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J&K-New Zealand new partnership to boost livestock sector: LG



The government of J&K on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) for transforming the Sheep Farming Sector in UT. The virtual MoC signing ceremony was presided over by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan. The MoC was signed by Navin Kumar Choudhary, Principal Secretary to J&K Government, Animal & Sheep Husbandry Department and Mischa Mannix-Opie, Executive Director, New Zealand G2G as a mutual commitment between J&K and New Zealand for complementing each other's capability in the sheep sector.

“Overarching objective of the MoC is to improve farmers' remuneration, transfer of technology in research and development as well as marketing & value addition of sheep products of J&K,” the Lt Governor said.

Meghalaya CM laid the foundation for Dairy Complex

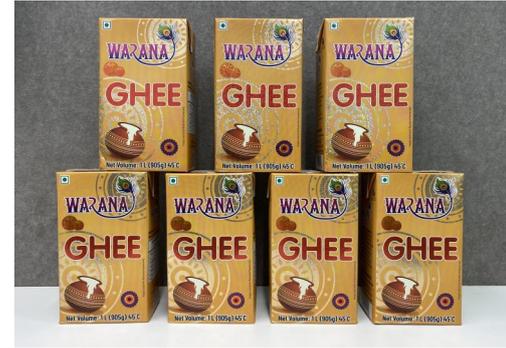


Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma on Wednesday laid the foundation for the construction of “Dairy Complex” at Mukhla Village in West Jaintia Hills. Sangma said that the state has production of about 12 lakh litres of milk but at the same time consumption annually is over 200 lakh litres.

The Dairy Complex is constructed at an approximate cost of over 9 cr. and is funded by the National Programme for Dairy Development, GOI. The project is part of Meghalaya's flagship programme of Dairy Mission.

Speaking on the occasion, the CM said that the project on completion will provide job avenues to about 2000 plus farming communities and will address the shortage of milk production in the State. “Through this project we are working towards ensuring livelihood through new means and new avenues, especially for the younger generation based on the new population trend that we are seeing in our state,” CM said.

Tetra Pak launches the first Made in India holographic packaging with Warana Dairy



Tetra Pak, a world-leading packaging and processing solutions provider, has introduced its first-ever locally manufactured holographic packaging material in India. The innovative packaging, called Tetra Pak® Reflect, has been launched in partnership with Warana, a leading co-operative dairy, for their 1-liter Ghee packs.

The artistic package is designed to help food and beverage brands add a new eye-catching dimension to their packs. For the first time, the holographic packaging material will be produced at Tetra Pak's manufacturing site in Chakan, Maharashtra. The Warana Ghee in Tetra Pak cartons will first be available in Maharashtra, with a major focus on Mumbai, Marathwada, and Vidarbha. The 1-liter pack is priced at INR 570 and is available across traditional and modern retail outlets.

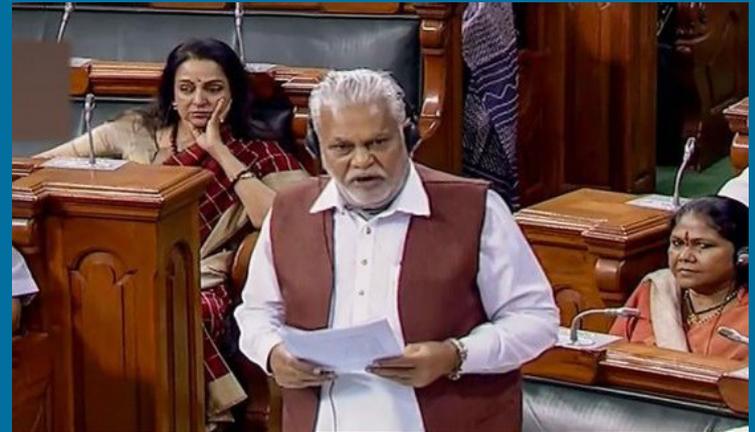
Government promoting Self-Help Groups for women in dairy sector: Rupala

In a written reply in Lok Sabha on Tuesday, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Parshottam Rupala said his Department is implementing National Programme for Dairy Development and Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund for Cooperatives, Milk Producer Companies (MPC), Self Help Groups SHG and Farmer Producer's Organization (FPO).

The SHGs are eligible to be supported irrespective of gender. However, the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods mission (DAY-NRLM) through the SHG network, he said.

“As per information received from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), the Ministry of Finance, Government of India has set up a “Women Self Help Group Development Fund” to implement a ‘Scheme for promotion of Women SHGs in Left Wing Extremism Affected and Backward districts of India’ including dairy scheme.”

“As on 31 December 2021, the cumulative funds released by NABARD towards grant assistance, training, capacity building and other initiatives, out of this fund, stood at 150.02 crores” he added.



