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of milk producers, cooperatives, private dairies and other stakeholders. He also underlined the sector's role in

nutrition security, farmer prosperity and value-added dairy processing. The seminar featured discussions on emerging industry trends, technological innovations and sustainability challenges. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to promoting dairy entrepreneurship, increasing milk consumption and supporting the sustainable development of the dairy sector.

## IDA News

### SmartDairy 360° Seminar Showcases Emerging Dairy Testing Technologies

Everest Instruments, in association with the Indian Dairy Association (West Zone), organized SmartDairy 360°, a one-day seminar on emerging technologies for dairy and milk testing, at Four Points by Sheraton, Pune. The event brought together dairy industry leaders, technical experts, consultants, and decision-makers to discuss innovations driving the future of dairy quality assurance, automation, and analytical excellence.

The seminar commenced with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony in the presence of Shri Ajit Patel, CMD, Everest

Instruments Pvt. Ltd.; Shri Parimal Patel, JMD, Everest Instruments; Dr. J.B. Prajapati, the then Chairman, IDA (West Zone); Shri Rajesh Lele, CEC Member, IDA; Shri Rahul Kumar, COO, Parag Milk Foods; Dr. J.V. Parekh, the then Vice Chairman, IDA (WZ); Shri Madhav Patgaonkar, Secretary, IDA (WZ); and Ms. Payal Agarwal, Managing Director - India & South Asia Region, PerkinElmer. Speakers emphasized the growing importance of precision, transparency, and integrated analytical systems in the evolving dairy sector.

Technical sessions covered analytical challenges in the Indian dairy industry, NIR and FT-NIR technologies, integrated technology solutions, and rapid diagnostic and microbial testing systems. Expert presentations were delivered by Shri Rahul Kumar, Shri Shailesh Singh, Shri Sanket Joshi, Dr. K.D. Aparnathi, Shri Hans Yamseen, Board Member of ICAR Germany, and Dr. Wim from the Netherlands, who leads Everest's farm management projects.



A key highlight of the seminar was the launch of Everest Instruments' next-generation FT-IR-based dairy analytical systems by Ms. Payal Agarwal. The newly introduced **Lactoscope 300** and **Lactoscope 500 analyzers** demonstrated advanced capabilities in milk analysis, adulteration detection, and real-time quality assessment.

The panel discussion on "**The ROI of Automation in the Dairy Industry**," moderated by Ms. Richie Agarwal, featured Shri Sanket Joshi, Shri Rajesh Lele, Shri Rajiv Mitra, Shri Manoj Parihar, Shri Job Prakash, and Dr. K.D. Aparnathi.



The discussion explored automation, digital transformation, procurement efficiency, quality management, and the future of intelligent dairy operations.

The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks by Shri Parimal Patel, followed by networking interactions and live technology demonstrations. SmartDairy 360° provided a valuable platform for knowledge exchange, innovation, and collaboration aimed at building a smarter and more sustainable dairy industry.

## **IDA Karnataka State Chapter Organizes World Environment Day**

The IDA Karnataka State Chapter (KSC), in collaboration with Dairy Science College, Mahagaon Cross, Kalaburagi, celebrated World Environment Day on 5 June 2026.

The programme was graced by noted environmentalist Shri Ramesh Mahidarkar, who delivered an inspiring talk on the importance of protecting the environment, reducing pollution, and adopting sustainable practices for a greener future.

Shri N.B. Marathe, Chairman, IDA KSC, highlighted the significant role of women dairy farmers in the growth and sustainability of the dairy sector. He emphasized that their contributions have been instrumental in strengthening rural livelihoods and enhancing dairy productivity.

Dr. Manjunatha H., Dean, Dairy Science College, Mahagaon Cross, Kalaburagi, delivered the Presidential address. He spoke about the rapid growth of the dairy

industry in Karnataka and appreciated the vital contribution of women farmers to the sector's development.

Dr. Devaraju R., Associate Professor and Treasurer, IDA Karnataka State Chapter, welcomed the gathering and highlighted the role of dairying in reducing the carbon footprint through environmentally sustainable practices.

