

## IDA (WZ) and BAIF Development Research Foundation Organizes a Training Programme

The Indian Dairy Association, in association with BAIF Development Research Foundation, successfully conducted a three-day intensive training programme on **"Sustainable and Smart Dairying for Improved Performance and Profitability"** at BAIF's Uruli Kanchan Training Centre, Pune, during 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2026.

The programme brought together 26 progressive dairy professionals representing leading dairy organizations, including Schreiber Foods, Jalgaon District Milk Union, Kolhapur Milk Union, Parag Milk Foods Ltd., Valsad Union, Katraj Dairy, and four units of Amul.

The inaugural session was graced by Shri Madhav Patgaonkar, Secretary, IDA West Zone; Ms. Richie Agarwal, Member, IDA West Zone; Dr. Jayant Khadse, Vice President, BAIF; Dr. Sachin Joshi; and Dr. Lata Sharma. The dignitaries emphasized the growing importance of technology-driven, sustainable, and farmer-centric dairy development in India.

The training programme was designed to equip participants with practical knowledge, advanced dairy management practices, and exposure to innovative technologies aimed at improving productivity, profitability, and sustainability in dairy farming. Conducted entirely in Hindi, the sessions covered a wide range of topics, including breed improvement, crossbreeding, reproductive management, artificial insemination using conventional and sex-sorted semen, balanced feeding, housing management, clean milk production, disease prevention, ethno-veterinary



practices, fodder management, manure utilization, value addition, and the role of AI and digital technologies in precision dairying. Sustainability-related themes such as climate resilience, methane reduction, and resource efficiency were also discussed extensively.

A major highlight of the training was the extensive field exposure and hands-on learning experience provided at various sections of the BAIF Training Centre. Participants visited different demonstration units and



facilities where they witnessed the practical implementation of the concepts covered during the classroom sessions. This exposure enabled participants to closely observe best practices in animal management, fodder cultivation, dung utilization, and reproductive technologies, thereby bridging the gap between theoretical learning and real-world application. The visit to BAIF's sex-sorted semen facility provided valuable insights into modern breeding technologies and their role in accelerating genetic improvement and herd productivity.

The programme also served as an effective platform for knowledge exchange, industry interaction, and collaborative learning among dairy professionals from different regions and organizations. Participants appreciated the practical orientation of the training and the opportunity to interact with experts and fellow professionals working across diverse dairy ecosystems.

The training concluded successfully, with participants gaining actionable insights and practical strategies to develop more efficient, sustainable, and future-ready dairy operations capable of enhancing farmer livelihoods and strengthening the dairy sector.

## Bridging Consumers and the Dairy Industry: IDA (West Zone) Engages with Mumbai Grahak Panchayat

In a unique initiative to strengthen the bond between consumers and the dairy sector, the Indian Dairy Association (West Zone) partnered with the Mumbai Grahak Panchayat (MGP) to organize a series of interactive programs. These sessions were designed to listen to consumer concerns, address complaints, and dispel myths surrounding milk and milk products—an effort that reflects the Association's commitment to transparency and consumer education.

The initiative was promoted by Shri Madhav Patgaonkar, Secretary, IDA (WZ), who has long worked with consumer bodies to tackle issues of adulteration and misinformation. His earlier collaboration with MGP during his tenure at Gokul Dairy had already set a precedent for consumer-centric initiatives, and this new series carried forward that spirit of dialogue and trust-building.

### National Milk Day - Borivali

The first program was held at Borivali on National Milk Day, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025, where 146 consumers gathered to interact with IDA office bearers. The atmosphere was one of curiosity and openness, as participants listened to detailed presentations on the journey of milk—from farmer collection and testing to chilling, processing, packaging, and distribution.

### World Consumer Day - Kandivali

The second program took place at Kandivali on World Consumer Day, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026, drawing an even larger audience of 165 consumers. Once again, the sessions began with structured presentations, followed by an open forum where consumers voiced their questions and concerns. Every issue was addressed with scientific clarity, and participants were informed of their rights under FSSAI regulations. Misconceptions and myths—often fuelled by anti-dairy lobbies—were countered with facts, leaving consumers reassured and better informed.

### Empowering Consumers with Technology- MGP's Vile Parle Office

Beyond dialogue, IDA (WZ) also took a concrete step towards empowering consumers by gifting a Milk Analyser, provided by Prompt (INDIFOSS), to the Mumbai Grahak Panchayat. A live demonstration of the equipment was conducted at the Panchayat's Vile Parle office on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026, showcasing how technology can enhance transparency and quality assurance in milk testing. On this occasion, Shri Wagal, Vice President, MGP, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the leadership of





IDA, including Dr. J.B. Prajapati, Chairman, IDA (WZ); Shri Madhav Patgaonkar; Shri K. Shyju, Vice Chairman, IDA (WZ); Shri Arun Patil, Vice President, IDA New Delhi; and Shri Rajesh Lele, Member, CEC, IDA New Delhi, for their support and the generous contribution.

