



52nd Dairy Industry Conference

– A Brief Report

The 52nd Dairy Industry Conference (DIC) was organized at the Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, New Delhi, from February 12 to 14, 2026. The National Capital hosted the DIC after a gap of 14 years, the previous edition being the 40th DIC held in 2012. The Conference brought together industry professionals to discuss global dairy trends, farm innovations, sectoral sustainability, climate change, nutrition, and health, with the objective of positioning India as a hub of dairy innovations and solutions.

Around 2,000 national and international dairy leaders, experts, farmers, processors, and producers attended two memorial lectures, one farmers' session, three industry presentations, one oral presentation by young researchers, and 11 technical sessions, including a CEOs' session. Seventy speakers, including six international experts, deliberated across various sessions of the Conference. The concurrent Dairy Expo was a grand showcase of the latest dairy technologies and advancements. It remained a major highlight, offering a glimpse into the future of the industry. Spread over 18,000 sq. mt., the exhibition featured around 210 business firms occupying 8,000 sq. mt. and showcasing their manufacturing and service capabilities. In addition to the registered delegates, more than 20,000 trade visitors visited the stalls to learn about the latest developments and innovations in farm and processing technologies.

The 52nd Dairy Industry Conference (DIC) was organized at Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, New Delhi from February 12 to 14, 2026. This marked Delhi's return as a host city after a gap of 14-year; the previous (40th) DIC was held in 2012.

The theme of the 52nd DIC, "**Empowering Rural India through Dairy Entrepreneurship**," attracted more than 2,000 delegates, including professionals, experts, administrators, researchers, farmers, and students from across India and abroad.



Dignitaries during the Ceremonial Lamp-lighting Ceremony of the 52nd DIC (L to R):

Guest of Honour Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; Ms. Laurence Rycken, DG, IDF; Dr. Dheer Singh, Director & Vice Chancellor, National Dairy Research Institute; Dr. Rahul Saxena, Chairman, IDA (North Zone); Mr. Gilles Froment, President, IDF; Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman, NDDB; Dr. A.K. Tripathi, Secretary General, 52nd DIC & Chairman, IDA Western UP Chapter; Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh, President, IDA; and the Chief Guest, Shri Chirag Paswan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Food Processing Industries.



A highlight of the event was the modern Dairy Exhibition, spanning over 8,000 square meters in Hall 1 of the Yashobhoomi Convention Centre. It featured 210 business firms showcasing their manufacturing and service capabilities. In addition to the delegates, more than 20,000 trade visitors explored the stalls to learn about the latest developments and innovations in farm-to-processing technologies.

Preparations for the DIC commenced six to seven months in advance, involving a dedicated core team for planning and execution. Stakeholder engagement was strengthened through video clips and social media advertisements, generating significant interest among viewers.

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

The Chief Guest, Hon'ble Union Minister of Food Processing Industries, Shri Chirag Paswan, inaugurated the 52nd Dairy Industry Conference (DIC), while the Guest of Honour, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, inaugurated the concurrent Dairy Expo.

The 52nd DIC was supported by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India; the Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India; the Ministry of

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India; and the National Dairy Development Board.

Two oration lectures in memory of **Dr. Verghese Kurien** and **Prof. M.R. Srinivasan** were delivered prior to the inaugural programme. **Padma Bhushan Dr. R. S. Paroda** delivered the Dr. Verghese Kurien Memorial Lecture. He lauded Dr. Kurien's transformative role in moving India from a milk-deficient nation to the world's largest milk producer, achieving a state of surplus production. He emphasized the need for integrated efforts among the government, research institutions, and cooperatives to address modern agricultural challenges. The lecture also focused on mitigating systemic issues such as climate change, stagnant productivity in certain regions, and the need for better market integration to protect farmer livelihoods.

Building on the industry's call for quality and organization, **Dr. Manmohan Singh Chauhan, Vice-Chancellor of G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology**, Uttarakhand, presented a scientific roadmap for genetic advancement, precision dairying, and milk tailoring during the Prof. M.R. Srinivasan Memorial Lecture. As a customary honorarium, a cheque of Rs. 50,000 was presented to him for delivering the prestigious lecture.