Among those present were faculty members Dr. Shashikumar, Dr. Adarsh M. Kalla, Dr. Priyatham Reddy, Shri Akshaykumar, Shri Madhusudan, and Dr. Rajkumar.

As part of the celebrations, Ms. Basavabharati conducted an engaging quiz competition for school students. The winners were felicitated with prizes, which were distributed by the dignitaries present on the occasion.

## **Dr. S.T. Suresh Assumes Charge as KMF Managing Director**

A delegation from the Indian Dairy Association (IDA) called on Dr. S.T. Suresh and felicitated him recently on his appointment as the Managing Director of the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF).

During the meeting, the delegation extended a formal invitation to Dr. Suresh to attend the forthcoming World Milk Day Programme and Technical Seminar as the Guest



of Honour. The event is being jointly organized by IDA (South Zone) and the National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology (NIANP), Bengaluru, and is scheduled to be held on 17 June 2026 at Adugodi, Bengaluru.

The IDA delegation comprised Dr. Satish Kulkarni, Chairman, IDA (South Zone); Shri Vijayakumar B.N., Vice Chairman, IDA Karnataka State Chapter; and Shri Kodyalmath N.S., State Executive Committee Member, IDA Karnataka State Chapter.

## IDA Kerala Chapter Felicitates New MRCMPU Managing Director

The Indian Dairy Association (IDA), Kerala Chapter, felicitated Shri N.K. Premlal on his appointment as the Managing Director of the Malabar Regional Co-operative Milk Producers' Union (MRCMPU).

The felicitation function was organized to recognize Shri Premlal's elevation to the prestigious position and to convey the Association's best wishes for his new responsibilities. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. S. N. Rajakumar, Chairman of IDA Kerala Chapter, congratulated Shri Premlal and expressed confidence in his leadership. He wished him a successful tenure and continued progress for the dairy cooperative sector under his stewardship.

Shri C.P. Charles, Member of the Central Executive Committee of IDA, along with other members of the Association, also extended their felicitations and conveyed their best wishes for Shri Premlal's future endeavors.

The event reflected the cordial relationship between IDA and the dairy cooperative

sector and reaffirmed their shared commitment to strengthening dairy development and serving the interests of milk producers and consumers.

## New State Executive Committee (SEC) of IDA Gujarat Chapter Assume the Office

The election for the IDA Gujarat State Chapter was declared on May 16, 2026. The election was conducted under the supervision of the nominated Returning Officer, Shri Naveenkumara A.C. The other members of the Election Committee were Shri Nitin Thakare and Shri Kuldeep Gajjar.

Subsequent to the election of the State Executive Committee (SEC) of the IDA Gujarat State Chapter, the newly elected SEC assumed office on May 30, 2026, during a Joint State Executive Committee Meeting held at the IDA Gujarat State Chapter Office, SMC College of Dairy Science, Anand. The new State Executive Committee has been elected for the term 2026-2029.



As per the election results, the composition of the new SEC of the IDA Gujarat State Chapter is: **Chairman:** Shri Srinivas Sajja; **Vice Chairman:** Dr. Satishkumar Chaturbhai Parmar; **Secretary:** Dr. Samit Dutta; **Treasurer:** Shri Dipakkumar Ratil Shah; **Member (RE):** Dr. Aditya Kumar Premchand Jain; **Member (PP):** Shri Nitesh Mathur; **Member (DI):** M/s IDMC Ltd.; **Member (MP):** Shri Shabhesinh Mangabhai Parmar.

The ZEC appreciated the efficient conduct of the election process and conveyed its gratitude to the members of the Election Committee.

## IDA (West Zone) Elects New Zonal Executive Committee for 2026-2029

The election schedule was announced to the IDA (WZ) members on 23 May 2026, setting in motion a transparent and well-organised process. The election was conducted through an online voting system under the supervision of the nominated Returning Officer, Shri Dattatray V. Ghanekar. The other members of the Election Committee were Shri Mahesh Padhye and Shri Pankaj Kulkarni.

The election process was completed on 8 June 2026, and the new Zonal Executive Committee (ZEC) for the term 2026-2029 was elected unanimously. The newly elected ZEC brings together a diverse and accomplished group of professionals.

