

## Appeal to the Indian Dairy Industry

As you are aware Indian Dairy Association (IDA) organizes Dairy Industry Conference (DIC) in one of the four zones of the country annually. This year, the DIC was organized at Kolkata by IDA (East Zone) during 19-21<sup>st</sup> February, 2015.

At the conference we received a representation from a group of women dairy delegates comprising of dairy graduates, post graduates and even research scholars. They informed that despite successfully completing their dairy education, they were unable to secure employment in the sector. Although their qualifications were at par with the male students, the dairy processing plants refuse them employment on the grounds that the plants run in shifts and working during night shifts would compromise the women's security and safety.

This discriminatory attitude of not employing qualified dairy women is alarming and IDA condemns it vociferously. The government has always advocated gender equality in several other sectors including IT and BPOs with women working during night shifts without any problems. Security and safety of women should automatically be the responsibility of the local government/authorities of the area.

IDA requests the management of the cooperative and private dairy sector to ensure that women are not denied employment on the aforementioned grounds. It advocates a certain percentage of reservation for women should be initiated giving them equal chances and ensuring their security and safety at the work place.



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