

Southern Dairy and Food Conclave 2026 : Advancing Dairy and Food Systems through Integration, Innovation and Inclusivity

The Indian Dairy Association (IDA) - Kerala Chapter, under the aegis of the IDA South Zone, organised the Southern Dairy and Food Conclave 2026 (SDFC-2026) from January 8 to 10, 2026 at the Calicut Trade Centre, Kozhikode. The venue was ceremonially named Verghese Kurien Nagar during the event, in honour of Padma Vibhushan Dr. Verghese Kurien, the architect of India's White Revolution. The conclave, a re-envisioned version of the Southern Dairy Summit, brought together the dairy and food sectors on a common platform to deliberate on nutrition, sustainability, farmer welfare and economic growth.



SDFC-2026 witnessed participation from nearly 1,250 delegates, including professionals from dairy and food industries, academicians, researchers, policymakers, entrepreneurs and 100 students. The conclave also attracted around 1,000 farmer visitors and over 5,000 school students, reflecting its strong outreach and educational focus. The Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (KVASU) served as the Technical Partner, while MILMA was the Event Sponsor, with extensive support from cooperatives, private industry and allied sectors. The event served as a premier platform for industry leaders, researchers, academicians, students, government officials, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and farmers to exchange knowledge, showcase innovations and shape the future of dairy and food. Key highlights included a first-of-its-kind Padma Talk, Indigenous Cattle Show, Kerala cottage industry showcases with live preparations, and vibrant displays of South Indian cultural heritage.

Pre-Conference Day Programmes (Jan. 8, 2026)

The Pre-Conference Day marked the formal commencement of SDFC-2026, focusing on innovation,

youth participation and public engagement. The programme included the inaugural ceremony, flag hoisting and ceremonial handing over of the conference beacon. Key activities comprised invited talks, innovative business idea presentations, oral and poster presentation sessions, and the Young Innovators Forum.

The invited talks highlighted entrepreneurship and financial literacy relevant to dairy and food stakeholders. The Innovative Business Idea Presentation Session encouraged start-ups and young entrepreneurs to showcase novel concepts. The Oral and Poster Presentation Sessions, conducted in offline and online modes, covered themes on functional nutrition, food safety and quality systems, and dairy and food economics, providing a platform for young researchers and students.



The Young Innovators Forum enabled selected participants to present their ideas and research concepts before an expert jury and audience, fostering interaction and mentorship. The day concluded with a cultural evening, featuring performances by students of KVASU and traditional art forms of Kerala, blending science with cultural heritage.

Inaugural Events (Jan. 9, 2026)

The main conference proceedings began with the prestigious **Padma Talk**, delivered by Padma Shri Prof. (Dr.) Sosamma Iype, who emphasised the importance of indigenous livestock conservation, native breeds and their role in sustainable dairy development and rural livelihoods.

SDFC -2026 was inaugurated by four Hon'ble Ministers for Dairy Development and Animal Husbandry from the southern states-Smt. J. Chinchu Rani (Kerala), Shri T.T. Mano Thangaraj (Tamil Nadu), Shri Kinjarapu Atchannaidu (Andhra Pradesh), and Thiru C. Djeacoumar (Puducherry) on January 9, 2026, making it a landmark event in the history of the IDA.

Smt. J. Chinchu Rani stated that Kerala is the state that provides the highest milk price to dairy farmers in the country. She noted that Kerala is currently on a progressive path in milk production, with a growth rate of 14 percent. She also pointed out that Kerala ranks second in the country in milk productivity, next only to Punjab. **Shri T.T. Mano Thangaraj** said that the dairy sector plays a major role in strengthening the rural economy. He observed that due to the shortage of grazing land and low productivity, cattle rearing has become unprofitable. Switching to high-yielding crossbred cows is the solution to this issue, he said. He also emphasized the need to provide farmers with financial security and insurance mechanisms to facilitate such a transition. The meeting was presided over by **Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh**, President of the Indian Dairy Association.

Awards for Dairy Professionals from South India were presented to Shri K.S. Mani, Chairman, MILMA; Ms. Nara Bhuvaneshwari, Vice Chairperson, Heritage Foods Limited; Shri Chalimeda Rajeshwara Rao, Chairman, Karimnagar Milk Producers Limited; Shri R. Mohanasundaram, Managing Director, Amrita Dairy; Shri G.R. Balasubrahmanyam, Managing Director, GRB Food Limited; and Dr. P.I. Geevarghese, Former Dean, Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University.

Awards for the Best Women Dairy Farmers from South India were presented to Ms. Ankati Radha (Telangana); Ms. Shivani Rajashekar Mattihali (Karnataka); Ms. Padmini S. (Tamil Nadu); Ms. Nagajyothi Chandrashekar (Andhra Pradesh); and Ms. Bindu V.P. (Kerala). The awards were presented by the ministers during the function.

The Souvenir of the SDFC- 2026 was formally released jointly during the inaugural session by the dignitaries on the dais, namely Smt. J. Chinchurani, Thiru T. Mano Thangaraj, Shri K. Venkatesh, Shri Kinjarapu Atchannaidu, Shri Vakiti Srihari, Thiru C. Djeacoumar, Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh, and Dr. S.N. Rajakumar.

Dr. Satish Kulkarni, Chairman, IDA (South Zone), spoke about the Southern Dairy and Food Conclave. Shri K.S. Mani, Chairman of the Organizing Committee SDFC-2026 and Chairman of MILMA, delivered the Welcome address, while Dr. S.N. Rajkumar, Chairman of the Kerala Chapter of the IDA and Organising Secretary, proposed the vote of thanks.

A major attraction of the conclave was the Indigenous Cattle and Goat Exhibition, showcasing native breeds from different regions of India, including Kerala's indigenous cattle. The exhibition attracted large public interest and underscored the importance of conserving indigenous breeds and promoting sustainable livestock practices.

Farmer Session and Technical Deliberations

The Farmer Session was chaired by Shri K.S. Mani, Chairman, Kerala Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (KCMMF), Thiruvananthapuram. The session focused on farmer empowerment, procurement systems, cooperative growth, and market expansion.