### **A Commitment for the Future**

In his concluding remarks, Shri Madhav Patgaonkar assured the Mumbai Grahak Panchayat that IDA would continue to extend its cooperation and guidance in the future. This assurance reflects the Association's vision of not only serving the dairy industry but also standing by consumers-educating them, protecting their rights, and building confidence in the purity and value of milk.

These programs mark a significant step towards bridging the gap between consumers and the dairy industry. By fostering dialogue, addressing concerns, and introducing modern technology, IDA (West Zone) has reinforced its role as a trusted partner in ensuring quality and transparency. For the consumers of Mumbai, these sessions were more than just informative-they were empowering, reaffirming their trust in milk as a vital part of daily nutrition and in the industry that delivers it.

## **One-Day Workshop on Homemade Ice Cream, Popsicles, Smoothies, Pizza, and Pastry Making Organized for School Students at Coimbatore**



The Indian Dairy Association Tamil Nadu Chapter (TNC), in association with Hindusthan College of Arts and Science, successfully organized a one-day workshop for school students on the theme "Workshop on Making Ice Cream, Popsicles, Smoothies, Pizza, and Pastries at Home" on 15th May, 2026 at Coimbatore.

The programme was specially designed to introduce school students to the exciting

world of dairy-based foods, bakery products, and culinary creativity through practical demonstrations and interactive learning sessions. The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, who actively engaged in the hands-on demonstrations conducted by experienced culinary and dairy experts.

The event focused on promoting awareness about value-added dairy products and encouraging children to understand the importance of milk and dairy ingredients in preparing nutritious and innovative food products at home. Live demonstrations were conducted on the preparation of a variety of popular food items, including ice cream, popsicles, pizza, chocolates, smoothies, and pastries.

The technical sessions were led by renowned culinary expert Chef Praveen of Delta Nutritives Pvt. Ltd. and Shri K.S. Kanna, Chairman, IDA TNC, who shared practical tips and simple preparation methods suitable for home preparation. Chef Sreedharan and student volunteers from the Department of Catering and Hotel Management efficiently coordinated the technical sessions and student activities throughout the programme.



The organizers emphasized that such workshops help bridge the gap between food science, nutrition, and practical culinary skills among school children. The programme also aimed to inspire creativity, entrepreneurship, and healthy eating habits among the younger generation.

Participants were provided with training materials, live tasting sessions, and participation certificates upon successful completion of the workshop. Lunch and refreshments were arranged for all attendees.

The organizers expressed their sincere appreciation to the management and faculty members of the Department of Catering Science and Hotel Management, Hindusthan College of Arts and Science, for their valuable support in successfully hosting the programme. Special appreciation was extended to Chef Sebastin Shalvin, Department Coordinator and faculty member, for facilitating the venue arrangements and extending technical support for the event.

Er. Dayanand Peter, Executive Committee Member (RE), IDA TNC, served as the Convenor of the programme, while Shri Hussain Batcha, Managing Partner, Kongu Mushrooms, Coimbatore, acted as the Programme Coordinator.

The workshop concluded with encouraging feedback from students and parents, highlighting the growing interest among school children in dairy-based food preparation and the need for more such educational and skill-oriented programmes in the fields of dairy technology, food processing, and culinary arts.

## Charting Dairy Vision 2047: IDA Rajasthan State Chapter Honors Legacy, Sparks Future Dialogue

**Dr. N.R. Bhasin Memorial Lecture Brings Together Industry, Academia, and Global Consultants in Jaipur**

The Indian Dairy Association Rajasthan Chapter paid rich tribute to renowned dairy pioneer Dr. N.R. Bhasin through its flagship Memorial Lecture and Award Ceremony held at Hotel Souvenir, Jaipur, on April 26, 2026. The event brought together policymakers, cooperative leaders, academicians, veterinarians, private dairy professionals, consultants, and students under the central theme "**Indian Dairy - Vision 2047.**"

Around 70-80 delegates participated in the programme, including managing directors of various milk unions under Rajasthan Cooperative Dairy Federation Ltd., senior dairy professionals, food technologists, and representatives from academia and industry across Rajasthan.