Amul to launch organic products, set up Haats and 'Green College'

Entering the nascent Rs 2,000-crore organic food segment in India, Amul will soon launch organic 'Atta', rice, honey, chocolates, and potato products, said RS Sodhi, managing director of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF).

It also plans to set up a 'Green College' at Anand to spread awareness about organic and natural farming among the young generation of farmers, along with 'Organic Haats' across Gujarat to market and sell organic products.



“We are also designing a logo for these organic products. It will be made public soon,” said R. S. Sodhi, MD GCMMF. Amul's move to enter the organic food marketing segment comes after Union Co-operation Minister Amit Shah during his visit to Anand in November 2021 urged the dairy behemoth to lead an initiative to create testing, distribution and marketing infrastructure for organic products in the country.

The green college in Anand will be set up by Amul, in association with Tribhovandas Foundation — a charitable trust founded by Tribhovandas Patel, the founder chairman of Amul.

Preparations in full swing for separate Farm Budget in Rajasthan

The preparations are in full swing for the first-ever separate Agriculture Budget to be presented in the Rajasthan Assembly session starting on February 9, with the emphasis on welfare measures for farmers and innovations for the benefit of cultivators. The budget will especially promote drip and sprinkler irrigation systems in view of the scarcity of water in the State.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said during a pre-budget consultation with the farmers and representatives of dairy federations that the State government was considering a

proposal to establish a separate power company for the agriculture sector. "Farmers have been facing hardships by waking up the entire night to irrigate their fields, as electricity was supplied to them only after dark," he said.

Mr. Gehlot said the farmers in as many as 15 districts had started getting agricultural power during the daytime. "We will endeavor to provide electricity to the farmers in all districts for irrigating their fields during the day before March 2023 by developing a robust transmission system and ensuring adequate availability of power," he said.



Private sector representation in national dairy board draws flak

The Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (KCMMF), which owns the popular dairy brand Milma, came out against the Centre's move to bring in private sector representation in the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), an apex body of dairy cooperatives. Terming it as an attempt to infringe on the autonomy of the body, KCMMF chairman K S Mani said the proposal would seriously harm the cooperative dairy movement in the country.

According to him, the proposed amendments also run against the vision of Dr Verghese Kurien, the Milk Man of India, who devoted a lifetime to liberate the poor dairy farmers and the country's dairy economy. "Milma will convey to the Centre its strong reservations against the proposed amendments as they would seriously affect the autonomy of NDDB and harm the interests of millions of dairy farmers and the dairy cooperative movement as a whole.

PMKSY scheme extended till FY'26 with Rs 4,600 crore outlay

The food processing ministry on Monday in a tweet said, its flagship scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)' has been extended for a period of 2021-22 to 2025-26. The Central government has allocated Rs 4,600 crore for the scheme.

PMKSY is an umbrella scheme incorporating ongoing schemes of the ministry like Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure, Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters, Creation / Expansion of Food Processing, and Preservation Capacities, and Operation Greens. The scheme will boost the growth of the food processing sector but also help in providing better prices to farmers and creating huge employment opportunities.



From dry fruit seller to dairy farmer: J&K man scripts self-employment success story

Manzoor Ahmed from Jammu & Kashmir's Ramban district has come a long way as a successful entrepreneur – from selling dry fruits in a small shop to running a dairy farm that sells over 200 liters of milk per day. Ahmed, who barely completed Class 12th and comes from an agricultural background always wanted to start his own dairy farm and was able to do so with the assistance of Ramban's Animal Husbandry Department.



"I had a small dry fruit shop, but it wasn't enough to support the demands of my family. I chose to start a dairy farm unit after consulting with the Animal Husbandry Department" Ahmed said.

He stated that the department guaranteed that he received the benefits of **dairy farming schemes** and provided him with scientific advice on how to manage his dairy farm. With four cows, Ahmed began his dairy farm in Bankoot, Banihal. Later, under the **Integrated Dairy Development Scheme**, the Animal Husbandry Department approved four units of 20 cows for his farm (IDDS). According to officials, he bought the cattle from Punjab.

"Adding hybrid cattle heads helped me double the daily milk output and income as well," said Ahmed, who now sells around 200 liters of milk per day and makes a monthly profit of Rs.3 lakh. He has also employed four locals to help with the work and look after the cows. He also gets full support from his family in running the business.

As a result of his accomplishment, the Animal Husbandry Department has approved another unit of five cows for his farm. Ahmed stated that he is now able to offer a better life for his family.

"I am really grateful to the government for providing me with financial assistance in order to grow my dairy farm. Now, I plan to upgrade my dairy and install all necessary equipment such as a milking machine, milk cooler, ATM milk machine, and a generator" he added.

Based on his experience, Ahmed believes dairy farming can provide a realistic solution to the rising unemployment.

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