

Obituary

Dr. R.M. Acharya



1934-2026

The Indian Dairy Association (IDA) mourns with profound sorrow the passing of Dr. R.M. Acharya, a Senior Editorial Board Member of IDA and former Deputy Director General (Animal Sciences), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), who breathed his last on 20th September 2026 in Faridabad. His demise is an irreparable loss to the Indian agricultural and Animal Science community.

Born on 14 April 1934 in Nabha, Punjab, Dr. Acharya obtained his B.V.Sc. & A.H. degree from Punjab Veterinary College, Hisar, affiliated with Punjab University, in 1956. He subsequently earned his M.S. from Ohio State University in 1962 and Ph.D. from Iowa State University, US in 1966.

An internationally renowned scientist in animal genetics and breeding, Dr. Acharya was an expert in animal genetic resources, a visionary scientific administrator and an institution builder. His research encompassed animal genetics and breeding, biometrics, and research planning, monitoring and evaluation.

He began his professional career at Punjab/Haryana Agricultural University in 1956, serving in various capacities, including Lecturer, Associate Professor, Dairy Cattle Breeder, Professor and Head of the Department of Animal Breeding. He subsequently served as Director of the Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute during 1970–78 and 1979–80, and as ICAR Professor of Eminence in Animal Genetics at HAU, Hisar, during 1978–79.

As Deputy Director General (Animal Sciences), ICAR, from 1981 to 1991, he played a significant role in guiding national animal science research programmes and strengthening the research system. He also served as Member Secretary of the ICAR (GVK Rao) Review Committee and the ICAR Planning Group for the Eighth and Ninth Five-Year Plans.

His contributions to the documentation and conservation of indigenous livestock genetic resources were particularly noteworthy. His acclaimed publication, Sheep and Goat Breeds of India, published by FAO, contributed significantly to the scientific documentation of India's diverse indigenous breeds. He advocated scientific breeding strategies, selection, performance recording, Open Nucleus Breeding Schemes and conservation of superior genetic material. His research covered sheep, goats, cattle and buffaloes, with particular emphasis on genetic improvement, productivity, adaptability and conservation under Indian conditions. He also recognised the importance of emerging technologies, including biotechnology, genomics and bioinformatics, in livestock research.

Dr. Acharya contributed to international research and development programmes associated with FAO, UNDP, the World Bank, IDRC, SDC and the Ford Foundation. In 1991, he served as Advisor, Animal Husbandry, to the Government of Iran and as a consultant to the UNDP Buffalo Breeding Project in Iran. He also chaired the Small Ruminant Production Network in South Asia.

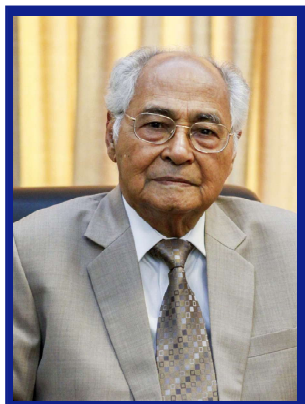
A distinguished professional leader, he served as President of several scientific organisations, including the International Goat Association and Indian Society of Animal Genetics and Breeding. He was a Fellow of several national and international scientific bodies and was honoured as Patron of the Indian Dairy Association in the year 2018. Among his recognitions was the ISBD Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Indian Dairy Association pays its heartfelt tribute to this eminent scientist whose contributions to animal genetics, breeding, livestock development and conservation will continue to inspire generations. Dr. R.M. Acharya's lifelong dedication to science and livestock development will always be remembered with respect and gratitude.

May the departed soul attain eternal peace.

Obituary

Shri Rama Prasad Banerjee



1927-2026

The Indian Dairy Association (IDA) mourns the sad demise of Shri R.P. Banerjee on 6th September 2026. A distinguished mechanical engineer, entrepreneur and Fellow of the IDA, his professional journey was closely associated with the growth and development of India's dairy and food-processing sectors. His exemplary contributions to the industry and the IDA remain a lasting part of his professional legacy.