**Chairman:** Shri Kalathupurath Shyju Sidharthan (Director, Micron Industries Pvt. Ltd.); **Vice Chairmen:** Shri Anil Shiram Hatekar (Managing Director, Mahanand) and Shri Yogesh Kumar Godbole (Managing Director, Kolhapur Milk Union); **Secretary:** Shri Madhav Vasudeo Patgaonkar (Dairy Business Consultant); **Treasurer:** Ms. Swati Srivastava (NDDB, Mumbai); **Member (RE):** Dr. Sudhir Uprit (Dean, Dairy Technology College, Raipur); and Dr. Dhiraj H. Kankhare (College of Agriculture, Pune); **Member (MP):** Valsad District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Ltd.; and Govind Milk & Milk Products Pvt. Ltd.; **Member (PP):** Ms. Richie Agarwal (RA Consulting, Pune); and Shri Shreenandan Sharma (Dairy Business Consultant, Indore); **Member (DI):** Shri Ketul Kamleshkumar Sheth (IDMC Limited, Anand); and Shri Shridhar Pravinchandra Mehta (Prompt Equipments Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad). **Former Chairman:** Dr. J.B. Prajapati.

The newly elected IDA (West Zone) Executive Committee (ZEC) formally assumed charge during the 13th ZEC Meeting held on 18th June 2026. The transition

ceremony was marked by gratitude, reflection, and a shared commitment to the continued growth of the dairy sector.

ZEC thanked the Election committee members for conducting the election very smoothly and felicitated them with flowers and a Memento.

Outgoing Chairman **Dr. J.B. Prajapati** expressed appreciation for the support extended to him during his three-year tenure. He highlighted key achievements of the Zone, including the successful organization of seminars and workshops across five states, the landmark 49th Dairy Industry Conference (DIC), and consumer awareness programmes conducted in collaboration with Mumbai Grahak Panchayat, BAIF, and industry partners. He conveyed his best wishes to the incoming committee and assured them of his continued support.

Secretary **Shri Madhav Patgaonkar** and CEC Vice President **Shri Arun Patil** lauded Dr. Prajapati's leadership, dedication, and contributions to strengthening the Zone. Members also fondly recalled his efforts and expressed their gratitude.

Taking charge as the new Chairman, **Shri K. Shyju** paid tribute to the outgoing Chairman's accomplishments and pledged to build upon the strong foundation laid by the previous committee. He introduced the newly elected team and emphasized collaboration, innovation, and collective growth as key priorities for the new term.

Several newly elected members, including Shri Anil Hatekar, Shri Shreenandan Sharma, Shri Godbole, Shri Kapadia, Ms. Richie Agarwal, and Dr. Kankhare, also addressed the gathering, assuring their wholehearted cooperation and commitment to the Zone's future initiatives. The ceremony concluded with floral felicitations to the outgoing and incoming members, followed by a vote of thanks by Secretary Shri Madhav Patgaonkar.



With a strong leadership team and renewed enthusiasm, the West Zone looks forward to advancing the dairy industry while strengthening engagement with consumers and stakeholders.

## New Executive Committee of IDA Karnataka State Chapter Assume the Office

The Karnataka State Chapter of IDA election completed on June 1, 2026. The election was held under the nominated Returning Officer Dr. C.S. Prasad. The other election committee members were: Dr. S. Subash and Dr. B.V. Venkateshaiah. The election was held through on-line voting system. The newly elected member for the term 2026-2029.



The State Executive Committee unanimously got elected and took charge on June 16, 2026 in a ceremony organized at the IDA South Zone Office, located within the NDRI Campus in Adugodi, Bengaluru. The ceremony was held in the esteemed presence of Dr. Satish Kulkarni, Chairman, (IDA South Zone). SEC thanked the Election committee members for conducting the election very smoothly and felicitated them with bouquet.

The newly elected members are: **Chairman:** Shri N.B. Marathe; **Vice Chairman:** Shri B.N. Vijayakumar; **Secretary:** Shri Vijayeendra Deshpande; **Treasurer:** Dr. Devaraju R.; **Member (RE):** Prof. Manjunatha Hanumanthappa; **Member (MP):** Karnataka Co-op. Milk Producers' Federation Ltd.; **Member (PP):** Shri Kodiyalmath Nagalingayya; **Member (DI):** Shri Raghunandan Manje Gowda.

