

## Amit Shah launches world's 1st nano DAP fertilizer



Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched IFFCO's liquid nano Di-Ammonia Phosphate (DAP).

The first Nano DAP (Liquid) has been launched in the world today, Shah said. This revolutionary step will not only take Indian agriculture forward in foodgrain production but it will also make India self-reliant in fertilizer production also, he added.

Addressing a gathering on the occasion, Shah said, "The launch of IFFCO's liquid DAP nano is an important beginning towards making India self-reliant in the field of fertilizers."

Nano DAP is manufactured by the cooperative major IFFCO. Recently, the Centre had notified the Nano DAP in the Fertilizer Control Order, which regulates the sale, pricing, and distribution of fertilizers in the country.

In May 2021, the IFFCO launched Nano Urea.

## Extend help to dairy cooperatives at panchayats: Amit Shah to NDDB



Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Thursday asked the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to help the establishment of milk cooperatives in uncovered panchayats and villages, and further strengthen cooperative movement in the country.

The minister held a meeting with NDDB's board members here to discuss issues related to the dairy sector.

He also highlighted the need for multi-commodity cooperatives, common brands for exports, promotion of organic produce and better capacity utilisation of milk processing facilities, among others.

Shah asked the dairy board to further strengthen cooperative dairying by playing a major role in establishing viable dairy cooperatives in uncovered Panchayats/ villages having potential for dairying, an official release said.

## Schools in Maharashtra to Incorporate Agriculture as a Subject



Agriculture will shortly be introduced as a subject and included in the Maharashtra educational system. The state government has invited the Maharashtra Council of Agriculture, Education and Research (MCAER) and the Maharashtra State Council of Education Research and Training Institute (MSCERT) to collaborate on developing the curriculum.

The state administration has released a preliminary curriculum plan for agriculture, nearly two years after deciding to teach the topic in schools. Agriculture-related topics will be taught in all classrooms as per the plan created by a group made up of representatives from the state's agriculture and education departments as well as agriculture university instructors.

The National Education Policy 2020 includes several vocational topics in its curriculum, including agriculture.



## President Murmu stresses women's role in dairy industry, call for greater support



President Droupadi Murmu highlighted the significance of women in India's dairy industry management, stressing the sector's contribution to women's self-reliance and socio-economic transformation. Speaking at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Dairy Research Institute (ICAR-NDRI) convocation in Karnal, Murmu called for increased educational, training, and skill development opportunities for women.

President Murmu also emphasized the need for easier loan access and market entry for women in the dairy sector. She noted that the dairy industry contributes about 5% to India's GDP and supports approximately 80 million families, playing a crucial role in the nation's food and nutritional security. "Institutions like NDRI have an important role to play in the inclusive development of the country," she added.

Acknowledging the cultural and traditional importance of cows and livestock in India, Murmu praised NDRI's development of cloning technology for high milk-yielding cattle. She emphasized that this technology could boost milk production capacity and improve farmers' income.

Despite India's status as the world's largest milk producer, challenges persist, including increasing milk product demand, fodder quality, climate change, and livestock diseases. Murmu underscored the importance of sustainable milk production and dairy farming, urging the adoption of environmentally friendly, climate-smart technologies that consider animal welfare.

The president commended NDRI's efforts to promote technology that reduces greenhouse gas emissions from dairy farms and emphasized the institute's focus on clean energy, such as biogas production.

## Indian Farmers Adapted to Temperature Changes for Rice, Maize but Not Wheat: Illinois Study

In order to determine how climatic changes impacted the yields of important grain crops in India, the University of Illinois researchers in the United States of America studied data spanning more than 60 years. They discovered that Indian farmers could adjust to temperature variations for maize and rice but not for wheat.



The purpose of this study, which was published in the *Agricultural Economics Journal*, was to examine the immediate and long-term effects of climate change on crops. While the output of rice has increased due to more precipitation, the yields of wheat and maize have decreased. The study's author, Madhu Khanna, stated that we also discovered that farmers are customising their tactics for various areas and crops. Districts in hotter regions, for instance, did better in hotter climates than districts in cooler climates.

Madhu added that studies are carried out each year to determine the effects of climatic changes. But the climatic differences cannot be explained by this research; only changes in the seasons can. Madhu is a professor teaching consumer economics and agricultural economics.

Surender Kumar who is an Economics professor at the University of Delhi says that more productive regions have stronger irrigation infrastructure. These areas are less reliant on the monsoon season according to Surender Kumar. He claimed that as a result, there is a distinction between short- and long-term effects. Regarding how climate change affects crops, Prevention Web states that India can assist its farmers in fending off the threat of climate change.



## Centre to push milk, cattle productivity in untapped districts



The Union department of animal husbandry is preparing strategies to ramp up milk and cattle productivity in so-called aspirational districts of the country, given rising post-pandemic demand, after India managed to avoid milk-fat import by a government-backed agency for the first time in decades in 2022-23 according to a senior official.

