

Zoonotic diseases norm stalls plan to import Saneen goats in Maharashtra



Maharashtra state animal husbandry minister Sunil Kedar's idea to boost milk production by importing European breed of Saneen goat remains tied up in norms concerning exotic zoonotic diseases that pass from animals to humans. Live animal import comes under restricted list due to fear of diseases. The state awaits permission which is specially needed for livestock import from the directorate general of foreign trade (DGFT), which comes under the central government.

Last year, the minister had drawn plans to import Saneen Goats that originate from the Swiss Alps and are known for high yield of milk as much as 12 litres. The plan was to import an initial batch of parent stock and further develop the breed in India through Maharashtra Animal Husbandry and Fisheries University (MAFSU).

Nestlé Vows to Resume Ukraine Operation



Nestlé is prepared to resume operating in Ukraine to help maintain food supplies during the course of the country's struggle with Russian invaders, according to a report in Reuters. Nestlé has three factories in Ukraine, which it closed immediately after the invasion. "We are trying to reopen parts of the supply chain and distribute to retailers where it is safe to do so. The latest information is this was partially possible," a Nestlé spokesperson.

Nestlé's three factories in Ukraine manufacture powdered and liquid beverages, confectionery, and prepared dishes and cooking aids, according to Nestlé's annual report. The company told Reuters that it uses mostly local ingredients, but some are imported. Ukraine shut its ports after the invasion, and it was unclear how foreign ingredient shipments would reach the country's interior.

Amul expects 18% growth in turnover nearing Rs 46,000 cr this fiscal



India's leading dairy cooperative GCMMF, which markets dairy products under the Amul brand, is expecting an 18 per cent growth in its turnover this fiscal year to around Rs 46,000 crore on better demand, its Managing Director R S Sodhi said. Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF) had posted a marginal growth of 2 per cent during the 2020-21 financial year to Rs 39,200 crore despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

In an interview, Sodhi said: "We are expecting around 18 per cent growth this fiscal year to about Rs 46,000 crore." The demand for all products, like butter, ice cream, milk, has improved, he added. In volume terms also the growth will be around 15 per cent. The cooperative sells 150 lakh litres of milk per day, of which Gujarat contributes around 60 lakh litres, Delhi-NCR 37 lakh litres and Maharashtra 20 lakh litres, he added. It also sells milk in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Kolkata.

Assam's Women Dairy Farmers On Way to Empowerment

Nayanmoni Bharali of Assam's Hojai started her venture of animal husbandry with just one cow six years ago and now sells 80-85 litres of milk daily, earning a revenue of Rs 10 lakh per year. She is among 6,800 women dairy farmers who have empowered themselves with animal farming and scripted success for West Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Ltd (WAMUL), the largest in the state. Bharali, a member of Udali Bamungaon Dughda Utpadak Samabay of well-known Purabi Dairy, said she now is financially independent with her venture.



Another milk farmer Pranita Dutta, who is the president of Nalbari's Anantagiri Mahila DCS, claimed that WAMUL has uplifted her life and helped her and other entrepreneurs maintain a better livelihood.

West Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Ltd managing director Satyabrata Bose said the entity celebrated International Women's Day on March 8 with a focus on 'Power of W-Women of WAMUL' to acknowledge and appreciate their contributions to the dairy sector. "They have come forward to 'break the bias', the theme of International Women's Day this year. They play a crucial role across all the operations of WAMUL.

Of over 16,000 dairy farmers associated with the entity, 6,800 are women, he said. At least 18 of 28 female employees at WAMUL are in leadership roles in various disciplines, Bose added.

Government funds 800 startups under RKVY to fuel innovation

The Centre has funded about 800 startups with an amount of Rs. 118.65 crore under the Innovation and Agri-entrepreneurship Development Programme component of the Rashtiya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to fuel innovation and communication technology (ICT), and blockchain technology in the agriculture sector.

The move is part of the government's push to modernize agriculture and allied sectors to increase yield, quality, efficiency and profitability. The total amount earmarked for promoting new-age companies is Rs. 86.64 crores as grant-in-aid. So far, 799 startups have been finally selected between 2019-20 and 2021-22.

The scheme has funded startups in the fields of agriculture and allied sectors such as agro-processing, food technology and value addition, precision farming and digital agriculture, blockchain technology, logistics, value and supply chain management, online platform, farm mechanization, organic farming, natural resource management, renewable energy, waste management, animal husbandry, fisheries, dairy and secondary agriculture.