## IDA Haryana State Chapter Result Announced

The Haryana State Chapter of IDA election completed on June 9, 2026. The election was held under the nominated Returning Officer Shri B.B. Garg. The other election committee members were: Dr. Hari Ram Gupta

and Dr. Surendra Gupta. The election was held through on-line voting system. The State Executive Committee unanimously got elected for the term 2026-2029.

The newly elected members are: **Chairman:** Dr. Mahendra Singh; **Vice Chairman:** Shri P.K. Jain; **Secretary:** Dr. Vivek Sharma; **Treasurer:** Vacant; **Member (RE):** Dr. S.V. Singh; **Member (MP):** Vacant; **Member (PP):** Vacant; **Member (DI):** Vacant.

## NATIONAL News

### Amul Reports Strong Ice Cream Growth, Holds Milk Prices Steady Amid Market Stability

Amul has reported a strong surge in summer demand, with Managing Director Shri Jayen Mehta stating that ice cream sales jumped by 55% in May 2026 as extreme temperatures boosted consumption across India. Shri Mehta said that Amul does not foresee any immediate increase in milk prices despite rising demand, providing relief to consumers and food manufacturers.



Amul will continue with the international expansion strategy, strengthening its presence in the United States while growing distribution across European markets. The cooperative is focusing on expanding exports of dairy products and leveraging increasing global demand for Indian dairy brands. The strong performance in value-added categories such as ice cream reflects changing consumer preferences and reinforces the importance of product diversification for dairy companies.

Amul's ability to maintain stable milk prices while expanding globally underscores the strength of its cooperative procurement model and growing international ambitions. The continued expansion of the ice cream segment demonstrates the evolving nature of India's dairy market, where consumer demand for premium and convenience-oriented products is creating new opportunities for dairy cooperatives and private processors alike.

### Digitalisation Takes Centre Stage at WOA General Session in Paris

The 93rd General Session of the World Organisation for Animal Health, held in Paris from May 18-22, 2026, highlighted the increasing role of digital technologies in

## Mother Dairy Leads Sustainable Packaging Revolution

In a significant step towards sustainable packaging and environmental stewardship, Mother Dairy, a wholly owned subsidiary of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), has launched India's First naturally degradable milk pouch in soil – a pioneering packaging innovation designed to redefine sustainability in the dairy sector. The innovation was unveiled by Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman, NDDB and Mother Dairy, along with Shri J.T. Chary, MD, Mother Dairy, in New Delhi on the occasion of World Environment Day.

The newly developed milk pouch, introduced initially for Mother Dairy's Cow Milk variant across Delhi-NCR, represents a first-of-its-kind degradable packaging innovation that enables the material to transform into bioavailable wax, which is naturally broken down by microbes present in the soil to turn it into natural elements.

Speaking on the occasion, **Dr. Meenesh Shah** stated that India's dairy sector, as the largest milk producer in the world, exemplifies scale, inclusivity, and responsibility, with sustainability deeply embedded across the value chain. He emphasized that milk pouch packaging remains critical for ensuring affordable and convenient access to milk for millions of consumers and noted that the innovation was developed after more than four years of dedicated research.



Dr. Shah highlighted that the new packaging requires no change in consumer usage behaviour and will not lead to any increase in milk prices. He further noted that Mother Dairy has been among the early adopters of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and has established itself as a Plastic Waste Neutral organization, reaffirming its commitment to responsible innovation and long-term sustainability.

Addressing the gathering, **Shri J.T. Chary** said that Mother Dairy has remained at the forefront of innovation in the dairy sector for over five decades. He remarked that the newly developed pouch leaves no trace of plastic in the environment while maintaining the quality, shelf-life, and safety of milk. According to him, the innovation reflects Mother Dairy's continued efforts to combine consumer convenience with environmental responsibility.

Alongside the packaging innovation, Mother Dairy also unveiled a refreshed design identity for its milk portfolio, beginning with the Cow Milk variant. The new packaging features cleaner typography, brighter visual elements, and the "Note of Care" brand device, reinforcing the company's promise of trust, care, and quality.

