice this year. Mehta travelled to the neighbouring country in January and in March as government-level talks are on, said a senior cooperative official.

The official further said that Amul has been assigned to set up a plant and boost milk production in Sri Lanka because of its successful operation, branding and ground-level network. The project is now at an advanced stage, added the official.

At present, Amul has around 2,400 collection centres across 13 states in India and exports milk products to 50 international locations. Amul MD Mehta said they were surveying options there.

Last month, Sri Lanka Agriculture Minister Mahinda Amaraweera attended the Global Conference on International Year of Millet held in New Delhi. He visited the plant of Mother Dairy too.

According to a statement by the Ministry of Agriculture of Sri Lanka, Amaraweera said the Indian government has expressed its agreement to provide high yielding dairy cattle to Sri Lanka. "Due to the decline of the dairy industry in Sri Lanka in the previous year, the dairy and dairy products industry decreased by nearly 19 per cent. Especially, with the ban imposed on chemical fertilizers in 2021, animal feed production has dropped," added the statement available on the ministry website.

## India will protect farmers' interests, dairy sector in EU FTA, says Goyal

India will completely protect the interests of farmers and dairy sector in the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) with the European Union, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said. He was here on an official visit to hold discussions with leaders and the private sector on ways to further enhance trade and investment ties between the countries.



The Minister also went to Paris for the India-France business summit. Goyal said that Italy and France have offered unstinted support for the early conclusion of negotiations for the India-EU trade agreement. During the meetings in Italy and France, he said, India has emphasised about the different economic conditions and per capita income in the two regions. But the kind of business opportunities which India provides for EU businesses are huge and "nobody can provide those in the world", he added.

"Keeping all this in mind, we would do the FTA. We will protect the interests of farmers and dairy sector. We have done that with UAE and Australia trade pacts also," Goyal has said.

Chief negotiators of India and the European Union (EU) are scheduled to meet from June 19-23 in New Delhi for the fifth round of negotiations. India and the 27-nation bloc resumed negotiations on June 17 last year after a gap of over eight years on the proposed agreements on trade, investments and Geographical Indications (GI).

Top officials at the commerce secretary level would meet in August to review the progress of talks. India had started negotiations for a trade pact with the EU in 2007 but the talks stalled in 2013 as both sides failed to reach an agreement on key issues, including customs duties on automobiles and spirits and the movement of professionals.



## India working on breed improvement, traceability, disease-free cattle to boost dairy exports



With a global increase in prices of dairy commodities post the COVID pandemic, there has also been a rise in export opportunities for Skimmed Milk Powder (SMP) and Butter from India. Government data for the financial year 2022-23 shows a rise of 197.74 percent in the export of SMP, 121.98 percent in the export of milk fat and 157.77 percent in the export of casein.

With more than ample availability of SMP, milk cooperatives had requested the govt in November 2022 to allow some import of fat for the reconstitution of milk. Sources added that even Amul was buying fat stock from the market to reconstitute milk till March 2023.

However, no import of fats took place as the government felt there was a scope for hoarding of milk by the private sector. At present, AMF/butter isn't covered under the ambit of Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) under the Customs Act.

The Indian Government is targeting exports of milk and dairy products to dairy-deficient geographies like China, West Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa and South America. Among the neighbouring countries, Indian dairy products are competing with their counterparts from New Zealand for a share in the Sri Lankan market.

However, a rise in dairy exports remains incumbent on ensuring adherence to health protocols laid down by the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), the Paris-based equivalent of the WHO, which prescribes heat treatment like pasteurization of milk to ensure food safety.

To increase dairy exports, the government is working on the identification and traceability of dairy cattle, which is insisted upon by many nations as a pre-condition for dairy imports. Breed improvement of milch cattle through artificial insemination and ensuring disease-free cattle are other steps being taken to make Indian dairy products a sought-after commodity across the world. The government is also looking to export more ghee (clarified butter) from India as there is a lesser chance of transmission of any disease through ghee.



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“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.

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