The panel included Shri Suresh S., Procurement Head, Dodla Dairy, Hyderabad; Shri P. Gopalakrishnan, Managing Director, Sangam Milk Producers' Cooperative Ltd.; and Shri N. K. Premlal, General Manager, Malabar Regional Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Ltd., Kozhikode.

The session was moderated by MILMA Chairman Shri K.S. Mani and the Convenor, Dr. Shiraz, Assistant Manager, TRCMPU. Panellists deliberated on the challenges faced by dairy farmers and discussed strategies to enhance productivity, profitability, and sustainability.

The conclave featured multiple technical sessions across January 9 and 10, addressing innovative processing and packaging technologies, regulatory compliance and food safety frameworks, functional foods and nutrition, climate-resilient dairy systems, and global dairy and food trade opportunities. Experts from industry, academia and regulatory bodies shared insights through technical presentations, panel discussions and commercial presentations.

Technical Session I: Innovative Processing and Packaging Technologies - A Gen Z Perspective

The session focused on AI-driven innovations and advanced packaging in dairy and food processing. Experts discussed AI applications across the dairy value

chain, Amul's digital "3C Model," and emerging smart, intelligent, and sustainable packaging technologies. The session emphasized technology-led sustainability and innovation.

Technical Session II: Regulatory Compliance, Food Safety and Quality Framework for Global Trade

This session highlighted strategies for strengthening India's dairy and food exports. Presentations covered global market access, export readiness, and the role of FSSAI in ensuring food safety, quality assurance, and regulatory compliance.

Technical Session III: Harnessing Functional Ingredients in Tailoring Healthy Diets

This session addressed advancements in functional foods and nutraceuticals, focusing on wellness-oriented innovations. Speakers discussed functional ingredients from plant and microbial sources, regulatory aspects, consumer trends, and the growing role of dairy-based functional foods such as probiotics and bioactive compounds.

Panel Discussions

On January 10, 2026, two panel deliberations provided policy insights and practical recommendations for achieving self-sufficiency, value addition and export growth.

Panel Discussion I: "Dairy Development in Kerala: The Last Decade and the Way Forward - Issues and Challenges"

The first panel discussion was moderated by Dr. P. Sudheer Babu, Professor and Head, Department of Dairy Engineering, Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Pookode, and convened by Shri Doles, Deputy Director, Department of Dairy Development, Government of Kerala. The panel members included Smt. Salini Gopinath, Director, Department of Dairy Development, Government of Kerala; Shri P. T. Gopala Kurup, Former

Chairman, KCMMF; and Dr. R. Rajeev, Managing Director, Kerala Livestock Development Board.

The discussion focused on policy initiatives, institutional reforms, and future strategies for Kerala's dairy sector. Kerala currently has around 6.5 lakh milch cows, and if milk production per cow were increased by just one litre through improved management practices, it would result in an additional daily output of 6.5 lakh litres of milk. The panel emphasized that such an increase would enable MILMA to reduce its daily procurement of approximately 4.5 lakh litres of milk from other states, thereby moving Kerala closer to self-sufficiency in milk production.

Panel Discussion II: "Opportunities and Strategies to Enhance Global Markets for Dairy and Food Products"

The second panel discussion was chaired by Dr. G. Sridhar, Professor (Marketing), IIM Calicut, and moderated by Shri C. P. Charles, Member, Central Executive Committee, Indian Dairy Association, and convened by Dr. Jayadevan G. R. The panelists included Shri B.V.K. Reddy, CEO, Dodla Dairy, Hyderabad; Shri Asif K. Yusuf, IAS, Managing Director, KCMMF, Thiruvananthapuram; Shri Kalyan Kumar Bhadra, Founder and Chief Consultant, 360 Degree Dairy, Noida; and Dr. Surendra Tatti, Prompt Industries.

The discussion centered on export strategies, global market access, value addition, and enhancing the competitiveness of Indian dairy and food products.

Valedictory Session

The Valedictory Session, inaugurated by **Dr. Meenesh Shah**, Chairman, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), stated that by 2035, one-third of the world's milk production is expected to come from India, and the country is actively working towards achieving this goal. He noted that enabling dairy farmers to achieve higher productivity at lower feed costs and providing insurance coverage for cattle at affordable premiums are key



strategies for increasing milk production. He also emphasized that NDDDB is making concerted efforts to attract the younger generation to the dairy sector.

Organising Committee Chairman and MILMA Chairman Shri K.S. Mani; IDA Vice President Shri Arun Patil; SDFC Patron Shri C.P. Charles; Deputy Commissioner of the Central Department of Dairy Development Shri Ajith Kumar, and IDA South Zone Vice Chairman Dr. Rajendra Kumar addressed the gathering. Dr. S.N. Rajkumar, Chairman of the IDA Kerala Chapter and Organising Committee Chairman, delivered the welcome address, while Organising Committee Convener Shri I.S. Anil Kumar proposed the vote of thanks. The conclave concluded with the announcement that the next Southern Dairy and Food Conclave will be held at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

Awards

The Poster and Oral Presentation sessions of the Southern Dairy and Food Conclave highlighted innovative research in functional nutrition, food safety, and dairy and food economics. In **offline poster presentations**, the **First Prize** in *Functional Nutrition and Circular Innovations for Global Wellness* was awarded to the poster titled "*Rheological and sensory characterisation of functional Greek yoghurt sauce for transformation in global health*" by Vaishnavi D., Harinivenugopal, and Arunkumar H., while in *Frontiers in Food Safety and Quality Systems*, the **First Prize** went to "*Harnessing dairy-derived bacteriophages to combat methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus*" by Farzana Beegum, Archana Chandran, and Rathish R.L.

In **offline oral presentations**, the **First Prize** under *Functional Nutrition and Circular Innovations for Global Wellness* was awarded to the presentation titled "*Whey protein-iron alginate hydrogel beads: a novel approach for iron fortification*" by Farhana P. H. and team, while under *Frontiers in Food Safety and Quality Systems*, "*Microfluidic paper-based analytical device for multiple milk adulterants detection in a semi-quantitative way*" by Jasna C. and Pranali Nikam secured the top award.

