



## Recommendations: **52<sup>nd</sup> Dairy Industry Conference**

**Venue: Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, New Delhi**

**Date: February 12-13-14, 2026**

### **THEME: Empowering Rural India Through Dairy Entrepreneurship**

**52<sup>nd</sup>** Dairy Industry Conference was organized at Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, Dwarka, New Delhi during February 12-13-14, 2026. The National Capital (New Delhi) witnessed the Conference after 14 years, the previous one being the 40<sup>th</sup> DIC in the year 2012. The central theme of this year's conference was "**Empowering Rural India through Dairy Entrepreneurship**", reflecting the collective vision of using dairy as a tool for livelihood, nutritional security, and self-reliance. This theme underscores the pivotal role of the sector in enabling entrepreneurship among farmers, youth, and women, while also addressing the broader goals of rural employment and social empowerment. The Conference witnessed two Memorial Lectures, one Farmers' Session, three Industrial sessions, 11 Technical Sessions including CEOs' Conclave, and one session on Oral Presentations by the Young Researchers. Eminent speakers from academia, industry, policy making organizations, laboratories, regulatory bodies and farming communities from India and overseas made presentations in these sessions. A total number of 70 presentations were made in the Conference. Eminent academicians including Directors, Vice-chancellors of animal sciences universities, Joint Directors, industry stalwarts and policy makers conducted the sessions by serving as chairpersons, co-chairmen and rapporteurs.

The recommendations emerged from the Conference are detailed below:

#### **Recommendation from Dr. Verghese Kurien Memorial Lecture by Padma Bhushan Dr. R.S. Paroda, Chairman, TAAS, Former Secretary, DARE and DG ICAR, New Delhi**

- Sustain India's milk self-sufficiency by strengthening cooperative-led dairy development models to ensure surplus production, nutritional security, and enhanced farmer incomes.
- Foster coordinated convergence among government, research institutions, cooperatives, and private stakeholders to address emerging dairy sector challenges effectively.

- Promote climate-resilient dairy systems through research, innovation, breed improvement, feed security, and sustainable natural resource management.
- Implement region-specific strategies to boost milk productivity via genetic improvement, stronger extension services, and adoption of modern technologies.
- Strengthen market integration, value chain efficiency, and transparent pricing to protect farmer interests and ensure inclusive, sustainable dairy growth.

#### **Recommendations from Dr. MR Srinivasan Memorial Lecture by Dr. Manmohan Singh Chauhan, Vice Chancellor, GB Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar**

- Accelerate genetic advancement by integrating gene editing and modern breeding strategies to develop and disseminate superior germplasm for enhanced cattle productivity.
- Conserve and strengthen indigenous germplasm through structured breeding programmes to ensure long-term sustainability and resilience of Indian cattle genetic resources.
- Strengthen precision dairying through advanced reproductive technologies and data-driven herd management systems to improve productivity and reproductive efficiency at grassroots level.
- Promote research in milk tailoring using gene editing and molecular tools to modify milk composition aligned with evolving nutritional needs and functional food trends.

#### **Farmer's Session: "Voices from the Grassroots," focusing on youth in dairying and knowledge sharing**

- Institutionalize structured farmer-to-farmer knowledge exchange platforms to enable progressive dairy farmers to share best practices in scientific cattle management, feeding, and herd health.
- Develop targeted programmes to attract and retain



rural youth in dairying by promoting mechanization, digital tools, start-up support, and improved profitability models that position dairying as a viable entrepreneurial career.

- Strengthen farmer empowerment initiatives by facilitating access to smart farming technologies, balanced nutrition strategies, and extension support to enhance productivity and income, particularly among small-scale dairy farmers.
- Establish a National Fodder Grid linking surplus fodder regions with deficit areas via coordinated infrastructure, logistics, and policy support to stabilise fodder availability, dairy production, and reduce regional imbalances."

