

## Dairy farmers to get Rs 4 per litre milk more till March 2023: Kerala Minister



Dairy farmers would be paid an additional Rs 4 per litre of milk till March next year as part of a Rs 28 crore project for them as it was not possible to increase price of milk in the state presently, Kerala Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development J Chinchurani said.

The minister said that the additional amount was already being paid to them from July 1 onwards and would continue till March next year, according to a statement issued by the Wayanad district administration.

The minister said that the state government has earmarked Rs 28 crore for this project, prepared by the Dairy Development Department, and the funds would be found with the cooperation of local bodies.

## Punjab govt committed to promote food processing: Fauja Singh Sarari



With an aim to strengthen the economic condition of farmers, state horticulture and food processing minister Fauja Singh Sarari said the Punjab government was working on a roadmap to increase the income of farmers by encouraging food processing.

On his maiden visit to the Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) and Ladhwal Mega Food Park, the cabinet minister said Bhagwant Mann-led government was committed to promote food processing in the state so that farmers of the state could be brought out of the wheat-paddy cycle by opting diversification.

He said the government was working to set up more food processing units by imparting training to farmers regarding the processing of fruits and vegetables into jams, jellies, pickles, juices etc.

## Panic among dairy farmers as mysterious disease spreads among cattle in Jammu



The spread of a “mysterious disease” among cattle in border areas of Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts has led to panic among dairy farmers and cattle owners of the area, with around 1500 animals reportedly affected with the disease and 17 succumbed to it so far in Jammu district alone.

According to the reports, the signs of this mysterious disease are same as that of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD). As per the reports, the cattle affected with this mysterious disease are showing appearance of circular, firm nodes on the animal’s hide or skin that look similar to lumps.

Deputy Director Animal Husbandry Department (Central) Jammu, Dr Javid Ahmed Katoch said in first week of July, they took samples of some cattle affected with this mysterious disease from Khour area and sent the same to ICAR- NISHAD laboratory in Bhopal but all the samples were found to be negative for LSD.

## ‘Self-sufficient’ in meat production, Tripura has set 2027 target for eggs, none for milk

Tripura claimed to have become self-sufficient in meat production and said it was aiming to become self-sufficient in egg production in the next four-five years.

However, the state of an estimated 40.38 lakh people is yet to fix any target for achieving the goal in milk production even as its Animal Resource Development Department (ARDD) claimed significant progress in raising female cows with the help of artificial insemination.



ARDD minister Bhagaban Das said, “We have been steadily progressing in milk, meat and egg production. In 2020, we faced the deadly Covid pandemic... Despite that, we have succeeded a bit. We have already become self-sufficient in meat production, especially in poultry. We have a new policy for augmenting egg production and hope we can fulfil our egg requirement from our own production in the next four-five years.”

In the milk sector, the production was at 217.09 thousand metric tons, against the requirement of 257.48 thousand metric tons. It registered 5.30 per cent growth in 2021-22, meaning that everyone drank 147.28g of milk a year on average.

Cattle rearers are now being provided a special feed subsidy to augment production. “The state will benefit largely from this project. However, we cannot fix any deadline for milk self-sufficiency now,” an official said.

## After Amroha cow deaths, norms issued to minimise use of green fodder



Scantly rainfall in most districts in Uttar Pradesh has created the possibility of green fodder like “joar” (sorghum) and “bajra” (millet) having gone toxic and hence become unsafe for livestock to consume.

Hence, alerted by deaths of over 61 cows at a “gaushala (cow shelter)” in Amroha after consuming poisonous fodder, the department of animal husbandry has asked officials to ensure that the use of green fodder for stray cattle in cow protection centres is minimised or avoided as far as possible.

Director, animal husbandry, Indramani, issued a circular in this regard, directing officials concerned to take steps for better and safe fodder management in the cow protection centres in view of the tendency of green fodder becoming poisonous during drought-like conditions.

As many as 55 of 188 cows at the cow protection centre in Amroha died on August 4 after consuming contaminated green fodder supplied by a local farmer while six more succumbed later. Many others are said to be still under treatment.

The circular said that stray cattle or livestock in general should not be fed completely on green fodder these days, asking officials to ensure that 80% of the cattle diet was dry fodder (wheat straw) and only 20% green fodder was mixed with it. It further said that green or dry fodder should not be served to cattle if a strange kind of smell came from it.

