

Obituary

Shri Ravindra Apate



1953-2024

Indian Dairy Association (IDA) shares its deepest condolences with the Kolhapur Zilla Sahakari Dudh Utpadak Sangh Ltd., 'Gokul Dairy', Kolhapur and its milk producer members on the sad demise of their Former Chairman Shri Ravindra Apate, on 6th November 2024.

Shri Apate, Gold Medalist in M.Sc., Agriculture, Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, Maharashtra, 1974, used his knowledge and experiences in improving the productivity of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry in Kolhapur district, throughout his life.

During his two terms as Chairman, Kolhapur Dudh Sangh, in 2008 and 2019, he had used his knowledge in animal husbandry as a tool for Socio-Economic transformation of rural masses. This is evident from his contribution in organizing 271 dairy cooperative societies in Ajara taluka of Kolhapur district, which has improved the lives of thousands of rural families. Throughout his life, Shri Apate played a pivotal role in the growth of cooperative institutes and the economic upliftment of farmers in the milkshed. He was deeply committed to social work, organizing numerous welfare initiatives such as blood donation camps, sports events and training camps for farmers.

Shri Apate was also instrumental in bringing advanced dairy technologies from abroad. He visited several countries, including Italy, Germany, France, Switzerland, Singapore, Thailand, Mauritius and China to learn and introduce best practices for the growth of value added milk products of Gokul Dairy.

Under his leadership, he transformed the traditional dairy business into a modern dairy industry. Shri Apate placed special emphasis on high-quality breeding and the nurturing of local calves, reducing the dependency on purchased milch animals. His efforts resulted in the registration of approximately 5.25 lakh calves, with 83,000 calves receiving subsidies worth around Rs. 40 crore for their nurturing. Under his guidance, Gokul Dairy, has developed a Milk Replacer Feed for calves, 'Mahalaxmi Milk Replacer' ! It provides essential nutrients for the growth of calves and saves milk. The Gokul Dairy has patented Mahalaxmi Milk Replacer with the Government of India. Additionally, he introduced the Cattle Insurance to protect dairy animals from diseases and natural calamities.

Throughout his career, Shri Apate held numerous prestigious positions, including Director, Kolhapur Zilla Sahakari Dudh Utpadak Sangh, Gokul Dairy, 32 years; Chairman and Trustee, Ajara Transport Pvt. Ltd., 30 years, Chairman, Shree Janata Shakari Dudh Sanstha, 42 years, and Vice Chairman & Trustee of Maharashtra Rajya Sahakari Dudh Mahasangh Maryadit, Mahanand Dairy, Mumbai, 2010 to 2014. In recognition of his outstanding work in dairy management and animal husbandry, he was awarded the "Adarsh Gotha Puraskar" in 2007.

Shri Apate is survived by two sons and their families. His untimely passing away is a great loss to the dairy industry, the cooperative movement and the farmers of Kolhapur. His legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.

Indian Dairy Association pays rich tributes to Late Shri Ravindra Apate and prays eternal peace for his soul.