Shri Banerjee began his professional career in 1953 as a Project Engineer with APV Engineering Company, a multinational organisation, in Calcutta. In this capacity, he demonstrated exceptional capability in executing projects for the dairy and food-processing industries across the country. His assignments covered a wide geographical area, from Srinagar to Kanyakumari and Gujarat to Guwahati. His project portfolio included work for prestigious organisations such as Horlicks in Punjab, Glaxo Laboratories,

Aligarh for baby food, HUL in UP, Nestlé and numerous dairy and food-processing projects. He also contributed to projects for defence establishments in Jabalpur, Secunderabad and Palam Airport.

In 1966, Shri Banerjee embarked on his entrepreneurial journey by establishing Chemical Vessels Fabricators Private Limited (CVF). The company secured its first order from Bhatinda Dairy, followed by a significant association with NDDDB in 1969. Through this association, he became actively involved in the Operation Flood programme, one of the landmark initiatives responsible for transforming India into the world's leading milk-producing country. His association with Dr. Verghese Kurien continued for more than two decades.

During the 1980s, Shri Banerjee founded SSP Pvt. Ltd. along with Shri Tapas Chatterjee. Under his leadership, the organisation became involved in designing energy-efficient plants and equipment for the dairy, food-processing, chemical and pharmaceutical industries. Its products reached more than 42 countries, while the SSP R&D Centre became one of Asia's major research and development facilities, receiving approval from the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

Beyond business, Shri Banerjee actively participated in CII missions to various African countries and advocated measures for employment generation and industrial development in small-scale industries. "His professional and institutional associations included the Indian Dairy Association, PHD Chamber of Commerce, Confederation of Indian Industry, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry and Indian Dairy Engineers Association. He served as an active member of the IDA Central Executive Committee and also held the position of Treasurer.

His contributions received several honours, including the Life Time Achievement Award from All India Achievers Forum, the Life Term Achievement Award in Food Processing Projects from Business Sphere, the Leader of Tomorrow – Engineering Products award from ET NOW, and a Certificate of Honour from the Indian Dairy Engineers Association.

Shri Banerjee is survived by his family, friends, colleagues and a wide circle of well-wishers in the dairy fraternity. The Indian Dairy Association conveys its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and pays its rich tributes to the departed soul.

May the Almighty grant strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss, and may the noble soul rest in eternal peace.

Obituary

Shri V.V. Krishna Kumar



1955-2026

The Indian Dairy Association (IDA) mourns with profound sorrow the passing of Shri Krishna Kumar, a Life Member of the Association, who departed for his heavenly abode on 23th August 2026. His demise marks the loss of a distinguished dairy professional and a committed contributor to the development of India's dairy cooperative movement.

Born on 15th August 1955 in a village in Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh, Shri Krishna Kumar was an alumnus of the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), where he obtained his M.Sc. in Dairy Science. He subsequently pursued a Post Graduate Diploma from the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), Anand, which provided him with a strong academic and professional foundation in dairy development and cooperative management.

Shri Krishna Kumar commenced his professional career with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in 1978, embarking on a long and distinguished career spanning more than three decades. During his tenure with NDDB, he held several important and diverse responsibilities, reflecting his commitment to strengthening dairy cooperatives and enhancing the capabilities of farmers and dairy professionals.

His assignments included organising member education programmes and professional training initiatives for personnel working in dairy cooperatives. He served as Head of the NDDB State Office at Hubli, Karnataka, where he was closely involved in coordinating the Operation Flood programme in North Karnataka. He also served as a Team Leader for organising Oilseeds Cooperatives under NDDB's Edible Oil Project. His subsequent responsibilities included serving as Head of the Farmers' Training Centre at Erode, Head of New Generation Cooperatives (NGC), Chittoor, and Head of NGC, Tadepalligudem. He also played an important role in facilitating the conversion and transformation of dairy cooperatives in Andhra Pradesh with regard to governance and regulatory frameworks under the Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies Act, an enabling legislation enacted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

After taking voluntary retirement from NDDB, Anand, Shri Krishna Kumar continued his association with the dairy sector and joined the Krishna District Milk Producers Cooperative Milk Union, Vijayawada, as General Manager – Milk Procurement and Production Enhancement Operations. He continued in this position until 2013, contributing his experience and expertise to strengthening milk procurement and production enhancement initiatives.

