



51st Dairy Industry Conference

– A Brief Report

51st Dairy Industry Conference (DIC) was organized at Samrat Ashoka International Convention Centre, Gandhi Maidan, Patna (Bihar) after a gap of 6 years, brought together industry professionals to discuss global dairy trends, farm innovations, sustainability within the sector, climate change, nutrition, and health with the objective of making India a hub of dairy innovations and solutions. Around 2500 national and international dairy leaders, experts, farmers, processors and producers attended two Memorial Lectures, one Farmers' Session, a CEOs' Session, 2 Industry presentations and 11 technical sessions. The concurrent Dairy Expo was a grand event featuring the latest dairy technologies and advancements. It remained a major highlight, offering a glimpse into the future of the industry spread over 3261 sq. mts. in 2 exhibition halls in which about 72 business firms showcased their manufacturing and service capabilities. In addition to the delegates, an estimated 1500 trade visitors visited the stalls to know the latest developments and innovations in the farm and processing technologies.

The 51st Dairy Industry Conference was organized at Samrat Ashoka International Convention Centre, Gandhi Maidan, Patna during March 6-7-8, 2025. This marked Patna's return as a host city after a six-year interval, with the previous conference having been held in 2019. The theme of the 51st DIC was "**Indian Dairying: Global Growth; Local Strength**," attracted approximately 2,500 delegates, including professionals, experts, administrators, researchers, farmers, and students from across India and internationally.

A highlight of the event was the modern Dairy Exhibition,

spanning 3,261 square meters across two exhibition halls. It featured 72 business firms showcasing their manufacturing and service capabilities. In addition to the delegates, an estimated 1,500 trade visitors explored the stalls to learn about the latest developments and innovations in farm-to-processing technologies.

Preparations for the DIC commenced five months prior, involving a dedicated core team for planning and execution. Stakeholder engagement was enhanced through video clips and social media advertisements, generating significant interest among viewers.



Dignitaries at the Inaugural dais after Lighting the Ceremonial Lamp (L to R):

Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh, Chairman, IDA (East Zone); Dr. Dheer Singh, Director & Vice Chancellor, National Dairy Research Institute; Smt. Varsha Joshi, Additional Secretary (CDD/IT), DAHD, GoI; Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman, NDDB; Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, Hon'ble Minister of State, FAH&D, GoI; Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, GoI; Smt. Alka Upadhyaya, Secretary, DAHD, GoI; Dr. N. Vijaya Lakshmi, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar; Dr. R.S. Sodhi, President, IDA; Shri D.K. Srivastava, Chairman, IDA Bihar State Chapter and Secretary General, 51st DIC; and Shri Sanjeev Sinha, CEC Member, IDA.



Chief Guest Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Gol released the Souvenir of the Conference during the Inaugural Session

This prestigious event brought together industry leaders, policymakers, and experts to discuss innovations, sustainability, and the future of the dairy sector in India.

The 51st DIC was started with Shankhnad and ceremonial Lightning of Lamp during the Inaugural Session by the Chief Guest Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Gol; Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, Minister of State, FAH&D, Gol; Smt. Alka Upadhyaya, Secretary, DAHD, Gol; Smt. Varsha Joshi, Additional Secretary (CDD/IT), DAHD, Gol; Dr. N. Vijaya Lakshmi, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar; Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman, NDDDB; Dr. R.S. Sodhi, President, IDA; Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh, Chairman, IDA (East Zone); Shri D.K. Srivastava, Chairman, IDA Bihar State Chapter and Secretary General, 51st DIC; and Shri Sanjeev Sinha, CEC Member, IDA.

Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh delivered the Welcome address of the Conference. Dr. R.S. Sodhi, President-IDA reflected on India's remarkable dairy journey, stressing the need for continued government support to sustain sectoral growth. Dr. N. Vijaya Lakshmi, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar informed the audience about the Animal Husbandry & Dairying situation of the state. Smt. Alka Upadhyaya, Secretary, DAHD, Gol also addressed the gathering. Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman, NDDDB delivered the Keynote address.