The conference opened with a warm Welcome address



Padma Bhushan Dr. R.S. Paroda delivered the Dr. Verghese Kurien Memorial Lecture at the Inaugural Session. Shri Arun Patil, Vice President-IDA presenting memento to Dr. Paroda.



Dr. Manmohan Singh Chauhan delivered Prof. M.R. Srinivasan Memorial Lecture at the Inaugural Session. Dr. S.S. Mann, Vice President-IDA presenting trophy to Dr. Singh.



by **Dr. Rahul Saxena, Chairman, IDA (North Zone)**, who emphasized the importance of milk producers and farmers as the backbone of India's dairy industry.

Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh, President, IDA, emphasized India's leadership in milk production and dairy's role in rural prosperity, nutrition, and women's empowerment. He called for innovation, entrepreneurship, technology adoption, and sustainability to enhance farmer incomes. Honouring Dr. Verghese Kurien, he urged stakeholders to collaborate in building a globally competitive dairy sector for Developed India 2047.

Dr. Dheer Singh, Director and Vice-Chancellor of the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), provided an analytical overview of the evolution of India's dairy sector. He traced the journey from 17 million tonnes of milk production post-Independence to 248 million tonnes today, largely driven by cooperative models and scientific advancements.

Mr. Gilles Froment, President of the International Dairy Federation (IDF), reflected on India's dynamism, ambition, and leadership in dairy. **Ms. Laurence Rycken, Director-General of IDF**, highlighted the environmental, economic, and social dimensions of sustainability within global food systems.

Amid the recitation of the *Saraswati Vandana*, the ceremonial lighting of the lamp was performed during the inaugural session by the Chief Guest Hon'ble Union Minister of Food Processing Industries, Shri Chirag Paswan and other distinguished dignitaries, including Guest of Honour, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel; Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman, NDDB; Dr. Dheer Singh; Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh; Mr. Gilles Froment; Ms. Laurence Rycken; Dr. Rahul Saxena; and Dr. A.K. Tripathi, Secretary General, 52nd DIC and Chairman, IDA Western UP Chapter.

The **Souvenir of the 52nd DIC** was released by the Chief Guest.

A formal announcement was made regarding the signing of a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between the International Dairy Federation (IDF) and the Indian National Committee of IDF, confirming that **India will host the IDF World Dairy Summit 2027** at the Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai.

The **"Lifetime Achievement Award"** was presented to Dr. Dheer Singh, Director and Vice-Chancellor, NDRI, in

recognition of his exceptional contributions to dairy science, biotechnology, and institutional leadership. An internationally acclaimed biochemist, he has significantly advanced reproductive biotechnology in dairy animals, including pioneering research on buffalo fertility regulation and the development of farmer-friendly diagnostic and ovulation prediction technologies.

Various other awards—namely the **Patrons and Fellows Awards** and the **Best Women Dairy Farmers Awards**—were conferred on selected professionals and farmers. This year, the award amount for the Best Women Dairy Farmers was increased to Rs. 51,000 each, up from the earlier Rs. 30,000.

Following the award ceremony, the Guest of Honour and the Chief Guest addressed the august gathering. Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman, NDDB, delivered the Keynote address.

The **52nd DIC Exhibition** was inaugurated by the Guest of Honour, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel. The grand exhibition featured the latest dairy technologies and advancements and remained a major highlight, offering a glimpse into the future of the industry.

Dr. S.K. Kanawjia, former Principal Scientist, NDRI and CEC Member, IDA, served as Chairman, and **Dr. P. Narender Raju**, Senior Scientist, NDRI and ZEC Member, IDA (NZ), served as Convener for the **Poster Session** and Young Researchers' Screening during the conference.

The day concluded on a vibrant note with a cultural programme showcasing the rich diversity of India's folk traditions. Performances of popular folk dances from various states created a mesmerizing spectacle for the audience, followed by a gala dinner.