**Dr. Karun Chandalia**, Chairman of the IDA Rajasthan Chapter, stated that the event served as a confluence of policymakers, cooperative leaders, academicians, and global consulting professionals, all united around one agenda: "**Indian Dairy - Vision 2047.**"

The Chief Guest **Dr. P.S. Chauhan**, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of SKN Agriculture University, Jobner inaugurated the event. It was presided over by Dr. Rahul Saxena, Chairman, IDA (North Zone). Shri Manish Fauzdar, Managing Director of Jaipur Dairy and senior RAS officer, attended as the Guest of Honour, while Dr. Himmat Singh, veteran dairy professional and former Vice Chairman, IDA (North Zone), graced the occasion. Shri Kuldeep Sharma, Founder of Suruchi Consultants, delivered the Keynote address on the topic "**Indian Dairy - Vision 2047.**"

Addressing the gathering, Dr. P.S. Chauhan highlighted Rajasthan's significant untapped dairy potential and emphasized the need for greater collaboration between cooperative and private dairy sectors. Referring to government initiatives such as the Mukhyamantri Dugdh Utpadak Sambal Yojana, he noted that the journey toward 2047 would require a unified and innovation-driven dairy ecosystem.



**Shri Manish Kumar Fauzdar**, Managing Director, Jaipur Dairy, underlined the importance of quality and consumer trust in strengthening dairy brands. He stressed that both cooperative and private dairies must work collectively to uphold quality standards and support state-led dairy development initiatives.

In his Keynote presentation, **Shri Kuldeep Sharma** presented a comprehensive roadmap for India's dairy sector leading up to 2047. His presentation focused on climate-smart dairying, value-added product diversification, digital traceability systems, automation, cold-chain strengthening, and integrated dairy-farm models aimed at enhancing farmer income. He emphasized that India has the potential not only to remain the world's largest milk producer but also to emerge as the most sustainable and technology-enabled dairy ecosystem globally.

Senior dairy leaders including **Dr. Himmat Singh** and **Dr. Rahul Saxena** shared valuable field experiences on breed improvement, dairy processing innovation, and sectoral modernization. Dr. Karun Chandalia reiterated IDA's role as a neutral bridge between policy and practice and announced that the Chapter's next seminar would focus on the role of buffaloes in addressing the growing gap between demand and supply of milk fat and their contribution to Rajasthan's rural economy.

The event also recognized academic excellence among students in Veterinary and Dairy Sciences through the **Dr. N.R. Bhasin Awards**. Jonathan Moses George from Rajasthan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences received the Gold Medal in Veterinary Science, while Kumari Akshay Rathod secured the Silver Medal. In Dairy Science, Kashish and Shri Ankit Kumawat from the College of Dairy Science & Food Technology, Udaipur, received Gold Medals, while Dakshraj Singh Jhala and Prins Mathur were awarded Silver Medals.

Among the distinguished attendees were Shri Govind Gupta, Treasurer, IDA Rajasthan Chapter; Shri Karni Singh Shekhawat from KPMG; Shri Sanjay Gupta from Rajasthan Electronics & Instruments Limited; and Shri Jabbar Singh Rathore from Frubon. Their presence reflected the growing collaboration among dairy cooperatives, technology providers, private players, and global consulting firms.

Dr. Seema Tanwer, Dean of the College of Dairy and Food Technology, Bassi, along with assistant professors, faculty members, Dr. Arvind, and students of Dairy Technology, also participated actively, reinforcing academia's role in sectoral development.

The event highlighted strong momentum for Rajasthan's dairy sector by bringing together key stakeholders from academia, cooperatives, government institutions, technology providers, consultants, and private dairy companies on a common platform. The participation of leaders from SKN Agriculture University, Jaipur Dairy, and RCDF reflected clear institutional alignment towards dairy sector growth, while the involvement of KPMG, Rajasthan Electronics & Instruments Limited, and Frubon demonstrated increasing corporate and technology-driven interest in transformation-focused dairy initiatives. At the same time, Suruchi Consultants' "Vision 2047" framework served as a vital knowledge bridge, linking farmers, processors, and consumers through a practical roadmap for the future of the dairy industry.

**Dr. Santosh Sharma**, Secretary of IDA Rajasthan Chapter and General Manager, RCDF, delivered the vote of thanks and acknowledged the support of all stakeholders. He summarized, "Dr. N.R. Bhasin believed dairy is not merely a commodity business; it is a farmer's lifeline. Today's dialogue honors that belief and sets our sights firmly on 2047."

The event concluded with a clear message that Rajasthan's dairy sector would require three key pillars to achieve its 2047 vision: stronger collaboration between cooperative and private dairy players, increased investment in automation and cold-chain infrastructure, and enhanced sectoral competence through skilled manpower.