Union minister for fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying Parshottam Rupala on April 15 said the world's largest milk producer was not looking to import dairy items, such as butter, as supplies were improving, as prices rose the highest in a decade due to tightening supplies.

The minister had said to meet rising milk demand, his ministry would “tap into untapped areas” rather than resort to import. The government has categorised 112 districts across 27 states as aspirational for greater public investments since they lag most other states on socio-economic parameters.

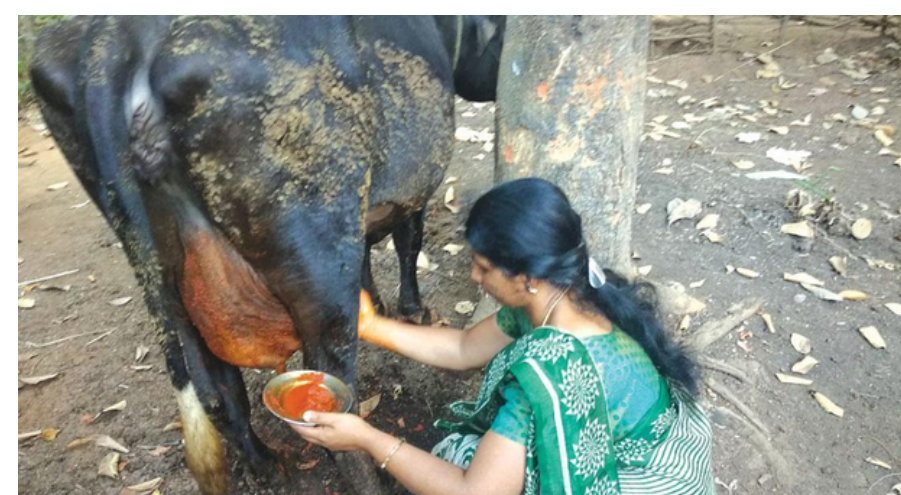
To implement Pashudhan Jagruty Abhiyaan, a programme to focus on untapped regions with livestock potential, additional secretary in the ministry Varsha Joshi held a meeting with representatives of about 1000 villages via video-conferencing.

“We are giving complete information about schemes and veterinary services and how they can be applied for in the aspirational districts,” the first official said.

India has one of the largest national livestock populations in the world at 536.76 million, according to the livestock census, 2019, which is a key source of income of nearly 80 million farmers. Livestock accounts for 30% of the country's gross value added, or GVA, in the farm sector. GVA is a measure of income that subtracts net taxes from gross domestic product, or GDP.

## Easy to switch: Here is why India's dairy farmers should shift to ethnoveterinary medicines

Livestock disease treatments have evolved over generations through experiences of communities, withstood the test of time, are embodied in local culture and practices and yet, the knowledge remains untapped in the absence of standardisation and scientific validation. More often than not, dairy farmers, and some field veterinarians, indiscriminately use antibiotics for treating even common infections in animals.



Researchers with Delhi-based Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) found evidence of such rampant misuse and overuse of antibiotics in 2020 and 2021, during consultations with dairy farmers and experts from various sectors such as animal husbandry, food safety, human health.

They had observed that most dairy farmers skip the critical withdrawal period — a prescribed number of days during which the treated animal should be excluded from the milk supply chain to allow antibiotic residues to be excreted out of its body. In 2018, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) had also found antibiotic residues in milk samples.

One common infection among dairy animals that prompts farmers to depend on antibiotics is mastitis, which is caused by over 100 types of microorganisms such as bacteria, fungus and virus.

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The infection, triggered by rough milking, injury to the udder tissue or due to unhygienic farm conditions, causes inflammation of mammary glands and blockage of milk ducts. It thus affects milk production and manifests in change of milk colour, consistency or even presence blood in milk.

To manage such common ailments and rationalise drug usage, especially antibiotics, the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in 2014 launched a project, Mastitis Control Popularisation Programme (MCPPI).

At Sabar Dairy, they conducted another trial on 30 cows affected with clinical mastitis. A reddish paste, prepared by mixing aloe vera, turmeric powder and lime, was applied on the mastitis-infected area thrice daily for four to five days and the cattle were fed whole lemons. The medicine cured 29 cattle, with one farmer dropping out of the trial.

“We found that ethnoveterinary practices can be both preventive and curative. It can be used by farmers themselves as a first response to any condition,” says M Balakrishnan Nair, Emeritus Professor, School of Health Sciences, TDU.

Following the successful trial, Sabar Dairy used its network of technicians, who conduct artificial insemination, to make farmers aware of its benefits. “We gave them an incentive of Rs 22 lakh to implement the approach on the ground,” says Bayati.

The expenditure of MCPPI in 2021 was estimated to be Rs 2,605 lakh, with NDDB paying Rs 356 lakh and the rest borne by respective dairy cooperatives. Eight years later, CSE researchers visited various milk unions and producer companies. Interaction with dairy farmers and veterinarians showed an encouraging impact of MCPPI.



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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.

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.