For **online poster presentations** under *Inclusive and Safe Food Systems - Innovations for the Future*, the **First Prize** was awarded to poster titled "*Sequential application of activated charcoal and selective microbial fermentation for purification of GOS produced from*

paneer whey" by Neha R. Petare and team, followed by **Second prize** to the poster titled "*Synergistic effect of prebiotic carriers and thermal protectants on shelf-life of Lactobacillus salivarius encapsulated by spray drying*" by Harshitha M. and co-authors, and **Third prize** to "*3D printing of heat-desiccated milk solids-based dysphagia-friendly foods*" by Dr. Aparna V.P. and Dr. Kaushik Khamrui.

In the **Young Innovators Forum**, Dr. Rakendhu Saji won the First prize, while Dr. Vinod Viswanath received the second prize.

Exhibitions

SDFC-2026 featured extensive Dairy and Food Innovation Exhibitions, showcasing products, technologies, and services from cooperatives, private industries, startups, and research institutions. These exhibitions were open to the public, enabling greater awareness and



engagement with advancements in the dairy and food sectors. The Indigenous Cattle Exhibition proved a major attraction, highlighting the importance of conserving native breeds and promoting sustainable livestock practices.

Sponsors

The Southern Dairy and Food Conclave 2026 received strong support from leading dairy, food, and allied sector organisations. MILMA was the **Event Sponsor**, Dodla Dairy the **Diamond Sponsor**, with Heritage Foods, Repute Engineers, and Amul as **Gold Sponsors**. Several companies supported the conclave as Silver and Bronze Sponsors, along with organisations backing farmer sessions, product displays, advertisements, and consumer interface activities, contributing to the event's overall success.

Commercial Presentations

The commercial presentation session, chaired by Dr. Ravikumar with Ms. Sweety Vargheese as convener, featured presentations by leading companies

highlighting innovation, sustainability, and market growth.

Cultural Programs

The Pre-Conference Day concluded with a vibrant Cultural Evening that reflected the rich artistic traditions of Kerala. The programme began with captivating performances by students of the Faculty of Dairy Science Colleges under the Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (KVASU), showcasing their talent and cultural pride. This was followed by a traditional presentation by Gothra Kalamandalam, Attappadi, Palakkad, which added an indigenous and folkloric dimension to the evening. Renowned classical art forms such as Panchavadyam, Kalaripayattu, and Thiruvathira were performed, offering delegates a deep insight into Kerala's cultural and artistic heritage.

Adding further cultural vibrancy to the conclave, the second day evening featured spellbinding performances

by Kerala Kalamandalam. These presentations provided participants with an immersive experience of Kerala's classical and folk art forms and served as a platform for meaningful cultural exchange, strengthening camaraderie among delegates from different regions of the country.

The conclave enabled policy-level discussions on improving milk productivity through lower feed costs, affordable livestock insurance and healthcare, and the adoption of modern processing and packaging technologies. It emphasized assured markets and fair prices for farmers, improved food safety and quality standards, sustainability, and youth engagement in the dairy sector. The deliberations also stressed cooperative expansion, capacity building, and stronger integration of agriculture, dairy, and food industries to enhance rural livelihoods, women's empowerment, and economic growth, establishing SDFC as a key platform for shaping India's dairy sector roadmap.



Dr. J.V. Parekh Honored with Dairy Titan Award 2026



Dr. J.V. Parekh, Vice Chairman, IDA (West Zone) and an International Dairy Consultant, was conferred with the prestigious Dairy Titan Award 2026 for Lifetime Achievement in the Dairy Industry during the International Dairy & Processing Development Conference (IDPC) 2026, held at Yashobhoomi,

Dwarka, New Delhi, on January 7, 2026.

The award was presented by the Trade Promotional Council of India (TPCI) in recognition of his long-standing association with, and significant contributions to, the dairy sector.



NATIONAL News

NDDB CALF Food Testing Laboratory Inaugurated in Kochi



Shri George Kurian, Hon'ble Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, inaugurated the NDDB CALF Food Testing Laboratory at Edappally, Kochi. The event was attended by Shri Hibi Eden, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Ernakulam, along with senior representatives from NDDB, NDDB CALF Limited and the cooperative dairy sector, including Dr Meenesh Shah, Chairman, NDDB and NDDB CALF Limited; Shri K S Mani, Chairman, Milma; Smt. Mani Viswanath, Chairperson, TRCMPU; Shri C N Valsalan Pillai, Chairman, ERCMPU; Shri Asif K Yusuf, Managing Director, KCMMF; and Shri Rajesh Nair, Managing Director, NDDB CALF Limited.

Shri George Kurian has called on Kerala's dairy farmers and cooperatives to prepare for the government's "Second White Revolution" initiative, emphasising a shift from volume-driven production to quality, value addition, and market competitiveness. He made these remarks during the inauguration of the NDDB-Milma Food Testing Laboratory in Kochi, which is expected to strengthen quality assurance and scientific excellence in Kerala's dairy sector.

He highlighted that Kerala's institutions, such as Milma (Kerala Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation), should play a leading role in preparing farmers for the next phase of dairy growth. Under the Second White Revolution, the focus will be on value-added products, modern standards, and competitive markets. The newly opened international-standard testing facility-funded with Rs. 8 crore by the central government-is accredited to

ISO/IEC 17025 and approved by NABL and FSSAI, enabling comprehensive testing of milk and milk products, including microbiological, chemical, and contaminant analyses.

Officials noted that while the laboratory's immediate focus is on Kerala's dairy supply chain, its advanced analytical services will also be available to private players and food entrepreneurs in the region, with phased expansion planned to cover other food categories as well.

Shri Hibi Eden welcomed the establishment of the facility and underscored the importance of expanding food testing beyond dairy to safeguard public health. He highlighted the need for effective monitoring of chemical residues and toxins, while seeking continued technical support from NDDB and greater inclusion of dairy farmers in development-focused funding programmes.

Dr Meenesh Shah described the operationalisation of the laboratory as a significant milestone in strengthening India's food quality and safety ecosystem, particularly in the southern region. He noted that the facility was

established after meeting multiple statutory requirements and securing NABL accreditation, resulting in a technologically advanced laboratory capable of delivering high-quality, science-based testing services.

