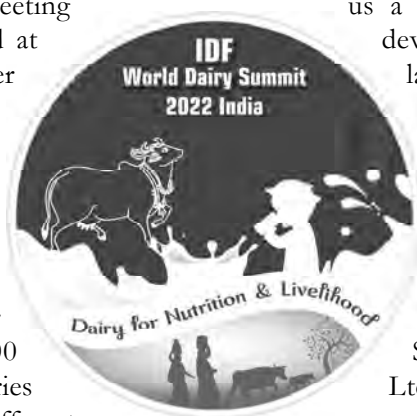


Volunteering in the IDF World Dairy Summit 2022: Feedback as Dairy Technology Students*

World Dairy Summit 2022, the annual meeting of the global dairy sector was organized at India Expo Centre and Mart in Greater Noida, (Delhi NCR) by the International Dairy Federation (IDF) focusing on the theme 'Dairy for Nutrition and Livelihoods' during September 12-15, 2022. This summit was organized in India after a long gap of 48 years. It was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. More than 1500 participants from over 30 different countries participated in the summit. Farmers from different states of India gathered together at the summit to acquire new visions and knowledge about the latest innovations and technology in the dairy field. As part of this Mega event, we two of us, being student members of Indian Dairy Association (IDA), got the opportunity to work as volunteers representing IDA Kerala Chapter.

As the summit was designed to be a carbon-neutral event, we were asked to collect data on carbon emissions to calculate the carbon footprint of the overall event. The work was divided among 37 volunteers from different institutions. For ensuring this, the event management team took utmost care in the organization of the program like making the event a plastic free event, ensuring that the energy used for the whole event was solar and the food was arranged locally to reduce transportation thereby reducing carbon emission. Organizers also tried to maximize the use of electric vehicles for the transportation of participants. During the process of data collection, we had the opportunity to meet renowned persons from Dairy sector including the President-IDA and Managing Director of GCMMF Dr. R.S. Sodhi; Chairman of KCMMF (Milma) Shri K.S. Mani and several other entrepreneurs. This assignment also helped us to interact with people from different parts of India and abroad.

The technical sessions conducted every day gave



us a new perspective on the systems and developments in dairy sector. The sessions largely discussed about making complete potential of cows: like full utilization of milk, cow dung, urine and also bones of dead cows. There was an interesting session on women empowerment through dairying. Representatives from some of the women owned dairy cooperatives like Shreeja Mahila Milk Producer's Company Ltd., Tirupati which is the world's largest women-owned Milk producing company; Maahi Milk Producer Company Limited, Gujarat; Sakhi Mahila Milk Producer Company Limited, Rajasthan and Asha Mahila Milk Producer Company, Rajasthan, adorned the session. They discussed digitalizing the dairy and animal husbandry sector so as to increase the farmers' income and to improve the traceability of animals and products.

The latest technologies introduced include storage of the database of the dairy sector in digital clouds, improving the access of farmers to new products, technologies, information, and ideas through online platforms and mobile applications, technology to procure milk faster, treat diseases and provide early information and prevention of diseases using technology. The discussions also focused on the challenges faced by the farmers and the whole dairy sector including farmer income, animal health, feed and fodder quality, and also the problems faced by startups. The major topic of discussion was the carbon neutrality in the dairy sector and its effect on environment. IDF provided methods to calculate the carbon emission as well as the carbon footprint that is produced in the dairy sector. They also suggested that the use of upcoming technologies and methods of dairying that can vastly decrease carbon emissions in this sector.

There were also events like product launching and idea launching where different companies and organizations

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introduced their new products like premium cow ghee from Maahi - Gir Amrut; Ghee from Shreeja Co-operative; Paneer from Asha Mahila Milk Producer Company Ltd., etc. The new ideas introduced by different companies are expected to improve the living conditions of the farmers by increasing their income and their milk productivity. New equipment which could increase milk procurement, innovative dairy farm machinery and software applications that could ease access to information was also introduced. There were also technologies that helped to collect and store day-to-day farm activities and other data for future research and traceability.

The main attraction of the event was the expo where different companies, milk marketing cooperatives and other organizations which are venturing in dairy and animal husbandry or allied sectors exhibited their products, services, and innovative technologies. The expo was a hotspot where people could learn and understand about the different companies and cooperatives and what they are specialized in. The major companies and organizations at the expo included Amul, Nandini, Mother Dairy, Verka, Indian Immunologicals Ltd., Tetra Pak, Nestlé, Parle, Aashirvaad, Fill Pack, Milma, GRB, Maahi, Sudha, Shreeja, IDMC, Superior Animal Genetics, Indian Peroxide, Rekart Pvt. Ltd, Milky mist, Moomark powered by Stellapps, etc.

The Summit was successful in bringing together

ideas and knowledge from all around the world. This event provided a platform for different groups to connect with each other helping them develop better and more powerful technologies for the future. This Summit also made sure that the future of dairying will propagate and practice zero carbon methods as a step towards preventing climate change.

Being part of such a prestigious event gave us exposure to different fields in the dairy sector. This event has also given us an opportunity to connect with people all around the world. We were also able to realize the problems faced by farmers around India and abroad. The solutions presented by the speakers motivated us to think out of the box and understand that technology and scientific practices could revolutionize the Dairy sector. We would like to thank IDF for bringing World Dairy Summit to India. We are also thankful to NDDDB for organizing, guiding, and providing us with all the facilities, making our stay an incredible experience. We would like to extend our gratitude to IDA South Zone and IDA Kerala chapter for selecting and providing us with the opportunity to attend such a prestigious event.

Last but not least we would like to thank Dr. M. Jayakrishna (Manager, NDDDB) and Dr. Aparna Sudhakaran V. (Secretary, IDA Kerala Chapter) for helping us get the most out of the World Dairy Summit.