Hon'ble Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Gol released the Souvenir of the Conference.

The 16th **Dr. Kurien Award - 2025** was bestowed upon Dr. R.P. Aneja, former President-IDA and Ex- Managing Director, NDDB.

"The **Life Time Achievement Award**" was presented to Dr. J.S. Punjra, former Executive Director, NDDDB and a renowned multi-skilled international Dairy Expert. Various other awards namely - the Patronship and Fellowship, and the Best Women Dairy Farmers were conferred on the selected professionals/farmers.

Post-award ceremony Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, Minister of State, FAH&D, Gol and Chief Guest Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying addressed the august audience.

51st DIC Exhibition was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Gol, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh. It was a grand exhibition featuring the latest dairy technologies and advancements remains a major highlight, offering a glimpse into the future of the industry.

The two oration lectures in memory of **Dr. Verghese Kurien** and **Prof. M.R. Srinivasan** were delivered, after the inaugural programme. Dr. R.P. Aneja delivered Dr. Verghese Kurien Memorial Lecture on "**What can we learn from the green, white and rainbow revolutions to plan for a sustainable dairy industry?**" He provided a thought-provoking comparison between India's Green, White, and Rainbow Revolutions, highlighting their impact on national food security and economic growth.

Dr. B.N. Mathur, Former Director, NDRI, Karnal & NAARM, Hyderabad, delivered Prof. M.R. Srinivasan Memorial Lecture on "**Institutional User's Perspective of Quality Attributes of Ghee**". In his Lecture, he shared insights into the quality requirements of ghee for institutional and B2B segments, emphasizing the need for stringent standards and quality assurance.

Poster Session was declared open by Dr. B.N. Mathur.

The day ended on a vibrant note with a cultural program showcasing the rich diversity of India's folk traditions. The performances featured popular folk dances from various states, creating a mesmerizing spectacle for the audience. The evening commenced with a soulful Ganesh Vandana, performed by none other than Dr. N. Vijayalaxmi, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar, setting the tone for the celebrations.

The second and third days of the conference focused on technical sessions, each comprising 4-5 speakers moderated by a Chairman and Co-Chairman. The technical sessions and their recommendations were summarized separately. On the second evening, folk songs were presented by Shri Alok Kumar, the singer of the popular song "Ye Prayag Raj Hai," creating an enthusiastic atmosphere. The organizers thanked and felicitated the sponsors with mementos.

The **Valedictory Session** took place on the afternoon of March 8, 2025. Dr. R.S. Sodhi, along with Vice Presidents Shri A.K. Khosla and Shri Arun Patil; Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh, Shri D.K. Srivastava, and Shri Sanjiv Sinha, graced the occasion. The Chairman of the Technical Program Committee and Chairman, IDA (West Zone) **Dr. J.B. Prajapati** summarized the key points and recommendations emerged from the conference.



During this session, prizes were awarded for the Best Papers published in *Indian Dairyman* and the *Indian Journal of Dairy Science*, as well as for the Best Posters presented during the Poster Session of the 51st DIC. During the four **Poster Sessions**, a total 40 papers were presented. Out of the 40 poster papers presented, 11 were given prizes for the Best Posters under different categories.

The organizers expressed their gratitude to all committees for their contributions to the conference's success. They specifically thanked the sponsors, the management of the Samrat Ashoka International Convention Centre, VA Exhibitors, Dharmraj Event Management, and the caterers for their support. The services of Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh, Shri D.K. Srivastava, Shri Sanjiv Sinha, Dr. J.B. Prajapati, Dr. Sanjiv Kumar, Dr. Suryamani, Shri R. Jha, Shri Avanish Kumar, Shri Suresh Kumar,

Smt. Meera Singh, Smt. Amita Sinha, Miss Sweta Kumari, Shri Hariom Gulati, Shri Narendra Pandey and IDA HQ team, Shri Bijon Chakraborty, Shri Ashwani, Shri Ishan, Shri Mukesh and team, Shri P.K. Sinha, Shri Amit Kr. Suman, Shri Summy Kishore, Shri Dharmendra Kumar, Shri Sanjay Kumar, Smt Saumya and the entire transportation team, Both Event Management team – Art and Work and Dharmraj infotech, Both the caterers Maurya and Amrapali and last but not least, Mr. Yogesh of Kantiraj and team were highly appreciated by all.