The launch marks a major milestone in sustainable dairy packaging and demonstrates the Indian dairy sector's growing commitment to environmental conservation and circular economy principles.



strengthening animal health systems and reducing investment risks in livestock farming.

At the Animal Health Forum 2026, a panel discussion

on innovation and digitalisation of animal health services explored how digital tools can improve animal health, traceability, preventive care, and livestock resilience.

Among the panellists was Shri Manish Jain, Founder of Nitara, an AI-driven agri-tech platform developed by GormalOne LLP and a Sustaining Member of the Indian Dairy Association. Nitara's participation underscored the growing global recognition of Indian dairy technology solutions. The platform was also honoured with the IDF Dairy Innovation Award 2025.

The discussion emphasised that data-driven farm management can enable early disease detection, improve productivity and animal welfare, and enhance the long-term sustainability of the dairy sector, particularly in India.

## NCDFI and Assam Rifles Sign MoA to Strengthen Supply of Milk and Milk Products through Dairy Cooperatives

National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Ltd. (NCDFI) and Assam Rifles signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) in New Delhi to further strengthen cooperation for the supply of milk and milk products through the dairy cooperative network.

The MoA was exchanged by Brig Sachinder Tiwari, SM, Brig (Adm), Directorate General Assam Rifles and Shri Srinivas Sajja, MD, NCDFI, in the august presence of Lt Gen Vikas Lakhera, AVSM, SM, Director General, Assam Rifles, and Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman, NCDFI & NDDDB. The occasion marked an important milestone in expanding the role of dairy cooperatives in meeting the requirements of Assam Rifles.

During the previous year, NCDFI facilitated contracts with Assam Rifles for the supply of UHT milk by Amul (Gujarat) and Nandini (Karnataka), Whole Milk Powder by Warana Milk Union (Maharashtra), and fresh milk by Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura Milk Unions. Based on the satisfactory performance and reliable supplies by dairy cooperatives, Assam Rifles has expanded the range of milk and milk products being procured from the cooperative sector.

Accordingly, in addition to the previous year's contracts, Malt Based Food and Cheese are now being supplied by Amul, while fresh milk and butter are being supplied by WAMUL (Assam), Dimapur (Nagaland), Bhagirathi (West Bengal) and Alwar (Rajasthan) Milk Unions. The supplies under the arrangement are presently catering primarily to Assam Rifles units and establishments in the North Eastern States, along with their offices in Kolkata and New Delhi.

The MoA reflects the shared commitment of NCDFI and Assam Rifles towards ensuring a dependable supply of quality milk and milk products to Assam Rifles units, while also creating meaningful market opportunities for dairy

cooperatives and their farmer members, with particular emphasis on strengthening dairy development and farmer empowerment in the North Eastern region.

Speaking on the occasion, **Lt Gen Vikas Lakhera**, AVSM, SM, appreciated the consistent efforts of NCDFI and the participating dairy cooperatives in meeting the requirements of Assam Rifles. He further noted that Assam Rifles, being a force deeply associated with the North East and widely regarded as the "Friends of the North Eastern People", has taken this initiative not only

to ensure reliable supplies for its personnel but also to support the larger cause of empowering dairy farmers through cooperative institutions of the region.

**Dr. Meenesh Shah** said that the association with Assam Rifles is a matter of pride for the dairy cooperative sector. He stated that NCDFI has had the privilege of facilitating supplies of milk and milk products to the Indian Army and ITBP for the last four decades, and the partnership with Assam Rifles further strengthens this trusted association with national institutions. He added that such initiatives reflect the capability of dairy cooperatives to efficiently serve the requirements of Defence and paramilitary forces, while also creating assured market opportunities for cooperative dairies and their farmer members, particularly in the North Eastern states.

Dr. Meenesh Shah also presented Certificates of Gratitude to the officials of Assam Rifles in recognition of their support and trust in the dairy cooperative network. Certificates of Appreciation were also presented to the participating dairy cooperatives in recognition of their role in undertaking supplies of milk and milk products to Assam Rifles, and for their commitment towards ensuring timely, reliable and satisfactory service.