Dairy Veterans Felicitating the Chief Guest Dr. P.S. Chauhan, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of SKN Agriculture University, Jobner



## Online Lecture on Supply Chain Management and Logistics Organised at College of Dairy Science & Food Technology, Raipur



Shri Madhav Patgaonkar, Secretary, IDA (WZ), delivered an online expert lecture on Supply Chain Management and Logistics, organized by the College of Dairy Science & Food Technology, Raipur, on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

It was a highly interactive and informative session for the students and staff. Shri Patgaonkar explained dairy industry logistics operations from an Indian perspective, starting from milk procurement (farmer collection centres, chilling centres, and BMCs) to the main processing plants. Milk is collected at village-level centres, where farmers deliver fresh milk twice daily. Quality testing, including adulteration detection tests, is conducted before the milk is transported to chilling centres. This ensures freshness and maintains quality standards before processing. At every stage, proper logistics planning and a robust supply chain are required to ensure timely milk collection. Proper route planning and cost optimization for collection and supply are key aspects of the system.

He further stated that the Indian dairy supply chain is vast and complex, involving more than 80 million rural households. It operates through a mix of cooperative models (Amul, Nandini, Mother Dairy), private companies (Nestlé, Hatsun Agro, Heritage, Paras, and Ananda), and government initiatives such as the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). The supply chain typically follows the sequence: Farm – Collection – Processing – Distribution – Retail.

He also explained the AMUL model and various private dairy models. Despite its success, the industry faces challenges such as gaps in rural cold chain infrastructure, seasonal fluctuations in milk supply, complex demand forecasting, especially during festivals, and logistical hurdles in remote and underdeveloped regions. He also discussed cold chain logistics, distribution networks, innovations, and the supply chain involved in e-commerce.

He concluded by stating that logistics operations are the lifeline of the Indian dairy industry, and cooperative models ensure inclusivity and sustainability. A few private players are also working on similar models to promote sustainability. Future focus should be on digitalization, expansion of the cold chain, strengthening rural

infrastructure, and the use of AI.

Prof. Sarang Pophaly thanked Shri Madhav Patgaonkar for sparing his time to deliver such an interactive and informative lecture and for answering questions raised by the students.

Shri Madhav Patgaonkar also appealed to the students to become members of IDA and participate actively in all IDA activities.

## NATIONAL News

### UP Launches Dairy Master Plan for Indigenous Breeds

The Uttar Pradesh government has launched an ambitious Dairy Master Plan aimed at promoting indigenous cattle breeds, increasing milk production and strengthening the rural dairy economy across the state. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath, the state has introduced four major schemes focused on breed conservation, dairy entrepreneurship and farmer welfare.

The initiative, collectively referred to as "Operation-4," includes the Mukhyamantri Swadeshi Gau Samvardhan Yojana, Mukhyamantri Pragatisheel Pashupalak Protsahan Yojana, Nandini Krishak Samridhi Yojana and Mini Nandini Krishak Samridhi Yojana. The schemes are designed to support dairy units ranging from two to 25 cows through substantial financial assistance and subsidies aimed at encouraging indigenous cattle rearing and expansion of dairy enterprises.

According to Shri Mukesh Meshram, Additional Chief Secretary of the Animal Husbandry Department, the government is promoting advanced indigenous breeds such as Gir, Sahiwal and Gangatiri through targeted subsidy programmes. Under the Nandini Krishak Samridhi Yojana and Mini Nandini Krishak Samridhi Yojana, dairy farmers can avail government subsidies of up to 50% for establishing dairy units and enhancing milk production capacity.

The financial model of the schemes includes a 15% beneficiary contribution, 35% bank loan financing and up to 50% government subsidy, making dairy entrepreneurship more accessible for small and medium-scale farmers. Under the Mukhyamantri Swadeshi Gau Samvardhan Yojana, subsidies of up to Rs.80,000 are being offered for two-cow dairy units.

.....continue on page 66

.....continue from page 64

In addition, the Mukhyamantri Pragatisheel Pashupalak Protsahan Yojana provides incentives ranging from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000 to farmers maintaining high-yield indigenous cattle breeds. Officials believe the programme will contribute significantly to improving milk productivity, conserving native breeds and generating sustainable rural employment.

The state government is also placing strong emphasis on linking women and youth with dairy entrepreneurship as part of its broader rural development strategy. Dairy Master Plan could play an important role in strengthening organized milk production, expanding indigenous breed populations and reinforcing Uttar Pradesh's position as India's leading milk-producing state.

## Amul's Sugar-Free Chocolate Emerges as India's Market Leader



Speaking at a cooperative sector event, Hon'ble Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah said that Amul has emerged as India's top-selling sugar-free chocolate brand.