His professional contributions and commitment to the cooperative dairy sector will be remembered with respect and gratitude by his colleagues, dairy professionals and members of the farming community. Shri Krishna Kumar is survived by his wife, Mrs. Indira, and daughters, Usha Jayanthi and Swathi.

The Indian Dairy Association conveys its deepest condolences to the bereaved family and shares their grief at this irreparable loss. The Association pays its rich tribute to the memory of Late Shri Krishna Kumar and acknowledges with gratitude his valuable contributions to the dairy cooperative movement.

May the Almighty grant strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss, and may the noble soul rest in eternal peace.

Obituary

Dr. Bandla Srinivas



1964-2026

The Indian Dairy Association (IDA) mourns with profound sorrow the sad demise of Dr. Bandla Srinivas, former Secretary, Indian Dairy Association (South Zone), and Principal Scientist, ICAR–National Dairy Research Institute, Southern Regional Station (ICAR–NDRI-SRS), Bengaluru. Dr. Srinivas passed away on 11th March 2026, leaving behind a rich legacy of professional service and valuable contributions to dairy science and animal nutrition. He was a senior and dedicated member of IDA from the South Zone and remained closely associated with the Association’s activities throughout his professional career.

Dr. Srinivas had an impressive academic background. He completed his B.Sc. from Andhra Loyola College in 1984, followed by the Indian Dairy Diploma from NDRI, Southern Regional Station, Bengaluru, in 1986. He obtained his M.Sc. from Allahabad Agricultural Institute in 1988 and his Ph.D. from NDRI, Karnal, in 1992. In addition to his academic qualifications, he pursued postgraduate diplomas and an MBA from IGNOU, reflecting his commitment to continuous learning and professional development.

Over a distinguished career spanning more than 35 years as an Animal Nutrition Scientist, Dr. Srinivas made significant contributions to the fields of ruminant nutrition, metabolic plasticity and feed resource optimization. His scientific work addressed important aspects of animal nutrition and efficient utilization of feed resources, areas that have considerable significance for improving livestock productivity and supporting sustainable dairy development. Through his research, professional interactions and guidance, he contributed to the advancement of knowledge in animal nutrition and to the development of the dairy sector.

Dr. Srinivas also served the Indian Dairy Association (South Zone), Bengaluru, with great dedication. As Secretary of IDA (South Zone) and Secretary General of the 42nd Dairy Industry Conference, he played a pivotal role in organizing the prestigious 42nd Dairy Industry Conference held at Chennai, Tamil Nadu, in 2013. His organizational abilities, commitment and spirit of collaboration contributed substantially to the successful conduct of the conference.

As an office-bearer of IDA, he actively worked towards strengthening professional engagement among dairy technologists, researchers and industry stakeholders. His efforts helped foster scientific dialogue, professional development and collaboration within the dairy community. His association with IDA reflected his commitment to bringing professionals together and advancing the cause of dairy science and technology.

The passing of Dr. Bandla Srinivas is a profound loss to the dairy and scientific community. His professional contributions, dedicated service to IDA and commitment to animal nutrition will remain a lasting part of his legacy and continue to inspire future generations of dairy professionals and researchers.

Dr. Srinivas is survived by his family, friends, colleagues and a wide circle of well-wishers in the dairy fraternity. The Indian Dairy Association conveys its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and pays its rich tributes to the departed soul.

May the Almighty grant strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss, and may the noble soul rest in eternal peace.