

CEDSI TIMES

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Veterinarian Dr. Motilal Madan honored with Padma Shri



Dr. Motilal Madan has succeeded in increasing the fertility in other animals like cow and buffalo with the help of more than 12 hormones. Not only this, he also successfully started embryo cloning in buffaloes in India as well as in many countries of the world. The country's renowned animal doctor and regenerative biotechnologist Dr. Moti Lal Madan has been selected for this year's Padma Awards. The Central Government has honored Dr. Motilal Madan with the Padma Shri award. For many successful research done for animals, Dr. Moti Lal has got a different and unique identity not only in India but around the world. Dr. Motilal's works can be understood from the fact that he is now being called the clone maker of animals. Let us tell you that during his services at the National Dairy Research Institute located in Karnal, Haryana, he successfully tested the IVF technique on animals and gave birth to 10 calves within a year from a single buffalo.

Jerri hamlet declared as 'milk village' in J&K



The Jammu and Kashmir administration has declared Jerri settlement in Reasi district as the first 'milk village' of the Union Territory and sanctioned 57 more dairy farms under the Integrated dairy development scheme (IDDS) for the hamlet, officials said.

The milk village, which houses 73 individual dairy units with 370 cows, will give financial security to the local farmers, they said. Taking a lead to carving out a hamlet of dairy farms, the women of the settlement have formed a cooperative of 11 females for collecting milk from the dairy farms and households for further transportation to the milk selling plants or other establishments.

After being declared as 'milk village', a total of 57 units have been sanctioned under the IDDS for the village, Agriculture Department officials said. Under the integrated dairy development scheme, dairy units of five animals are provided with a 50 per cent subsidy.

NCDC focusses on north-east; launches several schemes



National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is actively working to rejuvenate the cooperative movement of north eastern states and several schemes launched by the NCDC in these states are helping in improving the living standards of the weaker sections of the population and also creating employment opportunities through co-ops.

Giving updates on these schemes, NCDC Executive Director Mukesh Kumar said, "During 2020- 21, NCDC had sanctioned financial assistance of more than Rs 160 crore to the North Eastern States. Our schemes are becoming a big hit in the Northern states and co-ops are also taking advantage."

"For the development of pisciculture, NCDC launched the fisheries Project in Manipur. Towards helping the dairy co-ops, we had sanctioned more than Rs 200 crore under the Meghalaya Milk Mission."

Niti Aayog working on road map to develop Gaushala Economy

The Niti Aayog is working on a road map to develop the 'Gaushala Economy' to enable commercial use of cow urine and cow dung for multiple purposes, both in India and abroad. A team of government officials under Niti Aayog member Ramesh Chand has been visiting big gaushalas in Vrindavan, Rajasthan and other parts of India to assess their conditions and accordingly submit a report with a road map to give a fillip to the Gaushala Economy. The report, outlining the economic potential of cattle and the measures needed to harness the gaushala economy, will be submitted soon, a senior official said.



Other than its use as fertilizer, cow urine has extensive demand in sectors such as pharmaceuticals and herbal products. Besides, cow dung can be converted into gaukasth or logs made of cow dung which can be used in crematoriums. Madhya Pradesh has taken a lead in the country by incentivising farmers to rear cattle and undertake natural farming. The state has also set up cow sanctuaries and shelters to take proper care of its cattle and the models could be replicated across India.



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Start-up Story: 'Hydro Greens', A Solution to Fodder Shortage Problem

India has an acute cattle feed crisis. The land available for fodder production has remained stagnant at 5% of the arable land for decades while cattle population and milk demand keep burgeoning. There is a 12% gap between the demand for green fodder and its availability. Lack of fodder means India's dairy farmers are operating at only 50% of their potential.

A new and young Bengaluru-based start-up called Hydrogreens founded by 38-year-old Vasanth Madhav Kamath is trying to address this crisis with a unique model that he calls 'fodder-as-a-service' for farmers who cannot afford to grow it themselves. The firm grows the green fodder in a low-cost, microclimate controlled vertical farming system that can ensure year-round availability of fresh, pesticide-free, high-protein supply. Even in 40-50 degrees Celsius temperatures with just half a bucket of water.

Hydrogreens has come up with a low-cost, sustainable innovation that grows high protein fodder through hydroponics. The product, named Kambala, can be compared to the structure of a large refrigerator, occupying 3 by 4 feet of ground space and standing 7 feet tall. Inside, racks are installed for growing fodder — 7 racks for 7 days of the week. Each rack comprises four trays where approximately 700 gms of high-protein seeds of maize are added one day a week. Alternately, seeds of wheat or barley can also be used. Within the next few days, the rack becomes covered with fresh, green fodder ready to be dispensed to the cattle. The insides of the racks are connected with 14 micro-sprinklers which spray water occasionally according to the need, once the system is connected to a power source. In a day, 25-30 kg of fodder is generated in a Kambala machine, thereby creating enough fodder for at least 4-5 cows in a week. Priced at Rs 30,000, each Kambala generates an electricity bill of less than Rs 70 in a year.



Dairy farmers in US can reduce environmental impact in operations: Research

Dairy farmers in the Northeast, Pennsylvania, US — facing a warming climate that exacerbates nutrient pollution but lengthens the growing season — can reduce the environmental impact of their operations and maximize revenues by double cropping and injecting manure into the soil, rather than broadcasting it, according to research.



A team of researchers, led by Penn State agroecologists, whose new study evaluated whole-farm production and the environmental and economic impacts of adopting these practices on a representative dairy farm in central Pennsylvania under recent historical and projected mid-century climate.

The research is important, according to Heather Karsten, associate professor of crop production/ecology in the College of Agricultural Sciences, because dairy farms — especially in the Northeast — are increasingly subject to more stringent regulations to reduce nutrient losses. With expected warmer conditions that will result in increased ammonia volatilization from manure and more frequent and more severe storms that will cause more soluble phosphorus runoff, new strategies are needed to limit nitrogen and phosphorus losses from crop fields.

The researchers found that double-cropping increased and stabilized the farm's feed production by providing forage from a winter rye crop with less dependency on the summer crops of corn silage and perennial cool-season grasses. Summer crops are susceptible to summer droughts, Karsten explained, which are expected to increase in this region due to warmer temperatures and increased evapotranspiration.

Centre of Excellence for Dairy Skills in India



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