The excerpts of the addresses of the dignitaries are as follows:



SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH
Hon'ble Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, GoI

In his address, Chief Guest Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal

Husbandry & Dairying, GoI said that IDA should develop system of capturing data of Cooperative and Private Sectors and share the same with government for the policy framework and long term plans.

He further said that all stakeholders should help government by creating awareness for the FMD vaccination to make India FMD free. The vaccination will be provided twice every year for five years and this will be totally free of cost to the farmers.

Once India is FMD free, it will also help Industry for the export to the various world markets.

The Hon'ble Minister also requested the industry to increase the coverage of Organised sector by enhancing reach out to Unorganised areas and thereby improving milk procurement in unorganised areas.

This will bring more milk and milk products in packed form and improve the quality of the product. It will also minimise the possibility of adulteration. Today of the total milk produced in the country, 12% is procured by Cooperatives, 12% by Private sector, 37% is retention of milk at farmers level for self-consumption and the balance 39% is procured and managed by Unorganised sector.

Industry should help by procuring more so that share of Unorganised moves to Organised sector in overall interest of all stakeholders.



PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL
Hon'ble Minister of State, FAH&D, GoI

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, Hon'ble Minister of State, FAH&D, GoI highlighted the significance of the dairy sector in India's economy and the contribution of farmers in

strengthening the industry. He underscored the importance of Artificial Insemination (AI) and sex-sorted semen technology in improving indigenous cattle productivity and increasing the population of high-yielding cows.

In agriculture sector, contribution of dairy and fisheries are maximum. Data shows that contribution of dairying in Indian economy is around 5%.

Highlighting the remarkable achievements in milk production, he said that in the last 10 years, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, milk production has increased around 63.56%.

Prof. Baghel also requested the ICAR Scientists to focus more on IVF and Sex-sorted semen technology in AI so that dairy farmers get benefitted.



SHRI SUDHIR KUMAR SINGH
Chairman, IDA (East Zone)

Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh, Chairman, IDA (East Zone) welcomed all for participating in the 51st DIC at Patna. He appreciated the Chief Guest Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Hon'ble

Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, GoI who agreed to inaugurate the 51st DIC in a very short notice. He also welcomed Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, Minister of State, FAH&D, GoI for his gracious presence.

He also welcomed Smt. Alka Upadhyaya, Secretary, DAHD, GoI; and Smt. Varsha Joshi, Additional Secretary (CDD/IT), DAHD, GoI on the occasion. Shri Singh lauded the support received from Dr. N. Vijaya Lakshmi,

Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar in organizing the event. Shri Singh welcomed Dr. Dheer Singh, Vice Chancellor and Director, NDRI other dignitaries.

He also expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all our sponsors, partners and organizing committees who have made this event possible.

He told the participants to use this opportunity to forge new collaborations, explore new innovative solution and shape the future of Indian dairy industry.



DR. R.S. SODHI
President, Indian Dairy Association

In his Presidential address, Dr. R.S. Sodhi said that production cost per litre should be reduced with improved breeding, feeding and circular economy. This will offer competitive edge.

He further said that there should a change in mind-set of policy makers, economists, customers and organisations, especially with respect to the price paid to the farmers. In fact it is farmers' income and not inflation in price!

He cautioned that we must improve Supply Chain efficiency so that price paid to the milk producer remains at the same level as in past years, *e.g.* 80% to 85% of the consumer's rupee used to be paid to the farmers.

Another important point raised by Dr. Sodhi is that Long term Investment in infrastructure which was made available to Cooperatives during Operation Flood Program should also be offered to Private Sector so as to increase the reach to more farmers and rural areas, which will bring more milk to organised sector.