### **CEO's Conclave: Dairy Sector Leadership Dialogue**

- Promote a collaborative "coexistence model" by strengthening strategic partnerships among dairy cooperatives, private enterprises, and emerging start-ups to ensure inclusive and competitive growth of the dairy sector.
- Prioritize investment in modern infrastructure, particularly in expanding cold chain logistics and digitalizing milk collection systems, to minimize post-harvest losses and ensure consistent quality and traceability.
- Foster a robust start-up ecosystem by encouraging technology-driven innovations in animal health monitoring, data analytics, and supply chain transparency, supported by policy incentives and incubation platforms.

### **Dairy Production Systems for Empowerment**

- Institutionalize genomics and structured breeding by scaling genomic selection and performance recording through professionally managed Producer Companies to accelerate sustainable genetic gain.
- Mainstream precision nutrition via balanced rations and mineral supplementation to reduce costs and improve animal health and productivity.
- Integrate biomarker-based molecular diagnostics for early estrus and reproductive disorder detection, especially in buffaloes, to minimize economic losses.
- Democratize smart technologies by subsidizing sensor-based monitoring system and digital advisory platforms for small and medium dairy farmers.
- Reorient extension towards net profitability using data-driven herd management and cost optimization rather than focusing solely on higher milk yield.

### **Revolutionizing Milk Processing Technologies for Dairy**

- Transition MSMEs to science-driven automation using standardized process recipes and digital monitoring to ensure consistent quality, scalability, and traceability.
- Standardize multi-enzyme and membrane filtration protocols for high-quality low-lactose dairy products, supported by clear labelling and robust quality control frameworks.
- Pilot and validate biodegradable packaging materials and establish national standards to accelerate sustainable dairy packaging adoption.
- Promote instant and dietetic dairy mixes by standardizing processing techniques that preserve nutritional functionality and meet health-conscious consumer demand.

### **Dairying @2047: Realization the Nation's Dream**

- Scale sexed semen technology and genomic selection tailored to Indian breeds to accelerate genetic gain in productivity and climate resilience.
- Promote alternative feeding technologies, optimizing DDGS use in pelleted feed to reduce input costs and improve feed conversion efficiency.
- Deploy AI-integrated systems at Milk Collection Centers for real-time tracking of animal health, milk quality, and supply chain transparency.
- Institutionalize climate-resilient skilling and strengthen cooperatives to align rural dairy entrepreneurship with the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

### **Climate Resilient Dairying: Lessons and Action Plan**

- Scale methane-reducing feed additives nationally through field demonstrations to achieve proven 18-20% reductions in enteric emissions.
- Promote net-zero-2047 framework focusing on carbon reduction and net-zero-liquid discharge models to standardize water and carbon stewardship across cooperatives.
- Institutionalize ASCI-led precision dairying certifications to skill farmers and extension workers for high-tech, net-zero transitions.
- Scale THI-based climate intelligence advisories in risk hotspots to provide real-time heat-stress management and adaptive livestock care guidance.

### **Emerging Technologies & IoT in the Dairy Value Chain (Scientific Perspective)**

- Promote wearable livestock sensors and AI-driven Edge IoT platforms for real-time herd health alerts and milk quality monitoring during processing.



- Integrate blockchain and RFID-based traceability from farm to retail to ensure immutable milk records, strengthening food safety and export compliance.
- Scale predictive analytics and cloud dashboards at milk collection centers to optimize feeding, forecast yields, and manage cold chain logistics efficiently.
- Deploy computer vision and NIRS for rapid, non-destructive milk composition analysis and adulteration detection across the dairy value chain.

## **Women led Dairy Sector Developments: Evidence-based success stories**

- Scale policy support for Women's Milk Producer Companies and SHGs to ensure institutional leadership, governance capacity, and long-term sustainability.
- Introduce gender-specific credit products with lower interest rates and simplified collateral norms to bridge financing gaps for women dairy entrepreneurs.
- Provide structured training in digital financial literacy and managerial entrepreneurship to transition women from labour roles to enterprise ownership.
- Strengthen market linkages through women-centric regional brands and direct e-commerce and retail access for improved price realization.