The second and third days of the conference focused on technical sessions, each comprising four to five speakers moderated by a Chairman and Co-Chairman. The technical sessions and their recommendations were summarized separately.

The **Valedictory Session** took place after Technical Sessions 10 and 11, held on the morning of February 14, 2026. **Chief Guest Shri K.S. Mani**, Chairman, MILMA; Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh, President, IDA; Vice Presidents Dr. S. S. Mann and Shri Arun Patil; Dr. Rahul Saxena; Dr. A. K. Tripathi; Dr. D. N. Yadav, Head, Dairy Technology, NDRI, Karnal; and Dr. Rajan Sharma, Joint



Director (Research), NDRI, Karnal & Patron-IDA, graced the occasion.

Dr. Rajan Sharma presented an overview of the technical sessions, highlighting key points. 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 52nd DIC.

The 52nd DIC witnessed great enthusiasm from young researchers, scholars, and professionals from the dairy industry. The **Poster Session** was organized under five thematic areas, namely **Dairy production; Dairy quality and safety; Processing and value addition; Business management, entrepreneurship, and extension;** and **Multidisciplinary innovative research in dairy.** Researchers displayed their posters, and a large number of visitors interacted with them to learn about the latest developments and cutting-edge scientific advancements in the field. A total of 69 Poster papers were presented, of which 17 received awards for Best Poster across five categories.

Shri D.K. Srivastava, Chairman of the Bihar State Chapter and Secretary General of the 51st DIC, was felicitated for successfully organizing the 51st DIC at Patna.

As a new tradition introduced for the first time on the concluding day of the Dairy Industry Conference, a ceremonial mashal (torch) was handed over by the hosting Zonal Chairman Dr. Rahul Saxena to the Chairman, IDA (West Zone), Dr. J.B. Prajapati, who will host the next Dairy Industry Conference—the 53rd DIC—in Indore.

Best Maintained Dairy Plant Award

Best Maintained Dairy Plant Award was announced by **Shri R.K. Chugh**, Vice Chairman, IDA (North Zone) for the year 2023–2024 as under:

Cooperative / Government Sector

First Prize: Banaskantha District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Ltd., Faridabad, Haryana

Second Prize: Model Dairy Plant, National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal

Private Sector

First Prize: Ananda Dairy Ltd., Pilkhuwa, District Hapur, Uttar Pradesh

Best Exhibition Stall Award

The **First Prize of the Best Exhibition Stall** under the Dairy

Engineering category was presented to Prompt Equipments Pvt. Ltd. The **Second prize** was awarded to YSM Dairy & Biotech Private Limited. Under the General category, the **First prize** was awarded to SMC Foods Ltd., while the **Second prize** was presented to National Dairy Development Board.

SPONSORS

The **Super Platinum Sponsors** of the 52nd DIC were: Prompt Equipments Pvt. Ltd. and IndiFoss Analytical Pvt. Ltd.

Mother Dairy, Delhi, was the **Platinum Sponsor.**

The **Golden Sponsors** were: Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (AMUL), Anand, Gujarat; Creamy Foods Ltd., Noida (Madhusudan); and Jupiter Benny Group.

The **Silver Sponsors** were: Dodla Dairy Ltd.; Karnataka Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Ltd. (Nandini); and Gyan Dairy.

Principal Sponsors included Parsons Nutritionals Pvt. Ltd. (A Mann Group company); Everest Instruments Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad; Hatsun Agro Products Ltd.; The New India Assurance Co. Ltd.; Vasta Biotech Pvt. Ltd.; Haryana Dairy Development Cooperative Federation Ltd. (Vita); Bihar State Milk Cooperative Federation Ltd., Patna; and Paras Dairy.

The organizers expressed their gratitude to all committees for their contributions to the conference's success. Special thanks were extended to the sponsors, the management of the Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, IEML (event organizer), 3rd Eye Media (media partner), and the caterers for their support. The active participation of the IDA Western UP Chapter team, led by Dr. A. K. Tripathi and State Executive Committee members—Shri Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Shri Chandra Shekar Mittal, Shri T. Tirumal Reddy, and Shri Abhishek Kumar Gupta—along with the IDA Head Office team, was highly appreciated by all.