The partnership is expected to further encourage the participation of dairy cooperatives from different regions of the country in meeting the requirements of Assam Rifles, particularly across the North Eastern region and related establishments, while strengthening the cooperative dairy sector's contribution towards national service, self-reliance and farmer welfare.



## **INTERNATIONAL News**

### **International Dairy Market: Overview**

As per the latest USDA data during June 08-19, 2026, international market overview are as follows:

#### **EUROPEAN**

##### **Western European**

The number of dairy farms in the United Kingdom has fallen below 7,000 for the first time, reflecting a long-term trend of industry consolidation and structural change. Rising costs, labor challenges, and ongoing investment requirements continue to pressure smaller operations, while larger and more efficient farms account for an increasing share of milk production. Despite the decline in farm numbers, overall milk output has remained comparatively resilient, as productivity gains continue to offset the shrinking producer base.

European dairy markets have shown signs of stabilizing in recent weeks after an extended period of price weakness, with values for several key commodities finding firmer footing. While milk supplies remain ample across much of the region, improved demand and a slowdown in price declines have helped support market sentiment. Despite the more balanced tone, participants continue to monitor production levels and export demand as factors that could influence price direction in the months ahead.

##### **Eastern European**

Eastern Europe continues to strengthen its role in EU dairy production, with Poland remaining a key driver of regional milk output growth. Productivity gains and ongoing farm consolidation have supported production despite declining cow numbers, while a growing share of milk is being directed toward cheese manufacturing. Although lower milk prices may slow expansion, the region remains better positioned for growth compared to many Western European producers.

Latvia has expanded its dairy processing capacity with the opening of a new cheese facility designed to handle significant volumes of milk and support growing export demand. The investment highlights continued confidence in the Baltic dairy sector and is expected to strengthen regional cheese production, with a substantial share of output targeted for international markets across Europe and beyond.

#### **OCEANIA DAIRY MARKET**

##### **New Zealand**

Following Global Dairy Trade (GDT) Event 406, a group

in New Zealand that forecasts milk prices decreased its 2026/27 season milk price forecast to NZ\$9.38 per kilogram of milk solids (kgMS). The spot value of milk declined to NZ\$9.76/kgMS from NZ\$10.27/kgMS. Prices were lower for milk powders and milk fats offered at GDT Event 406.

The group's 2025/26 season milk price forecast remains at NZ\$9.74/kgMS. This projection is based on an exchange rate assumption of US\$0.5877 per NZ dollar and a forecast range of NZ\$9.08/kgMS to NZ\$9.98/kgMS. The September 2026/27 Milk Price Futures contract last settled at NZ\$9.78/kgMS.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) released its latest Situation and Outlook for Primary Industries (SOPI) report. For the year ending June 30, 2026, New Zealand's food and fibre sector is projected to generate NZ\$64.3 billion in revenue, representing 82 percent of the country's total exports. Dairy revenue is forecast to rise 5 percent to a record NZ\$28.6 billion, following last year's record performance.

Whole milk powder accounted for 32 percent of dairy export revenue, followed by milk fats at 21 percent, cheese at 12 percent, and casein and other protein products at 11 percent. China remained the largest export market at 36 percent, while Australia, the United States, and Indonesia each accounted for 5 percent. Production is expected to reach 2.02 billion kgMS, a 4 percent increase, supported by favourable weather and strong on-farm financial incentives. MPI currently estimates the 2025/26 season milk price at a final payout of NZ\$9.85/kgMS.

##### **Australia**

Dairy Australia recently published new data on packaged milk sales. In April 2026, total packaged milk sales reached 191.0 million litres, an increase of 1.7 million litres year-over-year (YoY). Sales increased YoY in New South Wales (1.4 percent), Victoria (1.7 percent), and Queensland (1.1 percent). Meanwhile, sales declined in South Australia (0.1 percent), Western Australia (1.5 percent), and Tasmania (0.9 percent).

Packaged milk sales year-to-date (YTD) for Australia's 2025/26 season totalled 1,968.6 million litres, up 23.3 million litres (1.2 percent) compared to the previous season. Relative to the 2024/25 season, YTD sales in 2025/26 increased in Victoria (2.7 percent), Queensland (1.2 percent), South Australia (1.7 percent), and Western Australia (1.0 percent), while declining in New South Wales (0.2 percent) and Tasmania (1.1 percent).