## **Enhancing Milk Quality, Safety, and Standards in the Indian Dairy Value Chain**

- Deploy CO<sub>2</sub> flushing during corn storage to suppress fungal growth and reduce aflatoxin contamination in animal feed.
- Scale up ethno-veterinary practices to reduce antibiotic dependence and combat AMR, FMD, and mastitis.
- Update dairy testing standards using advanced rapid analytical techniques to detect emerging adulterants/contaminants; revise hygiene codes, develop standards for all types of dairy equipment, and strengthen capacity building across dairy value chain.
- Institutionalize monetary premiums for farmers maintaining Somatic Cell Counts below 2,00,000/mL to incentivize hygiene and udder health.
- Implement rapid methods to assess protease in milk for preliminary screening to ensure quality of UHT milk.
- Paper-strip sensors developed by research institutes may be adopted by stakeholders for rapid detection of sub-clinical mastitis, antibiotic residues, and adulterants at field level.

## **Globalization of Indian Dairy Sector: Opportunities & Challenges**

- Fast-track FMD-free zones and secure OIE certification to remove trade barriers and expand global market access for Indian dairy products.
- Prioritize export of high-value products such as ghee, dehydrated butter, and casein while strengthening domestic whey protein processing to reduce import dependence.
- Align domestic processing systems with EU, US and SPS standards to bridge regulatory gaps and enhance competitiveness in high-barrier markets.
- Leverage strategic FTAs for favorable tariff access while deploying digital market intelligence systems to monitor global labelling laws and non-tariff measures.

## **Demystifying Dairy Myths: Science, Health, and the Future of Functional Dairy Foods**

- Position bovine milk as a nutritionally superior complete food through evidence-based advocacy highlighting higher protein bioavailability, natural calcium, and Vitamin B12 compared to plant-based alternatives.
- Develop fermented milk functional foods targeting microbiome modulation to address metabolic disorders prevalent in Indian populations.
- Commercialize camel and goat milk as niche functional foods, integrating rearers into organized networks and establishing dedicated processing clusters to preserve unique properties.
- Standardize bioactive extraction from bovine and non-bovine milk for cost-effective nutraceuticals and enforce strict FSSAI labelling to prevent misleading nutritional claims.

## **Empowering Indian Dairying: Marketing Strategies, Good Governance, and Policy Roadmap for Sustainable Growth**

- Establish a Global Dairy Trade Desk to provide real-time intelligence on non-tariff barriers and labelling laws, targeting diaspora-driven markets for products like ghee and paneer.
- Incentivize start-up-cooperative partnerships where tech firms manage last-mile quick-commerce distribution and cooperatives strengthen processing and supply infrastructure.
- Shift marketing focus from liquid milk to high-margin dairy ingredients such as specialized whey proteins and caseinates to reduce price volatility and expand global B2B reach.

**Based on the comprehensive deliberations across all 11 sessions, Six most Critical, High-impact Conference Declarations for the Indian dairy sector:**

- Institutionalize genomic selection and sexed semen technologies through professionally managed Producer Companies to accelerate genetic gain, productivity, and climate resilience in indigenous breeds.
- Implement a national quality-linked incentive policy offering monetary premiums for low Somatic Cell Counts (<2,00,000/ml) and zero antibiotic residues to ensure export-ready milk and address AMR concerns.
- Scale climate-smart, net-zero cooperative models nationwide by integrating methane-reducing feed strategies and zero-liquid discharge systems to align with India's 2047 sustainability vision.
- Establish unified digital traceability across the dairy value chain using AI-integrated sensors and blockchain to automate health monitoring and guarantee immutable food safety records.
- Strategically shift from liquid milk dominance to high-margin dairy ingredients such as whey and caseinate, while securing FMD-free certifications to expand global market access.
- Establish a National Fodder Grid linking surplus fodder regions with deficit areas via coordinated infrastructure, logistics, and policy support to stabilise fodder availability, dairy production, and reduce regional imbalances." ■



Press Conference for the 52<sup>nd</sup> DIC held on 10 February 2026 at IDA House