Highlighting the rapid growth of healthier and functional confectionery products in the country, he noted that the achievement demonstrates how Indian cooperatives are increasingly competing in premium and value-added food categories beyond conventional dairy products.

Shri Amit Shah stated that Amul's sugar-free chocolate has become the highest-selling product in its category in India, reflecting the rising consumer preference for healthier snacking alternatives and low-sugar food options. Industry analysts noted that increasing diabetes awareness, fitness trends and growing health consciousness among urban consumers are driving strong demand for sugar-free and reduced-sugar confectionery products.

He also emphasized the broader transformation of India's cooperative dairy movement, noting that cooperatives are now expanding into high-value branded food products with stronger margins and wider national consumer appeal. Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which manages the Amul brand, has diversified its portfolio significantly in recent years across chocolates, ice cream, beverages, protein products and functional foods.

Industry experts believe Amul's success in the sugar-free chocolate segment reflects a wider shift within India's dairy and food industry toward premiumization and health-focused innovation. Companies are increasingly investing in protein-rich, low-sugar and functional product categories to address evolving consumer preferences and improve profitability beyond commoditized milk sales.

India's sugar-free and diabetic-friendly food market has been witnessing rapid expansion due to rising lifestyle-related health concerns. Analysts estimate that the country's growing diabetic population and preventive health-conscious consumers are creating substantial long-term opportunities for low-sugar dairy, confectionery and nutritional food products.

Amul's expanding presence in value-added and health-oriented categories further strengthens the cooperative brand's position as one of India's most diversified dairy and food companies. Experts expect competition in functional dairy and healthier snacking segments to intensify as both traditional dairy players and FMCG companies continue expanding aggressively into premium nutrition markets.

## Sumul Dairy's Biogas Revolution Shields Families from LPG Crisis: 6,543 Plants Installed

In a shining example of sustainable dairy development and the circular economy, Sumul Dairy has successfully installed 6,543 biogas plants, providing clean and reliable cooking gas to thousands of dairy farming families and effectively shielding them from recurring LPG shortages.

This significant achievement has been made possible with the support and guidance of the NDDDB (National Dairy Development Board), GCMMF, MNRE (Ministry of New and Renewable Energy), and the Government of Gujarat. The milestone reflects Sumul Dairy's strong commitment to environmental sustainability, farmer welfare, and energy self-reliance.

By converting cattle dung into biogas, the cooperative has helped member families reduce their dependence on LPG while strengthening rural resilience.

### Key Highlights of Sumul Dairy's Biogas Programme

- 6,543 Biogas Plants installed benefiting 6,543 dairy farming families and more than 50,000 people.
- 40,000 LPG Cylinders saved annually helping families avoid LPG shortages and reduce cooking costs.
- 300 MT of Cow Dung processed daily converting waste into useful energy.

.....continue on page 68

.....continue from page 66

- 40,000 Tonnes of GHG Emissions reduced annually making a major contribution to combating climate change.
- 600 MT of Organic Manure produced daily improving soil health and reducing the use of chemical fertilisers.

Speaking on the achievement, Sumul Dairy officials highlighted that the initiative perfectly integrates dairy farming with renewable energy production. The slurry generated as a byproduct serves as excellent organic manure, completing the circular economy model of "waste to wealth." Sumul Dairy's biogas programme stands as a model for other dairy cooperatives across the country. It not only addresses environmental concerns and energy security but also improves farmer incomes through reduced input costs and enhanced soil fertility. Sumul Dairy continues to lead by example in Gujarat's dairy sector, proving that progressive cooperatives can successfully balance excellence in milk production with ecological responsibility.

## TGDDCF Signs MoU with Punjab National Bank to Support Dairy Farmers

Telangana Dairy Development Cooperative Federation (TGDDCF), a Benefactor Member of the Indian Dairy Association (IDA), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Punjab National Bank to provide financial assistance to milk producers associated with cooperative societies across the state.

The MoU was signed by TGDDCF Chairman Shri Gutha Amit Reddy; Managing Director Shri K. Chandrasekhar Reddy; and General Manager (P&I) Shri Madhusudhan Rao. The agreement will remain in force for one year.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Shri Gutha Amit Reddy said the partnership between the two organisations would play a significant role in improving the livelihoods of dairy farmers. He stated that, as part of strengthening cooperation among cooperative institutions, TGDDCF is also planning to enter into similar agreements with District Cooperative Central Banks and Union Bank of India.

He further noted that the initiative aims to support sustainable and innovative solutions to address the growing demand for milk procurement in the region.

TGDDCF Managing Director Shri K. Chandrasekhar Reddy, IAS, said banks should come forward to extend loans under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and for beneficiaries under the SC Action Plan. He added that district-wise sensitisation programmes are being organised jointly with bankers and farmers to identify eligible beneficiaries for loan assistance.