Bovine Intervention: India Bets on Super Cows *Karan Fries* and *Vrindavani* to Bring Dairy Deluge

In a major boost to national dairy productivity, the Government of India has officially registered two high-yielding synthetic cattle breeds—*Karan Fries* and *Vrindavani*—which are capable of producing more than 3,000 kg of milk during a standard 10-month lactation period. This output significantly outpaces that of indigenous breeds, which typically yield between 1,000 and 2,000 kg.

Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, presented the registration certificates for these breeds along with 14 other new livestock and poultry varieties, bringing the country's total number of registered breeds to 246.

The registration of these synthetic breeds is the culmination of decades of rigorous scientific research and stabilised breeding. *Karan Fries*, developed by the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) in

Karnal, Haryana, is a cross between the resilient indigenous *Tharparkar* cow and the high-yielding *Holstein-Friesian* bull. Meanwhile, *Vrindavani* was developed by the ICAR–Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, using a complex blend of exotic germplasm from *Holstein-Friesian*, *Brown Swiss*, and *Jersey* breeds with the hardy indigenous *Hariana* cattle. These synthetic breeds have been engineered to maintain high milk production while successfully adapting to India's challenging subtropical climate.

12th International Conference on Fermented Foods, Health Status, and Social Well-Being (WBUAFSASNETCON–2025)



The 12th International Conference (WBUAFSASNETCON-2025) on fermented foods was held during December 19-20, 2025, at Mohanpur, Nadia. It was jointly organized by the Faculty of Dairy Technology, West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences (WBUAFS), and the Swedish South Asian Network on Fermented Foods (SASNET-FF), Anand.

The two-day international event was organized under the theme "**Fermented Foods - Unlocking Potential for Health and Prosperity**," with a special focus on "**Fermented Foods, Health Status, and Social Well-Being**." The conference witnessed participation from eminent academicians, scientists, researchers, industry professionals, and students from India and abroad, highlighting the growing global importance of fermented foods in health, nutrition, and sustainable food systems.

The inaugural session, held on December 19, 2025 at the Convocation Hall of Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV),

Mohanpur, was attended by several distinguished dignitaries, including Vice-Chancellors of leading agricultural and veterinary universities. **Prof. T.K. Datta**, Vice-Chancellor of the West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences (WBUAFS), presided over the opening session.

Dr. P.H. Tank, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Kamdhenu University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, and **Dr. K.B. Kathiriya**, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Anand Agricultural University, Anand, Gujarat, attended as Guests of Honour, with Dr. Kathiriya joining online. **Dr. A.K. Patra**, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV), Mohanpur, West Bengal, and **Mr. Narayan Majumder**, Managing Director, Red Cow Dairy, Kolkata, also graced the occasion as Guests of Honour.

The **Presidential address** was delivered by Prof. T.K. Datta, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences, Kolkata, West Bengal.

Dr. Rameshwar Singh, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Guru Kashi University, Punjab, delivered the Keynote address through the online mode.

Throughout the conference, technical sessions, poster presentations, and interactive discussions focused on traditional fermented foods, microbial diversity, the functional and therapeutic properties of fermented products, and innovations in fermentation technology.

The conference featured a series of presentations conducted across five technical sessions, comprising two oral sessions and two poster sessions, with contributions from invited speakers and young researchers.





A total of nine presentations were delivered on the theme **"Starter cultures, beneficial microbes, and their metabolites,"** five on **"Fermented foods and their functionality,"** seven on **"Quality, safety, and efficacy of starter cultures, beneficial microbes, their metabolites, and fermented foods,"** and four on **"Industrial perspectives of fermented foods, starter cultures, and beneficial microbes."**

The valedictory session, held on December 20 at the Faculty of Dairy Technology, featured the presentation of the conference report and recommendations, an award ceremony, and feedback from participants. Eminent national and international experts addressed the gathering, emphasizing the need for interdisciplinary research, policy support, and industry-academia collaboration to harness the full potential of fermented foods.

The conference concluded with the presidential address by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of WBUAFS, followed by a vote of thanks.

WBUAFSASNETCON-2025 reinforced Mohanpur's position as an important hub for academic dialogue on dairy and fermented food sciences and highlighted the vital role of fermentation in promoting health, nutrition, and social well-being.

Amul Dairy Achieves Rs.14,099 Crore Turnover with 9.2% Growth in FY25

The Kaira District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Ltd (Amul Dairy) reported a turnover of Rs. 14,099 crore in FY 2024-25, recording a year-on-year growth of 9.2%, as announced at its 79th Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Anand. With a farmer base exceeding seven lakh milk producers, the cooperative continued to demonstrate robust financial and operational performance amid an increasingly competitive dairy sector.

During the financial year, average daily milk procurement stood at approximately 48.16 lakh kg, reflecting sustained farmer participation and expansion of collection operations. To support producer livelihoods, Amul increased the price paid for milk fat to Rs. 1,028 per kg, representing a 9.39% increase, thereby helping mitigate the impact of rising input costs on dairy farmers.

Animal health and productivity initiatives remained central to Amul's growth strategy. The cooperative reported the use of over 10 lakh doses of sorted sex semen, the highest usage in the country, along with 3,894 embryo transfers, which resulted in the birth of 618 high-yielding calves during the year. Its extensive

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Govt. of India Extends Dr. Meenesh Shah's Tenure as Chairman of NDDB for 3 and Half Years



The Government of India has extended Dr. Meenesh Shah's tenure as Chairman of NDDB for a period of 3 and half years. This decision reflects his exceptional leadership and significant contributions to the dairy and allied sectors.

Dr. Meenesh Shah, spearheads one of India's top cooperative driven development organisations, demonstrating unwavering commitment to improving the lives of rural dairy farmers. He chairs key NDDB subsidiaries: Mother Dairy Fruit & Vegetable Pvt Ltd (MDFVPL), IDMC Ltd, Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL), NDDB Dairy Services (NDS), NDDB MRIDA Limited and NDDB CALF Ltd.

He serves as Chairman of National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India (NCDFI), National Cooperative Organics Ltd (NCOL), Animal Breeding Research Organisation, Anandalaya Education Society, NDDB Foundation for Nutrition (NFN) and member of governing boards of various premier institutions. Dr. Shah is also Member, Board of Directors, IDF and Member Secretary, Indian National Committee of IDF.