Dairy Australia also released updated export data showing that milk export volumes from July 2025

through April 2026 totalled 139,822 metric tonnes, a 15.2 percent increase compared with the same period a year earlier.

The May 2026 Production Inputs Monitor Report from Dairy Australia showed that rainfall increased across most of eastern Australia in May, ending the month above average after a dry April. Northern New South Wales and southern Queensland recorded particularly strong rainfall, providing relief from prolonged dry conditions.

Despite improved rainfall, feed prices increased across all major categories. Early-month dryness in northern dairying regions kept feed demand high, while elevated freight costs and strong global wheat demand added upward pressure. Improved feedstock availability in southern regions helped moderate price increases. Temporary water prices remained elevated, exceeding May 2025 levels by more than double in several regions and remaining well above five-year averages, although slightly below March peaks. Urea prices stayed exceptionally high but eased marginally as buyers shifted to alternative fertilisers. Diammonium phosphate prices rose amid limited supply, while fuel prices declined more significantly, supported by a temporary excise reduction and increased national stockpiles. Fuel Supply Roundtable, while peak farming bodies advocate for government recognition of potential impacts on food production and regional communities.

### **SOUTH AMERICA DAIRY MARKET**

Milk production in South America is entering a seasonally

lower output period as dairy herds move beyond peak production. Although year-over-year milk production remains higher, growth rates are beginning to slow. In Argentina, industry stakeholders attribute part of the slowdown in milk output growth to heavy rainfall. An El Niño weather pattern is anticipated in 2026, which could bring above-average precipitation to key dairy-producing regions.

Argentine stakeholders also report delays in harvesting activities due to persistent rainfall. Operating costs, particularly for fuel and labour, have increased, while feed prices have remained relatively stable.

The broadly scoped EU–MERCOSUR agreement, which aims to reduce import duties between member countries of the European Union and the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)—comprising Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay—has entered provisional status through an interim trade arrangement, although the full agreement has yet to be ratified.

Production of dairy products such as skim milk powder (SMP), whole milk powder (WMP), and cheese has moderated in line with seasonal changes in milk supply. Stakeholders report no significant changes in demand for either SMP or WMP.

According to the latest data from CLAL.it, Brazil's imports of both skim milk powder and whole milk powder have increased. Argentina's exports of both products have also risen, while Uruguay has recorded growth in whole milk powder exports.

## **Global Dairy Prices Decline at GDT Event 406**

Global dairy commodity prices moved lower at Global Dairy Trade (GDT) Event 406, held on June 16, 2026, reflected a market correction after several months of strong gains. The overall GDT Price Index fell by 2.8%, with the average winning price reaching US\$3,979 per metric tonne.

The decline was seen across most major dairy products. Whole Milk Powder (WMP), a key indicator of global dairy market trends, dropped by 3.1% to US\$3,589/MT, while Skim Milk Powder (SMP) declined by 3.6% to US\$3,368/MT. Butter prices fell by 2.4% to US\$5,516/MT and Anhydrous Milk Fat (AMF) eased by 1.0% to US\$6,601/MT. Cheese prices also weakened, with Cheddar and Mozzarella recording declines. Lactose was the only major commodity to post a gain.

Industry analysts attribute the correction to improved milk production in major exporting regions and a more cautious purchasing approach by importers. Earlier in the year, concerns over limited milk supplies and strong

demand had pushed prices higher. However, improving production and better product availability have reduced supply pressures, encouraging buyers to take a more measured approach to procurement.

The latest auction suggests that global dairy markets are moving toward a more balanced demand-supply situation. While prices have softened, they remain at levels that indicate continued underlying demand for dairy products.

Looking ahead, market participants will closely monitor milk production trends in key exporting countries, buying activity from China, and demand developments in emerging markets. These factors are expected to influence price movements during the coming months.

For India, the impact of lower global dairy prices is expected to be limited. Strong domestic demand, active competition for milk procurement, and relatively tight milk supplies continue to support the domestic dairy market.

(Source: [www.globaldairytrade.info](http://www.globaldairytrade.info))