## Hatsun FY26 Profit Jumps 28% to Rs. 356 Crore



Hatsun Agro Products Ltd., a Benefactor Member of the IDA,

reported a strong FY26 performance with profit after tax (PAT) rising 28% to Rs.356 crore, compared to Rs.279 crore in FY25, driven by improved operational efficiency and robust revenue growth. The company's EBITDA grew 16% to Rs.1,190 crore, while revenue from operations increased 14.5% to Rs.9,959 crore against Rs.8,700 crore in the previous fiscal.

In Q4 FY26, PAT stood at Rs.51 crore compared to Rs.43 crore in the year-ago quarter, while quarterly revenue rose to Rs.2,578 crore from Rs.2,243 crore. Chairman Shri R.G. Chandramogan said the company's focus on operational efficiency helped reduce the debt-to-equity ratio significantly from 1.44 in FY24 to 0.68 in FY26 despite continued investments and strategic acquisitions. The company also declared an interim dividend of Rs.10 per equity share (1000%) on fully paid-up equity shares of face value Rs. 1 each.

## COMFED Expands Dairy Cooperative Network in Bihar

Bihar State Milk Co-operative Federation (COMFED), a Benefactor Member of the IDA, is set to further strengthen Bihar's dairy sector through a major grassroots expansion of Dairy Cooperative Societies (DCS) across the state under the government's Saat Nischay-3 programme. A high-level review meeting recently assessed progress in milk procurement growth and the expansion of village-level dairy cooperatives aimed at improving farmer incomes and increasing rural participation in the organised dairy sector.

Officials reviewed the ongoing initiative to establish Dairy Cooperative Societies in every village to strengthen milk collection infrastructure, improve farmer access to organised dairy markets and expand cooperative participation at the grassroots level. The programme is expected to further reinforce Bihar's rural dairy ecosystem by connecting more small dairy farmers directly with organised milk procurement systems under the widely recognised Sudha brand.

COMFED currently supports more than 13.5 lakh farmer families across Bihar and has emerged as one of eastern India's largest dairy cooperative networks. More than 21,000 village-level milk cooperative societies are active across the state, supporting nearly 7.5 lakh livestock farmers, including approximately 1.9 lakh women

.....continue on page 70

.....continue from page 68

members. Daily milk procurement presently averages around 22 lakh kilograms, while the federation's processing infrastructure has the capacity to handle nearly 54 lakh litres per day.

The Bihar government is positioning dairy development as a major pillar of its rural economic strategy. Under the expansion roadmap, COMFED is also focusing on strengthening milk chilling infrastructure, digitising milk testing and payments, and improving procurement transparency to enhance farmer trust and participation. Experts believe that expansion of village-level dairy cooperatives could significantly reduce dependence on middlemen while ensuring more stable income opportunities for rural milk producers.

COMFED has also been steadily expanding the national and international presence of the Sudha brand. Sudha dairy products are currently marketed across Bihar, Jharkhand, Delhi, Kolkata and northeastern states, while exports have already reached markets such as the United States and Canada. The federation is now exploring further expansion into Gulf and Southeast Asian markets amid rising global demand for Indian dairy products.

## Verka Launches Smart Vending Machines in Punjab

Verka has launched a new generation of smart vending machines to modernize dairy retailing and improve consumer access to Milkfed products across Punjab. Named "Guddi," the intelligent vending units have been introduced as companions to Verka's existing "Veera" milk dispensing machines, marking another step in Milkfed Punjab's technology-driven retail expansion strategy. The Guddi machines are designed to dispense multiple dairy and value-added products, including flavoured milk, lassi, ice cream, paneer and other Verka products, through an automated and digitally enabled platform. The initiative aims to strengthen last-mile retail convenience while helping Verka increase direct consumer engagement in high-footfall urban locations.

Milkfed Punjab, which markets products under the Verka brand, procures milk from thousands of dairy farmers across the state, has been aggressively expanding its value-added dairy portfolio and retail presence to strengthen its position in India's rapidly growing branded dairy market.

The introduction of smart vending technology could further enhance consumer accessibility, improve retail efficiency and support the growing demand for convenient, ready-to-purchase dairy products in urban markets. The initiative also reflects the increasing adoption of digital

retail solutions by cooperative dairy organisations to strengthen brand visibility and consumer outreach.

## Dodla Dairy Reports Strong FY26 Growth



Dodla Dairy, a Benefactor Member of the IDA, has reported strong audited financial results for FY26, driven by robust growth in value-added dairy products, higher milk procurement volumes and

expanding market presence across India. The company's board has also recommended a final dividend of Rs.5 per equity share for the financial year (subject to shareholder approval at the upcoming AGM), reflecting confidence in its operational and financial performance.