Over four decades, Dr. Shah has steered India's dairy transformation towards resilience, global leadership and inclusive growth. His focus on innovation has resulted in sustainable progress, enhanced operational efficiencies and uplifted livelihoods of dairy farmers. His dedication to advancing agricultural development and rural prosperity is truly commendable.

IDA extends its warmest best wishes to Dr. Meenesh Shah for his continued leadership and unwavering commitment to dairy development and rural prosperity.

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veterinary services network provided doorstep healthcare to nearly 6.96 lakh animals, while digital cow belts were deployed on more than 2,000 animals to enable precision health monitoring.

In line with its expansion strategy, Amul extended milk procurement operations beyond Gujarat into West

Bengal, Maharashtra, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, and Tamil Nadu, and initiated procurement activities in Karnataka and Odisha, reinforcing cooperative integration across multiple regions. Infrastructure enhancements at Anand included the installation of new reverse osmosis plants, soft water systems, and automated milk sampling technologies, contributing to improved processing quality and operational reliability.

Dodla Dairy Enhances Food Safety with New Gas Chromatograph Installation at Hyderabad Plant

Dodla Dairy Limited - Benefactor member of IDA announces the successful installation of a state-of-the-art Gas Chromatograph (GC) at its Gundrampally manufacturing plant. This initiative underscores the company's commitment to rigorous quality control and the adoption of advanced technology to ensure the safety and authenticity of its milk and milk products.

The Gundrampally facility has commenced Fatty Acid Methyl Ester (FAME) testing using the newly installed GC system. This technology enables precise assessment of fatty acid composition and serves as a critical tool for detecting adulteration of milk fat with non-milk fats in



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high-value products such as ghee, butter, and cream.

By bringing this capability in-house, Dodla Dairy has significantly reduced its reliance on external laboratories, ensuring faster analytical turnaround times and tighter control across the production chain.

The installation of the GC facility reinforces the company's compliance with FSSAI requirements and strengthens adherence to international food safety standards, including ISO 22000 and FSSC 22000. These enhancements improve traceability, audit readiness, and overall confidence in quality-related decision-making.

Commenting on the development, Shri B.V.K. Reddy, CEO of Dodla Dairy, said, "With this installation, we reaffirm our commitment to adopting advanced technologies to deliver safe, authentic, and high-quality dairy products. This initiative also contributes to the continuous improvement of quality practices within the Indian dairy industry."

Nandini Introduces AI-Powered Product Counting System to Enhance Dairy Efficiency



Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) brand - Nandini, is set to implement an AI-based product counting system across its production

and packaging facilities, marking a strategic move toward digital transformation in dairy operations. Spearheaded by the KMF, the initiative aims to improve accuracy, streamline inventory management, and reduce dependence on manual processes in its key dairy units.

The innovative system leverages artificial intelligence, machine vision, and advanced counting algorithms to automatically identify and tally products such as milk packets and curd cups during packaging and dispatch. By deploying the technology across processing plants and distribution centers, Nandini expects to minimise human error, enhance real-time inventory visibility, and strengthen traceability from production lines to retail shelves.

Nandini officials highlighted that the AI-enabled solution would bolster operational reliability while reducing labour dependency. By automating routine counting and tracking tasks, the system allows staff to focus on higher-value activities. KMF also emphasized that this adoption

underscores the cooperative's broader commitment to integrating modern digital technologies across production, packaging, warehousing, and logistics.

The implementation of AI cameras and automation is expected to accelerate workflows and lower operational costs, particularly in high-volume units where manual product enumeration has traditionally been time-consuming. In the future, the system could integrate with broader supply chain management platforms and digital quality monitoring tools, enhancing data-driven decision-making and audit accuracy across the business.

This initiative aligns with emerging trends in India's dairy sector, where technologies such as IoT, blockchain, and data analytics are increasingly used to improve quality control, operational efficiency, and supply chain transparency. With the phased rollout of the AI counting solution at major facilities, Nandini is poised to become a leader in tech-enabled dairy production in India.

Hatsun Agro Q3: Revenue, Net Profit Surge



Hatsun Agro Products Ltd. on January 19, reported a 48% year-on-year (YoY) growth

in net profit to Rs. 60.6 crore for the quarter ended December 31, 2025. Net profit for the same quarter last year was Rs. 41 crore.

The company reported Rs. 2,364 crore in revenue, up 17.6% from Rs. 2,010 crore in the last quarter last year. Growth in revenue and net profit was supported by steady consumer demand across core dairy categories and stable milk procurement from the company's farmer network.

Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) grew by 19.2% from last year to Rs. 256 crore, while EBITDA margin improved by 10 basis points to 10.8% from 10.7% a year earlier.

Shri R.G. Chandramogan, Chairman, Hatsun Agro Product Ltd, said that the performance reflects a strong foundation the company has built over the years.

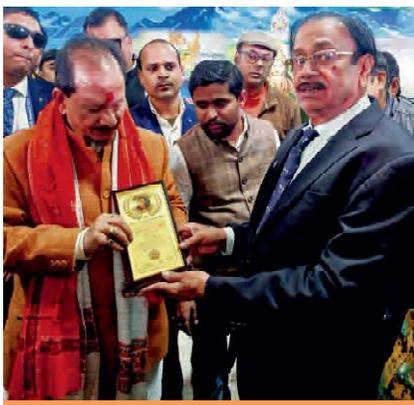
"We continued to strengthen our core dairy portfolio while expanding our presence across priority markets. A consistent focus on efficiency across the value chain from farmer engagement to last-mile distribution has helped us maintain quality and freshness," he said in a statement.

He further added that the growth is driven by distribution reach, capacity additions, and continued investments in sales and brand building.

Bihar Government Felicitates Dr. Raja Rathinam on Swami Vivekananda Jayanti

On the occasion of Swami Vivekananda Jayanti, the Government of Bihar organized a ceremonial felicitation programme in Patna on 13 January, attended by His Excellency Shri Arif Mohammed Khan, Hon'ble Governor of Bihar; Shri Nitish Kumar, Hon'ble Chief Minister; and Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, along with several eminent dignitaries.

In their addresses, the dignitaries highlighted the relevance of Swami Vivekananda's ideals in nation-building and emphasized Bihar's steady rural progress supported by effective governance, committed officials, and public participation, in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.