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

SHRI CHIRAG PASWAN

Hon'ble Union Minister of Food Processing Industries

In his address, Chief Guest Shri Chirag Paswan, Hon'ble Minister, Hon'ble Union Minister of Food Processing Industries, highlighted the critical role of dairy in nutrition and rural livelihoods, the government's commitment to



supportive policies, and schemes such as PMKSY and PMFME that promote processing and entrepreneurship. He stressed the importance of innovation, quality assurance, and value addition to position India as a global dairy hub.

He deeply appreciated the hard work, dedication, and efforts that have strengthened India's dairy industry, enabling it to make its mark not only nationally but also globally. Dairy is essential from the very first moment of life—nature itself demonstrates its importance. As we envision India's future, this sector plays a foundational role in the country's growth.

He urged all stakeholders to focus on how the industry can be further strengthened and how a strong bridge can be built between the government and the sector. If there are challenges—bottlenecks, policy gaps, or regulatory issues—they must be addressed collectively to ensure smoother growth and greater value addition. The goal is clear: by 2047, India should be a developed nation, and the dairy sector is central to this mission. The sector serves as the link connecting villages to cities, heritage to modernity, and production to global markets.

The government has taken several steps to support this vision. Dedicated structures for dairy processing have been created, and schemes such as PMKSY and PMFME provide support for entrepreneurship, quality enhancement, and brand building. Regulatory measures are designed to ensure that only quality products reach consumers. However, policy alone is not enough—success depends on the commitment of stakeholders. Quality must never be compromised; innovation and value addition must remain priorities. By creating high-quality products and reaching national and international markets, India can establish itself as a global hub for dairy.

With organized efforts, robust research and development, and a focus on excellence, every product

can reflect India's capabilities and standards. Together, this potential can be transformed into achievement, ensuring that the dairy sector drives both rural prosperity and global recognition. The hard work, vision, and dedication of stakeholders will play a critical role in shaping India's future as a developed nation.

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying



Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, Hon'ble Minister of State, FAH&D, GoI emphasized the role of animal husbandry as a parallel economy alongside agriculture and highlighted India's remarkable growth in the dairy sector.

He congratulated the Indian Dairy Association for organizing this significant event, which brings together manufacturers, scientists, cooperatives, entrepreneurs, and progressive farmers from India and abroad. Such platforms strengthen collaboration and accelerate innovation in the dairy sector. He also extended his appreciation to Chirag Paswan for adding immense value to this important program.

Animal husbandry has emerged as a parallel economy for farmers. The Prime Minister's vision of doubling farmers' income cannot be achieved through crop farming alone, especially when agriculture remains highly dependent on unpredictable weather conditions. Therefore, diversification into advanced dairy farming, poultry, fisheries, goat rearing, horticulture, modern irrigation, and the use of nano fertilizers is essential to ensure sustainable and stable income growth.

The progress India has made in the dairy sector is truly remarkable. Milk production has increased from 146.3 million metric tons in 2014–15 to 247.87 million metric tons in 2024–25—an impressive rise of nearly 70 percent. The annual growth rate of over 6 percent is



three times the global average. Per capita milk availability has risen from 319 grams to 485 grams per day, surpassing the world average. Today, India contributes nearly 25 percent of global milk production, reinforcing its position as the world's leading milk producer.

Equally important is the improvement in productivity. Per-animal productivity has increased from 1,648 kilograms to 2,251 kilograms annually over the past decade—an increase of more than 36 percent. Transformative initiatives such as the Rashtriya Gokul Mission, artificial insemination programs, sex-sorted semen technology, the MAITRIs initiative, and the establishment of IVF labs have strengthened genetic quality and significantly enhanced farmers' incomes.

Sex-sorted semen technology, in particular, has been a game changer. He appreciated the Chairman of the National Dairy Development Board for making sex-sorted semen doses available at highly subsidized rates. At approximately Rs. 100 per dose, and with conception generally achieved within three doses, a farmer can expect a calf at a cost of around Rs. 300. With nearly a 90 percent probability of female calves, this technology ensures long-term productivity, as a female calf can contribute for seven to eight productive years.