According to the company's FY26 audited results, Dodla Dairy reported consolidated revenue growth supported by rising demand for milk, curd, ghee, buttermilk and other value-added dairy products. The company also benefited from stronger procurement efficiency and expanded distribution across southern and eastern Indian markets.

Dodla Dairy has been aggressively expanding its value-added dairy portfolio, which continues to contribute an increasing share of overall revenue.

## Heritage Foods Crosses Rs 4500 Crores Annual Revenue Milestone



Heritage Foods Ltd., a Benefactor Member of the IDA, has crossed the Rs. 4,500 crore annual revenue milestone in FY26, reporting resilient

growth despite severe milk shortages, rising procurement costs and weak flush season conditions. The company recorded a 9% year-on-year increase in revenue to Rs. 4,526 crore, while Q4 revenue rose 10% to Rs. 1,157.6 crore. Growth was largely driven by strong demand for value-added products such as curd, paneer, ice cream and consumer fats. The value-added products (VAP) segment grew 13% during FY26 and contributed over 35% of total revenue. The company also witnessed rapid expansion in e-commerce and quick-commerce channels. However, elevated raw milk prices and supply-side challenges impacted profitability. Heritage Foods stated that continued investments in premium products, procurement infrastructure, processing capacity and distribution expansion would support long-term growth and strengthen market presence across India.

## **INTERNATIONAL News**

### **International Dairy Market:**

#### **Overview**

As per the USDA data gathered during 27<sup>th</sup> April to 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2026, international market overview are as follows:

#### **EUROPEAN**

##### **Western European**

A major dairy cooperative in the United Kingdom increased its conventional milk price for May as global dairy markets showed signs of stabilization, while several other processors maintained unchanged pay prices amid ongoing market uncertainty. Expanding milk supplies and balanced commodity markets supported the price increase, although processors continue to closely monitor volatile demand conditions and geopolitical risks affecting the broader dairy outlook.

Meanwhile, recent livestock growth in Germany has been driven by three key factors: improved herd retention, an increasing number of young replacement animals and operational adjustments linked to changing market conditions. Industry observers noted that the increase does not necessarily indicate stronger profitability, but rather reflects evolving production strategies and herd management decisions as dairy producers respond to economic pressures and shifting supply requirements.

##### **Eastern European**

Russia exported approximately US\$12.5 million worth of dairy products to Belarus during the first quarter of 2026, with cheese, fermented dairy products and milk powders accounting for a significant share of the trade. The increase highlights continued integration within regional dairy markets, even as rising cheese inventories and expanding production volumes are adding pressure to broader market conditions.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's dairy sector continues to face mounting challenges due to the combined impact of war-related disruptions and rising energy costs, which are increasing expenses for fuel, fertilizers, logistics and farm operations. Although industrial milk production has remained relatively resilient, lower farmgate milk prices and higher input costs are tightening producer margins and slowing production growth, particularly in regions affected by infrastructure damage, labour shortages and ongoing security risks.

#### **OCEANIA DAIRY MARKET**

##### **New Zealand**

In March 2026, New Zealand's dairy exports increased in both volume and value compared to the same month

last year. Export volumes totaled 386,616 metric tonnes, up 16.4% year-on-year. In value terms, dairy exports for the month reached US\$1.53 billion, representing a 6.7% increase compared to March 2025. On a year-to-date basis, export volumes are now 3.2% higher following a slight downward revision to February's figures.

Following Global Dairy Trade Event 403, a New Zealand-based milk price forecasting group maintained its milk price forecast at NZ\$9.73 per kilogram of milk solids (kgMS). The spot value of milk increased to NZ\$10.22/kgMS from NZ\$10.01/kgMS. Commodity prices at the auction were mixed, with butter and cheddar prices weakening while most other dairy products recorded gains.

The milk price forecast for the 2026–27 season has been revised upward from NZ\$9.62/kgMS to NZ\$9.98/kgMS. The updated forecast is based on an NZD–USD exchange rate assumption of 0.58532 and includes a projected range of NZ\$9.66/kgMS to NZ\$10.62/kgMS. The September 2026–27 Milk Price Futures contract was last settled at NZ\$9.74/kgMS. New Zealand's dairy export earnings are estimated at NZ\$24.2 billion, with the top three export destinations being China (25%), United States (12%) and Australia (13%).

