

Farmers' Session



Farmer's session was organized, with **Smt. Renu Devi**, Hon'ble Minister of Animal Husbandry & Resources, Government of Bihar, as its Chief Guest. The session provided a platform for dairy farmers to voice their concerns and discuss key challenges affecting their livelihoods.

Smt. Varsha Joshi, Additional Secretary (CDD/IT), DAHD, Government of India, chaired the session. Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh, Chairman, IDA (East Zone) co-chaired the session with the following panellists:

Dr. R.S. Sodhi, President-IDA; Shri Ram Chandra Chaudhary, Chairman, Ajmer Milk Union; Shri Shamalbhai Patel, Chairman, Amul; Shri Sanjay Kumar, Chairman, VPMU, Patna; Shri Rupesh Raj, MD, PDP, Patna; Shri K.S. Mani, Chairman, MILMA; and Smt. Vidhu Rajeev, Best Dairy Women Farmer Awardee, IDA (South Zone).

Dr. R.S. Sodhi welcomed Smt. Renu Devi, Hon'ble Minister of Animal Husbandry & Resources, Government of Bihar and other dignitaries on the dais. For any policy makers, food should be available all the time to the growing population and at the same time price of the food should not increase. Milk producers are interested in getting good price of their produce. Customer wants to get quality product at an affordable price. Dairy processors want to earn profit as much as possible. So the only solution for farmer is that how they can reduce the cost of their cattle feed that covers 70% of the total cost of milk production. They can go for good quality breed so that they can get more per animal. In order to get more price of their produce, they should keep best breed of

buffaloes to get maximum fat in the milk.

Shri Shamalbhai Patel, Chairman, Amul addressed the gathering. Dr. Amit Vyas, MD, Amul Dairy spoke in Hindi on his behalf. He explained that Shri Patel wants that farmer should use the technology of sex-sorted semen. We must inform the milk producer about the schemes/grants available for them from Government of India. Also, the recommendation of this session should be conveyed to the policy maker so that farmers get benefited.

Shri Ram Chandra Choudhary, Chairman, Ajmer Milk Union raised some of the important points during his address in the farmer's session. Those were:- A National Milk Grid should be made for smooth distribution of milk all over the country. Under the scheme "Mid-Day Meal" milk should be given to the children in the school. Dairy sector should be included either in Agriculture sector or in the industry. Dairy Farmers should be given a support price for milk. They should get financial aid if Lumpi disease spreads. T3 seeds of Rizka should be given to overcome the shortage of fodder. Encroachments on pastures should be removed. Pastures should be decided on the basis of half a size of land per animal. Family planning should be done for stray animals so that crops can be saved. Strict laws like life imprisonment should be made for adulteration of milk. Subsidy should be given on export of milk and milk products. The number of dairy processing plants should be increased. Loans should be given at the rate of 4% in villages for dairy and animal husbandry.

Shri Sanjay Kumar, Chairman, VPMU, Patna offered gratitude to IDA and its Central Executive Committee members for giving IDA's Lifetime Achievement award to Dr. J.S. Punjra, who was our ideal. He successfully replicated Anand Model in Bihar. He was the founder Director of Patna Dairy Project under Vaishal Patliputra Dugdh Utpadak Sahkari Sangh Ltd. 1981 Patna Dairy Project was started under the guidance of





Late Dr. V. Kurien with just 400 litre initially and now the current procurement and processing capacity has reached at 5.5 LLPD. Total 3200 village level societies having 2 lakh milk producers are attached with us. Under this, 1000 Women cooperative societies are also connected with Patna Dairy Project.

Shri K.S. Mani, Chairman, MILMA informed that MILMA is giving highest percentage of sale proceeds (83%) to our milk producers. Over and above, 98.5% of our earned profit are given back to the milk producers in the form of cattle feed subsidy and other schemes.

Smt. Vidhu Rajeev presented the success story of her

dairy farms and explained how she is able to earn a good profit from the farm.

Smt. Varsha Joshi actively remain engaged with the farmers, attentively listening to their issues. She reassured them that the government's vision for the dairy sector is well aligned with farmers' needs, and all challenges are being addressed with urgency to ensure timely solutions and sectoral growth.

Lastly **Smt. Renu Devi** talked about dairy development in Bihar and growth story of COMFED and how the government is working in the direction of farmers and the current status of dairy development in the state.

CEO Panel Discussion



From L to R: Shri Rupesh Raj, MD, VPMU; Shri Jaidev Biswas, MD, JMF (Medha); Shri R.K. Malik, ED, IDMC; Dr. R.S. Sodhi, President-IDA; Shri Rahul Kumar Srivastava, COO, Parag Milk Foods, Mumbai; Dr. Amit Vyas, MD, Amul Dairy, Anand; and Shri Kuldeep Sharma, Chief Editor of Dairynews7x7.

At the conclusion of the Inaugural Day Conference, a high-profile CEO Session was organized, bringing together stalwarts of the Indian dairy industry to share their vision for the future. The discussion focused on how the sector is gearing up to meet the evolving demands of sustainability, traceability, and global market expansion.

The session was moderated by Shri Kuldeep Sharma, Chief Editor of Dairynews7x7, who set the stage by outlining the key priorities of global dairy leaders were:- Growth, Resilience, and Sustainability. He was joined by an esteemed panel of industry leaders who provided valuable insights into the strategies shaping the next phase of India's dairy evolution.

The esteemed panellists were:- Shri Rupesh Raj, MD, VPMU; Dr. Amit Vyas, MD, Amul Dairy, Anand; Shri Rahul Kumar Srivastava, COO, Parag Milk Foods, Mumbai; Shri Jaidev Biswas, MD, JMF (Medha); and Shri R.K. Malik, ED, IDMC.

Shri Kuldeep Sharma concluded the session with a compelling appeal to the dairy industry, urging stakeholders to recognize livestock as a central pillar of the sector. He emphasized the need to view all dairy development programs from the perspective of the cow, ensuring a more inclusive and sustainable approach to growth.