So far, around 150 million artificial inseminations have been carried out using sex-sorted semen, benefiting nearly 56.9 million farmers. These figures have increased one and a half times over the past decade and are expected to double in the near future.

A major structural reform has also contributed to this growth. Under the visionary leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, a separate Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying was established. With dedicated Ministers, a separate Secretary, and focused policy attention, the sector has received the priority it deserves—leading to these encouraging outcomes over the past ten years.

Under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission, around 40,000 MAITRIs have been deployed to provide doorstep artificial insemination services, and 24 Embryo Transfer Technology (ETT) and IVF labs have been set up to enhance bovine productivity. These efforts are strengthening genetic merit and driving higher milk production across the country.

The dairy sector remains the backbone of rural India.

It sustains millions of small and marginal farmers, with women playing a central and transformative role. Through innovation, technology, and collective effort, the dairy sector will continue to drive rural prosperity and contribute significantly to India's journey toward becoming a developed nation by 2047.

DR RAHUL SAXENA
Chairman, IDA (North Zone)



Dr. Rahul Saxena, Chairman, IDA (North Zone), welcomed all participants to the 52nd DIC. He appreciated the Chief Guest, Hon'ble Union Minister of Food Processing Industries, Shri Chirag Paswan, for agreeing to inaugurate the 52nd DIC. He also welcomed Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel,

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, for his gracious presence as the Guest of Honour.

He further thanked Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman, NDDDB; Dr. Dheer Singh, Director and Vice-Chancellor, NDRI; Mr. Gilles Froment, President, International Dairy Federation (IDF); and Ms. Laurence Rycken, Director General, IDF, for their gracious presence.

Highlighting the importance of milk producers and farmers as the backbone of India's dairy industry, he stated that the sector is a blend of cooperative and corporate organizations. He saluted farmers as the "wheels of the dairy industry," without whom the sector cannot progress. He further noted that the conference theme, "**Empowering Rural India through Dairy Entrepreneurship**," aligns with the national vision of a developed India by 2047.

He also expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all sponsors, partners, the organizing committee, and the various committees of the 52nd DIC who made the event possible.



SHRI SUDHIR KUMAR SINGH
President, Indian Dairy Association



In his Presidential address, Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh, President of the Indian Dairy Association (IDA), welcomed dignitaries, scientists, industrialists, and especially farmers. He proudly stated that India is the world's largest milk-producing country, contributing about

25% of global milk production. He emphasized that dairy is a powerful engine for rural prosperity and a pathway to national development, urging all stakeholders—from policymakers to women leaders and youth—to collaborate for sustainable growth.

At the 52nd Dairy Industry Conference (DIC), he noted that the gathering was not merely a celebration of production but a reaffirmation of commitment to innovation in processing, value addition, growth, and increasing farmers' incomes—ensuring that every litre of milk creates greater value for rural India.

Every morning in India's villages, dairy farmers shape the nation's future. The theme of the 52nd DIC, "**Empowering Rural India through Dairy Entrepreneurship**," aligns closely with the vision of a Developed India by 2047—one that can only emerge when rural India thrives.

India's growth and rural prosperity depend on a strong, innovative, and entrepreneurial dairy sector. He urged stakeholders to resolve that every litre of milk should generate higher income, greater efficiency, and new opportunities, and that dairy must stand as a defining pillar of national development.

To policymakers: your frameworks strengthen rural enterprise.

To industry leaders and equipment manufacturers: your innovations enhance competitiveness.

To academicians and scientists: your research advances productivity and sustainability.

To women leaders and self-help groups: you drive grassroots transformation.

To students and young professionals: you will lead the next phase of dairy progress.

Dairying is more than an agricultural activity—it sustains small and marginal farmers, empowers women, and strengthens nutritional security. The convergence of policy, science, and entrepreneurship has made India the world's largest milk producer. This achievement reflects decades of cooperative strength and farmer dedication.