##### **Australia**

Milk production data for March 2026 released by Dairy Australia showed that Australia's total milk production reached 612.3 million litres, an increase of 16.4 million litres, or 2.8%, compared to the same period last year. Milk production in Victoria, Australia's largest milk-producing state, increased by 2.7% year-on-year. Production also recorded year-on-year growth in New South Wales (up 5.2%), Queensland (up 5.8%) and Tasmania (up 4.6%). However, March milk production declined in South Australia (down 4.5%) and Western Australia (down 1.0%).

For the 2025–26 season through March 2026, Australia's cumulative milk production totaled 6,492.6 million litres, down 42.9 million litres, or 0.7%, compared to the corresponding period of the 2024–25 season.

Although global milk supplies remain relatively strong, persistent market challenges continue to create uncertainty across the dairy sector. Rising costs of fuel, fertilizers and feed ingredients are increasing logistics and food production expenses. Global urea prices have reportedly risen by 110% year-to-date due to limited availability. In addition, the Baltic Dry Index, which tracks the cost of transporting major raw materials by sea, has increased by 94% compared to a year ago.

**.....continue on page 74**

.....continue from page 72

**SOUTH AMERICA DAIRY MARKET**

Milk production in South America is ranging from steady to stronger growth. Input costs such as energy and fertilizers are increasing, which could act as a constraint on milk production growth. Dairy farmer margins across the region are generally declining. According to the latest 2026 milk production data from CLAL, milk production in Argentina and Uruguay is higher compared to the previous year, although milk prices are moving in the opposite direction. Stakeholders noted that milk prices increased during the first quarter for Brazil and Chile. Industry sources indicate that the number of dairy cows in Argentina is increasing, while Uruguay’s dairy herd is declining. In Uruguay, more cows were slaughtered during the first quarter of 2026 compared to the same period last year. Milk powder production remains strong as seasonal milk output is sending large volumes of milk to processing facilities. Domestic demand in South America is steady; however, stakeholders indicate that inflation could negatively impact demand from local buyers. Interest from buyers outside South America is increasing as global supply disruptions continue. Industry sources also suggest that potential policy decisions, such as proposed Brazilian legislation to prohibit the reconstitution of milk powder, could reduce demand in certain cases. No significant changes in cheese production or demand have been reported.

**Nestlé Launches Young Dairy Leaders Programme**

Nestlé has launched its first-ever Young Dairy Leaders Programme in partnership with First Milk to support the

**Event CALENDAR**

**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](mailto:idfwds@idfwds2026.com)

next generation of dairy farmers in the United Kingdom. The initiative aims to strengthen long-term sustainability and resilience across the dairy sector by developing leadership, business management and regenerative farming skills among young dairy professionals. Initially, 25 young farmers and industry participants linked to First Milk’s supply network will undergo practical training focused on climate resilience, regenerative agriculture, sustainability and modern dairy business operations.

The programme has been developed with Training and Education and emphasizes hands-on learning tailored to the realities of contemporary dairy farming.

This initiative comes at a crucial time as dairy sectors globally face rising production costs, labour shortages, climate-related challenges and ageing farmer populations. Nestlé stated that the programme aligns with its broader commitment to sustainable dairy supply chains and regenerative agriculture.

**GDT Event 404: Powder Rally Strengthens as Milk Fats Remain Weak**

The latest Global Dairy Trade (GDT) auction, Event 404 held on May 19, 2026, indicates that the global dairy market is gradually moving towards a more balanced phase, with milk powders continuing to support market sentiment while fats and cheese remain under pressure. The results suggest that market leadership has shifted away from the strong fat rally witnessed earlier this year towards a more stable, powder-driven demand environment.

According to official GDT results, Whole Milk Powder (WMP) increased by 1.2% to USD 3,772/MT, while Skim Milk Powder (SMP) rose marginally by 0.2% to USD 3,552/MT, reflecting resilient import demand despite cautious buying behaviour. Butter recovered by 2.5% to USD 5,674/MT after weakness in the previous auction, while Mozzarella gained 2.9% to USD 4,127/MT. Lactose also edged up by 0.5% to USD 1,529/MT.

However, weakness persisted in the fat segment. Anhydrous Milk Fat (AMF) declined by 1.6% to USD 6,344/MT, and Cheddar fell by 1.3% to USD 4,560/MT, indicating that buyers are becoming increasingly selective in procurement.

The auction also highlighted broader geographical diversification in dairy demand. Buying interest is now expanding beyond China into Southeast Asia, the Middle East, North Africa and parts of Africa, creating a more stable and less volatile global market structure.

Analysts believe the market is now entering a consolidation phase where powders are driving stability, while fats may remain range-bound in the coming months. For India, stronger WMP and SMP prices above USD 3,500/MT continue to support export opportunities, although tight domestic milk supplies are likely to keep local dairy prices firm.