During the ceremony, Dr. Raja Rathinam, former CEC Member, IDA and Managing Director of the UNDP-initiated Farmers' Organisation SKPC L (Swayam Ksheer Producer

Organisation) was specially honoured for his outstanding contributions to dairy development initiatives and for his exemplary service under the World Bank-funded JEEViKA project, which has made a significant impact on rural livelihoods. Dr. Rathinam highlighted the potential of herbal farming to enhance farmers' incomes and promote sustainable rural development.

The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks, followed by the traditional distribution of Dahi-Chura and a cordial exchange of greetings among the dignitaries and participants.

India's First Camel Milk Plant Spurs Growth in Niche Dairy Sector

Sarhad Dairy – the Kutch District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Ltd. - has taken a pioneering step in India's dairy sector with the establishment of the country's first camel milk processing plant, offering unique value-added products that are boosting rural incomes and diversifying the dairy portfolio. Located in Bhuj, Kutch, the facility procured an average of 4,754 litres of camel

milk per day in FY2024-25, disbursing approximately Rs.8.72 crore to over 350 local camel farming families.

Operational since January 2019, the plant employs advanced deodorisation technology and holds primary organic certification for camel milk. Following a cooperative model akin to Amul, it collects milk through four centres – Rapar, Nakhatrana, Gadshisha, and Kotda Athamana – while Sarhad Dairy's broader operations handle roughly 5.5 lakh litres of milk daily from nearly 80,000 producers. The cooperative also produces cattle feed and a variety of dairy products. The dairy processes up to 4 lakh litres of milk daily and produces 300 tonnes of cattle feed. In addition, around 50,000 litres of ice cream are produced every day.

A highlight of the camel milk initiative is the production of camel milk Rajbhog-flavoured ice cream – India's first – inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in February 2024. Within its first year, the ice cream plant launched 80 variants, producing 24.52 lakh litres and achieving peak dispatches of 58,000 litres, reflecting strong consumer interest in this niche segment.



Often referred to as the "white gold of the Rann of Kutch" due to its rich mineral content and health benefits, camel milk is now being fully integrated into Sarhad Dairy's cooperative ecosystem. The cooperative reported a historic turnover exceeding Rs.1,200 crore in 2024-25, which is 9.09 percent higher than the previous year. Daily payments are made of around Rs.3 crore to farmers across its product range. Rural banking and financial inclusion initiatives further strengthen this ecosystem, with over 900 milk societies and 31,067 livestock rearers participating in cooperative banking programs.

Sarhad Dairy's camel milk processing and product innovation provide a model for diversifying India's dairy

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value chains, promoting health-oriented dairy products, enhancing rural livelihoods, and potentially attracting export opportunities as functional dairy categories expand domestically and internationally.

The dairy has also received primary organic certification for camel milk. Like the Amul model, camel milk is collected from four centers in the Kutch district. This system ensures that the milk retains its freshness and nutrition and that farmers receive better prices.

Cattle Rearers Value Manure and Draught Power Beyond Milk Production: CEEW Study

More than one-third of India's cattle rearers prioritise non-market uses of bovines and do not participate in milk sales, according to a new study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW). Based on a first-of-its-kind survey of over 7,300 cattle-rearing households across 15 states-covering 91 per cent of India's bovine population-the study examines cattle rearing as a livelihood system amid increasing climate stress. While milk supports over 80 million livelihoods and contributes nearly 5 per cent to India's GDP, the findings reveal that dairy policies often overlook the broader roles cattle play in rural economies.

The study, *Cattle and Community in a Changing Climate*, reports that seven per cent of rearers keep cattle exclusively for non-milk purposes such as dung production, draught power, or income from animal sales. This proportion rises to around 15 per cent in states such as West Bengal and Maharashtra. Overall, 74 per cent of rearers value dung for manure, fuel, or sale, while many rely on cattle for draught power and other farm support functions.

Indigenous cattle are particularly important for these non-market uses, especially within integrated farming systems. In states including Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Himachal Pradesh, more than half of rearers prioritise household milk consumption and dung use over milk sales. Even in relatively formalised dairy states such as Maharashtra and Karnataka, over 30 per cent of rearers place greater emphasis on non-milk benefits.

Commenting on the findings, Shri Abhishek Jain, Fellow and Director - Green Economy and Impact Innovations at CEEW, noted that India's dairy policies remain heavily focused on milk output, despite the diverse realities of cattle rearing on the ground. He emphasised the need for differentiated, context-specific policies that reflect how households actually value cattle, the constraints they face, and evolving climate risks. Such an approach, he said,

would improve the effectiveness of public investment while preserving the diversity of rearing systems across the country.

The study also highlights significant constraints faced by rearers. Nearly three out of four reported feed and fodder shortages, making it the most widespread challenge nationwide. Although fodder surpluses exist in some regions, affordability remains a concern, exacerbated by shrinking grazing lands and limited space for fodder cultivation. Awareness of key government feeding interventions is low, with around 80 per cent of rearers unaware of programmes such as silage-making and ration balancing, and adoption limited to just five per cent. In contrast, fewer than a quarter reported animal health and breeding challenges, reflecting sustained policy investments in artificial insemination, vaccination, and deworming.

Climate change is further intensifying pressures on the sector. The study finds that climate-related impacts are reported by 54 per cent of buffalo rearers, 50 per cent of crossbred rearers, and 41 per cent of indigenous cattle rearers. These impacts include increased disease incidence, mortality, and heat stress. While indigenous cattle systems demonstrate greater resilience, the study cautions that a shift towards higher-yielding crossbreds and buffaloes-favoured by many rearers seeking expansion-could heighten vulnerability to climate stress without adequate adaptation measures.

The analysis also underscores structural disparities in herd ownership. Half of India's rural cattle rearers own just one or two animals, predominantly in hilly, central, and eastern regions. Larger herds, comprising more than five animals, are concentrated in states such as Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Punjab. Although small rearers constitute half of all households, they account for only 29 per cent of total milk production and 22 per cent of milk sales, with medium and large herds generating most of the marketable surplus.