He paid tribute to Dr. Verghese Kurien, whose leadership during the White Revolution transformed India's dairy landscape. As the sector advances toward the next phase of growth, the focus must expand beyond production to productivity, sustainability, value addition, and enterprise development.

Government initiatives such as the National Gokul Mission and the National Programme for Dairy Development, along with infrastructure modernization, are reinforcing the sector. Breed improvement, digital traceability, animal health services, and cold-chain expansion are making dairying more efficient and market-oriented.

Looking ahead to 2047, the central question is how to transform dairying into a scalable rural enterprise. The path lies in entrepreneurship, technology adoption, and stronger market linkages. Youth must view dairying as a modern business, while women's self-help groups and Farmer Producer Organizations should play a central role in value creation.

Agri-tech innovation, automation, and digital integration are essential for strengthening the value chain. At the same time, challenges such as climate change, rising input costs, animal health concerns, and market volatility must be addressed. Sustainability must guide every strategy.

Precision dairy farming, artificial intelligence, genomics, renewable energy integration, and advanced processing technologies are now necessities rather than choices. By equipping farmers with improved genetics, modern technology, infrastructure, and market access, the foundation of rural India itself is strengthened.

Over the next two days, the conference will bring together policymakers, experts, industry leaders, scientists, and progressive farmers to develop actionable strategies for the future of Indian dairy. The Indian Dairy Association remains committed to collaborating with the Government of India, NDDDB, IDF, state governments, cooperatives, private partners, and academic institutions to position



dairy as a driver of rural income, employment, exports, and inclusive growth.

He concluded by expressing hope that the conference would renew the collective commitment to building a globally competitive dairy sector and empowering rural entrepreneurs as India moves toward becoming a developed nation by 2047.

Thank you. Jai Hind. Jai Kisan.

DR. MEENESH SHAH
Chairman, NDDB



Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), delivered the Keynote address, emphasizing the success of cooperative models that support approximately 80 million families. He highlighted sustainability initiatives such as ration

balancing to reduce methane emissions, manure management through biogas production, and the expansion of cooperatives to additional villages to improve farmers' access to markets. The full text of his Keynote address is published in this issue on pages 58–67.

MR. GILLES FROMENT
President, International Dairy Federation



Mr. Gilles Froment, President of the International Dairy Federation (IDF), reflected on India's dynamism, ambition, and leadership in the dairy sector. He praised India's dairy industry as a model of inclusivity, innovation, and trust, delivering safe, high-quality products daily to hundreds of millions of consumers. He emphasized the following

key areas:

- Digital transformation through real-time quality testing, traceability, AI-enabled animal health tools, and data-driven decision-making
- Youth and women's participation as drivers of future dairy entrepreneurship and rural development
- Sustainability through climate-smart practices, renewable energy adoption, waste reduction, and biodiversity conservation.

He reiterated IDF's commitment to science-based, sustainable dairy development and announced that the IDF World Dairy Summit 2027 will be held in Mumbai.

He further stated that India stands at the forefront of global dairy development. The International Dairy Federation is proud to partner with you in advancing a science-based, sustainable dairy future. Thank you for your leadership and for hosting this important conference. I look forward to the IDF World Dairy Summit in Mumbai in 2027.

He concluded by expressing confidence that, together, stakeholders will shape a dairy future that is prosperous, inclusive, innovative, and sustainable.

MS. LAURENCE RYCKEN
Director General, International Dairy Federation



Ms. Laurence Rycken, Director-General of the International Dairy Federation (IDF), highlighted the environmental, economic, and social dimensions of sustainability within global food systems.

Addressing participants—esteemed colleagues and leaders of India's dairy industry—she said it was a privilege to be present and that every visit to India is inspiring. India is not only the world's largest milk producer but also one of the greatest dairy success stories of our time. What the country has built goes beyond scale; it reflects quality, resilience, innovation, and trust.