Under the scheme companies are provided with mentorship on financial, technical, intellectual property issues, seed-stage funding up to Rs. 25 lakh (85% grant and 15% contribution from the incubatee) and pre-seed stage funding of agripreneurs – funding up to Rs. 5 lakh (90% grant and 10% contribution from the incubatee).



Dairy Farms in Uttar Pradesh to be relocated Away from Residential Areas in Compliance with NGT Guidelines

Dairy farms in Uttar Pradesh will be relocated away from residential areas and encouraged to set up biogas plants on their own or in collaboration with entrepreneurs to produce CNG (known as bio-CNG) from bovine waste and sell it to consumers, according to people familiar with the situation.

According to them, the government is developing a new policy in this sector in accordance with the National Green Tribunal's (NGT) recent guidelines. These guidelines advocate for the relocation of all dairies away from residential areas in cities and villages, with an emphasis on environmental friendly disposal of bovine waste—dung and urine.

According to the NGT, all dairy farms with more than 15 bovine animals would be relocated away from residential areas. The larger ones will be encouraged to set up biogas/compressed biogas production plants by themselves or in association with entrepreneurs or NGOs to produce CNG from bovine dung and sell the same to locals.



Startup Story: Surviving two bankruptcies, four friends turn dairy startup into Rs. 225 cr business

When three friends from Ranchi ditched their well-paid corporate jobs, excellent career prospects and a steady roof above, to start a dairy farm, everyone warned them about the precarity of owning a challenging business. However, despite all the criticism and obstacles, the three friends, followed their heart and decided to set out on a new entrepreneurial journey. A fourth friend, who worked at a Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) company, also joined them later.



In the first month itself, they lost half their capital and were on the verge of bankruptcy twice. But determined to do something different, they raised money at the right time to save their company. This is the story of four friends from Jharkhand, whose company 'Osam Dairy' milked a turnover of Rs 225 crore in 10 years. The company will complete a decade in April and after expanding business across Bihar, Jharkhand, it now plans to spread its footprint across West Bengal.

At least 450 employees work at Osam Dairy today. Apart from this, 1000 dairy farmers are indirectly related to the company. The company procures milk regularly from about 20,000 livestock farmers and distributes their products via 250 distributors and over 8000 retailers across Bihar and Jharkhand. This way, around 30000 people work for Osam Dairy.

The founders – Abhinav Shah, Rakesh Sharma, Abhishek Raj and Harsh Thakkar have been friends since college. They raised a capital of Rs one crore by combining their savings from their nine-to-five job. As of today, Osam Dairy sells about 120000 litres of milk and 30000 of its by-products daily. It has also received many awards for entrepreneurship and their business model is discussed in B-school across the country.

Fonterra ends joint venture in India citing Covid-19 disruptions

Dairy cooperative Fonterra has announced its winding down a joint venture in India, saying Covid-19 has caused significant disruption to the market. The 50-50 joint venture got underway in 2018 and involved the country's largest consumer retail company - Future Consumer Limited. It saw Fonterra launch the Dreamery brand, which included a range of yogurt and milkshakes made using Indian milk.

Fonterra's Asia Pacific chief executive, Judith Swales, said the co-op entered the joint venture as a capital-light way to test the market. The decision announced today would impact 22 employees, all of whom will receive appropriate entitlements, she said.



"The last few years have been challenging for the joint venture with Covid-19 causing significant disruption to the Indian market. We will continue to have a presence in India through Anchor Food Professionals and our Ingredients business, and will explore opportunities to grow access for our New Zealand milk as they come up," Swales said.

CEDSI Organized a Training & Capacity Building Program for Dairy Farmers in Madhepura, Bihar

Centre of Excellence for Dairy Skills in India organized a dairy farmers training program in association with Care India in Madhepura, Bihar. The three-day training was organized for 90 farmers where they were trained in topics covering end-to-end dairy farming practices (Nutrition, Health, Shed Management, Livestock Accommodation, Clean Milk Production, Feed & Fodder Development, Forage Conservation and Entrepreneurship Skills).

The training program was specially designed for the small-holder farmers from the villages of Madhepura with the ultimate goal of their income enhancement through increased productivity and cost reduction.