Ms. Ruchira Goyal, Programme Associate at CEEW, stressed that feed and fodder shortages cut across regions, animal types, and herd sizes, yet adoption of basic feeding interventions remains limited. She called for expanded budgetary support beyond breeding and vaccination to include decentralised, localised feed and fodder solutions tailored to regional needs-ranging from hydroponics and Azolla cultivation in land-constrained areas to the protection of common grazing lands.

The study recommends that livestock and allied programmes, including the National Livestock Mission and state-level schemes, adopt more targeted

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approaches aligned with regional contexts and rearer typologies. Key priorities include strengthening last-mile veterinary services, supporting non-milk value chains such as dung-based energy and manure, and integrating climate considerations into breeding decisions and animal housing systems.

INTERNATIONAL News

China's 230,000-Cow Mega Dairy Farm Highlights Scale of Industrial Milk Production

China Modern Dairy's mega farm in Anhui Province stands among the world's largest concentrated dairy operations, housing more than 230,000 dairy cows within a single integrated industrial system.

By herd size, it ranks among the two largest livestock facilities globally, surpassing other large-scale operations such as the Mudanjiang City Mega Farm, which accommodates around 100,000 dairy cows. This facility exemplifies the unprecedented scale at which modern industrial milk production is being pursued.

The farm operates within an intensive, barn-based production model supported by advanced automation, including mechanised feeding, high-capacity milking systems, and sophisticated logistics infrastructure. This approach enables sustained high output and operational efficiency, positioning the facility as a key contributor to China's domestic milk supply and its growing demand for dairy ingredients linked to export-oriented markets. The development reflects China's broader strategy to rapidly expand dairy production capacity through large-scale industrial investments.

Mega dairy units of this scale differ markedly from

traditional dairy systems prevalent in countries such as India, as well as regions of Africa and South Asia, where milk production is largely driven by smallholder farmers managing two to five animals per household. This factory-style model has reignited discussions on production efficiency, environmental sustainability, animal welfare, and the complexities of managing feed supply, waste disposal, animal health, and continuous milking operations for tens of thousands of animals at a single location.

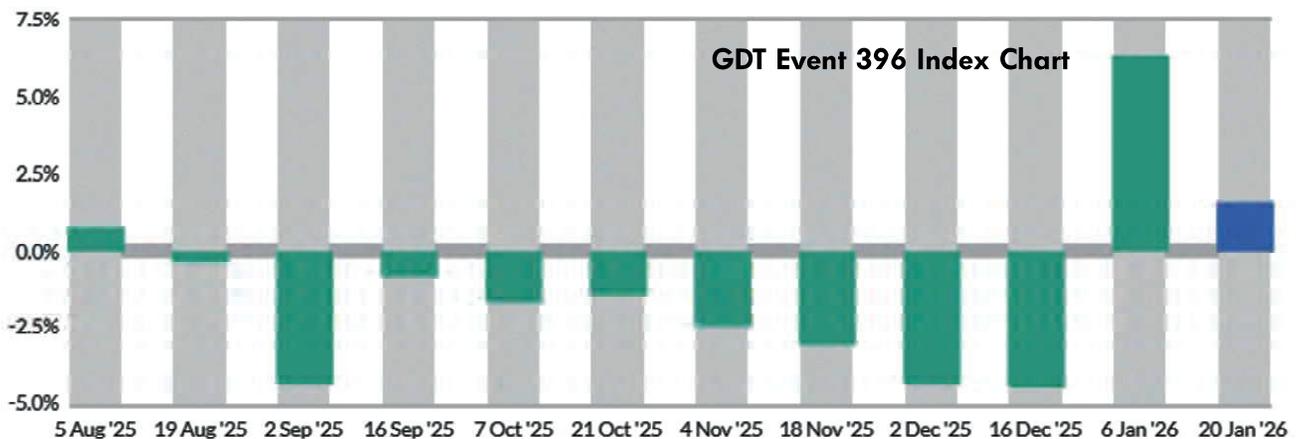
Experts observe that while such mega farms contribute substantial volumes of milk to national and regional supply chains, they also underscore the wide diversity of global dairy production systems. From cooperative-based smallholder models that powered India's White Revolution to industrial-scale facilities designed for efficiency and export competitiveness, each model plays a distinct role. As global dairy markets continue to expand, these contrasting systems will remain influential in shaping food security, pricing structures, and dairy policy frameworks worldwide.

GDT Event 396: Global Dairy Prices Extend Recovery

Global dairy prices posted a second consecutive increase at the 396th Global Dairy Trade (GDT) auction, the second trading event of 2026. The GDT Price Index rose by 1.5 per cent to 1,088, building on the early-January rebound when the index climbed 6.3 per cent after nine successive declines.

A total of 27,821 metric tonnes of dairy products were sold at the auction, slightly lower than the approximately 29,282 metric tonnes offered at the first event of the year. The auction attracted 164 registered bidders, with 114 participants securing purchases across 19 bidding rounds.

Most major commodities recorded price gains.



Anhydrous milk fat (AMF) rose sharply by about 3 per cent to around €6,191 per tonne. Skim milk powder (SMP) increased by 2.2 per cent to approximately US\$2,615 per tonne, while butter prices advanced 2.1 per cent to about US\$5,314 per tonne. Whole milk powder (WMP) also edged higher, gaining around 1 per cent to US\$3,449 per tonne.

In contrast, cheese and lactose prices softened. Mozzarella declined by about 2.3 per cent to US\$3,340 per tonne, cheddar fell 1.4 per cent to around US\$4,594 per tonne, and lactose eased by roughly 1.8 per cent to US\$1,385 per tonne.

The recent gains follow a prolonged downturn through late 2025, driven by surplus milk production and muted buying interest. The initial rebound in early January reflected a partial rebalancing of supply and demand, supported by tighter availability in select categories. The continued rise at Event 396 indicates that buyers are cautiously accepting firmer price levels for key dairy commodities.

Improved export demand for fats and milk powders, stabilising import interest from major markets, and seasonal changes in milk production have contributed to the upward movement. However, weaker prices in certain cheese segments underline uneven market recovery.

International Dairy Market: Overview

As per the latest USDA data during January 5-16, 2026, international market overview are as follows:

EUROPEAN

Western European

A new three-year European research initiative has been launched to better address the expanding global threat from highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) viruses, with scientists set to evaluate vaccination strategies and improve understanding of immune responses in livestock species such as pigs and cattle to strengthen preparedness and disease control.