He said that there is a need to provide additional support towards the Eastern India dairy development as currently less milk is coming to the organized dairy sector from this region. Dr. Sodhi requested the policy makers to reduce the high GST on Ghee and other dairy products to boost their consumption. He also suggested for Buffer Stocking of SMP and White Butter to take care of seasonal fluctuations and adverse effects on milk prices.

SMT. ALKA UPADHYAYA
Secretary, DAHD, GoI

In her address, Smt. Alka Upadhyaya, Secretary, DAHD,



Gol highlighted the significance of sustainable dairy practices, technological advancements, and policies aimed at supporting dairy farmers. She recognized IDA's role in engaging dairy sector stakeholders and emphasized the need for productivity enhancement through genetic advancements in indigenous breeds.

In order to keep efficiency and to maintain quality as per FSSAI norms in processing, we must put our efforts to bring more milk towards organized sector. As suggested by Dr. Sodhi, we will definitely pay more attention towards allocating additional funds for the dairy infrastructure development in the eastern and north-eastern states. Another very important point raised by Dr. Sodhi is how to attract youth towards dairy sector as younger generation is not showing interest in this sector.

We need to create awareness among youths that dairy sector can be a good income generating option for them.



DR. N. VIJAYA LAKSHMI
Additional Chief Secretary,
Government of Bihar
Dr. N. Vijaya Lakshmi, Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Bihar informed the august gathering about the animal husbandry status of Bihar. She said that Bihar is having the 4th largest cattle

population in the country. In terms of buffalo population, Bihar is the 5th largest in the country. She shared insights on Bihar's dairy development, particularly COMFED's expansion strategy, which includes exploring international markets for dairy exports.

Speaking on the challenges, she said that we need to genetically improve our breeds. We must ensure the AI quality. Sex-sorted semen technology is a way forward. Producing good quality dairy product is the only way we can export our products in the international market.

INDIAN DAIRYMAN

Our goal should be to increase the income of the farmers. We look forward to a kind of growth for dairy sector which should be commercially viable and sustainable by using the method waste to wealth management.



DR. MEENESH SHAH
Chairman, NDDB

Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman, NDDB delivered his Keynote address. He spoke about India's dairy success story, from Amul's inception to Operation Flood, which made India the world's largest milk producer. Dr. Shah also discussed "White

Revolution 2.0," aiming to strengthen dairy cooperatives through a 'Whole of Government' approach." He emphasized empowering 8 crore plus small and marginal dairy farmers through cooperative structures. He highlighted the promotion of indigenous breeds through Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) and advanced reproductive technologies. Dr. Shah outlined Dairy Vision 2047, focusing on boosting productivity, expanding organized dairy, enhancing value-added products, increasing India's share in global dairy trade, and achieving Net Zero GHG emissions. Full text of his Keynote address is being published in this issue vide page no. 64-72.



SHRI D.K. SRIVASTAVA
Chairman, IDA Bihar State Chapter and Secretary General, 51st DIC

Vote of Thanks was delivered by Shri D.K. Srivastava. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Guest Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Fisheries,

Animal Husbandry & Dairying for inaugurating the 51st DIC. He also thanked Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, Minister of State, FAH&D, Gol for agreeing to grace this occasion. He thanked Smt. Alka Upadhyaya, Secretary, DAHD,

Gol; and Smt. Varsha Joshi, Additional Secretary (CDD/IT), DAHD, Gol for gracing this event with their presence.

He also thanked Madam Dr. N. Vijaya Lakshmi, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar for explaining the dairy development status of the Bihar State. He thanked Dr. Dheer Singh, Director and Vice Chancellor, NDRI for gracing the inaugural session with his presence. He thanked Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman,

NDDB for delivering the Keynote address on the occasion. Shri Srivastava thanked Dr. Sodhi, President-IDA for guiding to organize this event.

He also thanked Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh, Chairman, IDA (East Zone) for his tremendous efforts in making the inaugural session a grand success. He also thanked the farmer delegates for their participation in large number to make this event a grand success. ■

VALEDICTORY SESSION



Chief Guest Inaugurating the Exhibition



Best Paper Award Ceremony