She expressed sincere respect for the achievements of Indian dairy leaders, including Dr. Meenesh Shah, with whom she said she was proud to work. In a country of immense diversity, India consistently delivers safe,



high-quality dairy products to hundreds of millions of consumers—a result of visionary leadership and disciplined execution.

India uniquely combines inclusivity with quality. Millions of smallholder farmers are integrated into an efficient value chain, with dairy supporting rural livelihoods while embracing modern technology—from digital procurement systems to AI-based animal health tools. With women at its core and strong professional capabilities across the sector, Indian dairying remains resilient, innovative, and globally competitive.

DR. DHEER SINGH

Director and Vice-Chancellor, NDRI



Dr. Dheer Singh, Director and Vice-Chancellor of the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), provided an analytical overview of the evolution of India's dairy sector. He traced the journey from 17 million tonnes of milk production in the post-Independence period to about 248 million tonnes today, largely driven by cooperative

models and scientific advancements. He noted that while India's average milk productivity—particularly for cows—is lower than some global averages, buffalo milk productivity in India exceeds the world average. He also highlighted the significant contribution of smallholder farmers, with about 70–80% owning two to three animals, who remain the backbone of this success.

Dr. Singh outlined cutting-edge research developments at NDRI, including:

- Gene editing to produce lactose-free milk and milk without beta-lactoglobulin to reduce allergies
- Technologies to detect and prevent milk adulteration at both farm and consumer levels
- Development of laboratory-validated milk testing technologies that are soon to be commercialized, enhancing consumer confidence.

He projected milk production targets aligned with the vision of a "Developed India 2047," estimating potential

output between 500 and 600 million tonnes, supported by advances in genomic, reproductive, and breeding technologies.

Dr. Singh also addressed export potential, stating that while production is not a bottleneck, regulatory compliance and labeling requirements currently pose challenges for exports. However, initiatives are underway with government agencies such as the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to strengthen compliance and quality assurance frameworks. These efforts are expected to enable India to expand dairy exports, including products such as ghee, to international markets.

Looking ahead, collaboration among industry, academia, NDDB, and research institutions will be essential. With improved productivity, stronger compliance mechanisms, and continued innovation, the achievements of the Indian dairy sector are poised to grow even further.

DR. A.K. TRIPATHI

Secretary General, 52nd DIC and
Chairman, IDA Western UP Chapter



Dr. A.K. Tripathi, Secretary General of the 52nd DIC and Chairman of the IDA Western UP Chapter, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all participants for making the conference a grand success. The event reflected the collective commitment of farmers, researchers, policymakers, and industry leaders

toward shaping a stronger and more sustainable dairy future for India.

He extended his sincere thanks to the Chief Guest, Shri Chirag Paswan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Food Processing Industries, and Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, for graciously taking time out of their busy schedules to attend this prestigious event organized by the IDA. Their insightful addresses, valuable guidance, and updates on various Government of India initiatives for the development of the dairy sector greatly inspired and informed all of us.

He also conveyed his deep appreciation to the Chairman, NDDDB; Director & VC, NDRI; as well as the President and Director General of the International Dairy Federation, for their esteemed presence. He thanked the President of IDA and the Chairman of IDA (North Zone) for their continuous guidance in organizing the event on such a grand scale.

Special thanks were extended to the press and media, whose support enabled the proceedings and key

messages of the conference to reach a wider audience beyond those present.

Finally, Dr. Tripathi acknowledged with gratitude the valuable contributions of Shri A.K. Khosla, former Vice President of IDA; Dr. S.S. Mann, Vice President of IDA; Shri Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Member of the IDA Western UP Chapter; and all CEC and ZEC members, whose experience, dedication, and teamwork were instrumental in ensuring the success of the Conference. ■

Snapshots of the Conference

Felicitating the Chief Guest of the 52nd DIC



Hon'ble Minister of State, FAH&D, inaugurating the Dairy Expo of the 52nd DIC along with other dignitaries



Chairman, IDA (NZ) presenting a bouquet to the Chairman, NDDDB



Sectional view of the audience

The Secretary General of the 51st DIC was felicitated



Felicitation of the IDA (NZ) and Western UP Chapter team