A new European dairy futures contract is scheduled to begin trading in mid-2026, designed to provide dairy market participants with a standardized financial instrument to manage price risk across key dairy commodities, pending regulatory approval and final market preparations.

Eastern European

Persistent global oversupply of milk through 2025 and into 2026 is pressuring dairy commodity values, with Eastern EU supply, in particular rising milk flows in

Poland, adding to abundant inventories and limiting upward price momentum across major milkfat and protein markets.

OCEANIA DAIRY MARKET

New Zealand

Following Global Dairy Trade (GDT) event 395, a group in New Zealand that forecasts milk prices increased their milk price forecast for the 2025/2026 season by 31 cents from \$9.17 per kilogram milk solids (kgMS) to \$9.48/kgMS. The spot value of milk increased to \$8.82/kgMS from \$8.04/kgMS. The forecast increased due to strong results from GDT event 395, where all products posted gains. In particular, whole milk powder and anhydrous milkfat exceeded expectations based on futures market conditions prior to the event.

New Zealand dairy farms reduced nitrogen fertilizer use by 20 percent since the introduction of a mandatory reporting program three years ago, according to an industry group. Farmers are required to report their annual fertilizer use as part of a cap on nitrogen applications. The regulations were introduced to counter the impact of runoff on freshwater systems and limit the application of synthetic nitrogen fertilizer on grazed pasture to 190 kilograms per hectare per year. In addition to the regulatory cap, higher fertilizer prices and shifting production practices have also contributed to the decline in fertilizer use. The industry group noted farmers have responded to the cap by increasing the use of clover in pastures, growing additional feed crops and purchasing supplemental feeds, and digital mapping of farmland to improve application efficiency.

Australia

Torrential rains have created floods throughout northwest portions of Queensland, killing and displacing livestock. According to Queensland's Department of Primary Industries, nearly 30,000 head of livestock were dead or missing as of January 7, with this number expected to rise in the coming weeks as more livestock succumb to illness. Producers remain concerned about further losses as Australia's Bureau of Meteorology is predicting a moderate chance of a tropical low forming, potentially bringing more rainfall to flood-stricken areas.

SOUTH AMERICA DAIRY MARKET

In Argentina, year-over-year (YOY) milk production in November continued to post strong growth of 9% consistent with increases reported in Brazil (September) and Uruguay (November). Chile's October YOY growth was more subdued but remained positive, at 2%.

Farm-gate milk price growth remained modestly lower in local currency terms and significantly lower when measured against the Euro. Uruguay was the exception,

recording modest gains in both local and Euro-denominated prices. Chile also showed slight improvement in local-currency terms but lower receipts in Euro terms, according to CLAL.

Regarding trade flows, Argentina—a significant net dairy exporter—recorded strong export growth in whole milk powder (WMP), its largest dairy export, with increased shipments to Algeria. Brazil remains a net importer of dairy products, given its large consumption base. Brazil's imports of WMP declined sharply year-over-year, partially offset by increased imports of skim milk powder (SMP).

Cheese imports also declined. Higher internal milk production, supporting domestic demand, along with currency pressure, contributed to reduced import volumes.

Uruguay continued to expand dairy exports, particularly WMP—its largest exported dairy commodity—through increased sales to Algeria.

Uruguay remains a significant net exporter of dairy products. Chile remains a net importer of dairy, with cheese accounting for the majority of imports, sourced most recently from Argentina, Italy, and Uruguay. For November, Chile's dairy exports were centered on condensed milk, particularly to Mexico.

Whole Milk is Back: President Trump Signs Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act

On January 14, 2026, USA President Mr. Donald J. Trump signed the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act in the Oval Office alongside U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., USDA National Nutrition Advisor Dr. Ben Carson, dairy farmers, moms, and bipartisan members of Congress to restore access to whole milk in schools and strengthen support for American dairy producers.

This legislation advances the Trump Administration's agenda and aligns with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025–2030, released last week, which reintroduced full-fat dairy as part of a healthy dietary pattern.

"Thanks to President Trump's leadership, whole milk is back – and it's the right move for kids, for parents, and for America's dairy farmers," said Secretary Brooke Rollins. This bipartisan solution to school meals alongside the newly released Dietary Guidelines for Americans reinforces what families already know: nutrient dense foods like whole milk are an important part of a healthy diet.

Secretary Rollins was joined by dairy farmers Thomas French, Kevin Satterwhite, Jamie Pagel, William Thiele, and Tara Vander Dussen, and emphasized that restoring whole milk in schools supports both children's nutrition and the producers who sustain rural jobs and communities. She also highlighted the Trump Administration's broader work to rebuild the farm economy through fair trade, lower costs, reliable financing, and strong markets, all while working to make groceries more affordable for families. As a result, between January and December of last year, dairy products became more affordable, including butter (down 3.4%) and cheese (down about 2%).

The law reflects strong bipartisan leadership, including sponsors Senator Roger Marshall (R-KS), Senator Peter Welch (D-VE), Chairman of the U.S House Agriculture Committee Representative Glenn Thompson (R-PA-15) and Representative Kim Schrier (D-WA), with support from Chairman of the U.S Senate Agriculture Committee Senator John Boozman (R-AR).

USDA implementation begins immediately. Following the announcement USDA issued program implementation guidance to school nutrition officials to implement the bill, and a proposed rulemaking will soon commence to ensure schools and nutrition programs can begin offering whole milk as quickly as possible.

Event CALENDAR

52nd Dairy Industry Conference

Date: 12-13-14 February, 2026

Venue: Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, Sec-25, Dwarka, New Delhi

For participation in Sponsorship, Contact: Shri Ashok Kumar Tripathi, Secretary General, 52nd DIC. **Web:** www.52dic.in

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+91 9311098450 (Md. Wasin Fazal)

IDF World Dairy Summit 2026

Date: 15-20 November, 2026

Venue: New Zealand International Convention Centre, Auckland, New Zealand.

The theme of the event is "**Healthy People, Healthy Planet, Healthy Economies**".

Visit: <https://www.idfwds2026.com>

Email: idfwds@idfwds2026.com