## Punjab grapple with goat pox; 50,000 animals vaccinated

Punjab is grappling with a new kind of disease called 'Goat pox'. Over 50,000 animals have been administered doses of the goat pox vaccine to check the spread of lumpy skin disease (LSD) among cattle in Punjab.

Punjab's Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, and Dairy Development Minister Laljit Singh Bhullar said that more than 2.33 lakh doses of goat pox have already been arranged and 1.67 lakh doses distributed in the districts and affected areas.



The Punjab government has procured over 66,000 doses of goat pox vaccine from Hyderabad to check the spread of lumpy skin disease among cattle in the state.

Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Gujarat and Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been hit by the outbreak of the disease. Lumpy skin disease infects cows and buffaloes mainly through vectors like blood-feeding insects. It leads to the formation of nodes on the animal's skin or hide that look like lumps, fever, runny nose, reduced milk yield and difficulty in eating.

Rajasthan has been worst hit by the outbreak of lumpy skin disease with 11 districts reporting a surge in cases, Union Animal Husbandry Minister Purushottam Rupala has said. The minister said the central and state governments are making serious efforts to prevent the spread of the disease in cattle and will soon be able to control it. He said the infected animals should be kept separate from healthy animals and the vaccination of healthy animals should be done.

## Kerala rains: Animal Husbandry sector suffers losses worth lakhs of rupees, says Minister



The animal husbandry sector in Kerala has suffered a loss to the tune of Rs 42.85 lakh so far in the ongoing heavy rains and as many as 40 shelters have been opened to protect animals across the state. J Chinchurani, the minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development, said the department already took measures to assess the impact of the monsoon rains and provide necessary assistance to the farmers in the sector.

Chinchurani detailing the precautionary measures taken by her department to tackle the situation said, Disaster-prone areas had been identified and animals were shifted to secure places.

As many as 575 animals have been rescued and shifted to shelters opened for them by the department across the state. They were being given medical assistance and fodder in adequate intervals, she said.

"It is estimated that farmers in the animal husbandry sector have incurred a loss to the tune of Rs 42.85 lakh so far," Chinchurani said. A proposal has already been submitted to the Disaster Management Department seeking immediate compensation to the farmers for the loss, the minister added.

## Walmart launches food processing unit in Anantapur, A.P

Walmart Foundation and International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) launched a Secondary Processing Unit (SPU) at Muddalapuram village in Anantapur district, A.P.

The SPU will benefit over 6,000 small farm-holding families in Anantapur district. The unit is spread over 1,000 square metres and is operated by women-led Rythu Nestham Food Producer Company Ltd (RNFPCL). RNFPCL has five processing lines that will produce highly nutritious millet and pulse-based ready-to-cook and ready-to-eat formulations, such as traditional khichdi and upma mixes, high oleic groundnut products like chikkis, cookies, snacks and savouries, apart from healthy cold pressed groundnut oil.



Launching the SPU, agriculture minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy said the government is keen on making agriculture more viable and profitable for farming communities, such as development of community-managed sustainable farming initiatives. He appreciated Walmart Foundation, Flipkart, ICRISAT and AFEC for launching the SPU.

Walmart Foundation's vice president Julie Gehrki said they are constantly on the lookout to empower communities. Walmart Foundation's grant to ICRISAT aims to strengthen and diversify services of farmer producer organisations (FPOs), so that they deliver benefits to their members.

## NDDB and NDRI to Work Together to Take Lumpy Skin Disease Treatment Research to Farmers



According to Meenesh Shah, chairperson of the NDDB, the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has decided to work with the National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, to take the research for lumpy skin disease treatment to the farmers.

Speaking at a programme organized to honour the silver jubilee celebrations of the Model Dairy Plant of the NDRI, Shah stated, "We have decided to work together and carry the research work further so that farmers can get the benefits."

Dr Manmohan Singh Chauhan, director of the NDRI, responded to Shah's statement by saying that the NDRI was prepared to give all kinds of support to NDDB. He urged the farmers not to panic about the increasing number of cases of lumpy skin disease in the state because there is a sufficient vaccine to prevent animals from the disease.

One of the leading institutions in the dairy sector, the ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) in Karnal, Haryana, has made significant contributions to the development of the dairy industry and milk production in India through its ongoing research. The Imperial Institute for Animal Husbandry & Dairying, a center for dairy education founded in Bangalore in 1923.



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