



Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Dheer Singh



The IDA's Lifetime Achievement Award is being conferred on Dr. Dheer Singh, Director and Vice-Chancellor, ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to dairy science, agricultural research, and institutional leadership. An internationally acclaimed biochemist, academician, and visionary administrator, Dr. Singh has played a transformative role in strengthening India's dairy sector through science-driven, farmer-centric innovations.

Dr. Singh, after completing his Ph.D. in Dairying (Animal Biochemistry) from the ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), joined ICAR-NDRI in 1994 and rose through the ranks of Principal Scientist, Head of the Department, Joint Director (Research), and currently serves as Director and Vice-Chancellor, ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, leading India's premier dairy research institution.

Dr. Singh's research excellence is globally recognized for its strong foundation in fundamental science and its effective translation into impactful technologies for dairy farmers. His pioneering work in buffalo reproduction, particularly on the transcriptional regulation of the CYP19A1 gene encoding aromatase (P450arom), significantly advanced understanding of fertility regulation in dairy animals. Building on this work, he developed farmer-friendly technologies including PCR-based diagnostics for subclinical uterine infections caused by *Ureaplasma diversum*, and a patented

peptide-based luteinizing hormone antibody for affordable strip-based nanobiosensors enabling ovulation prediction and salivary fern pattern-based estrus detection at the farmer's doorstep. These innovations address reproductive inefficiencies responsible for an estimated national loss of Rs.40,000-50,000 crore annually.

Among his landmark scientific achievements is the successful production of a myostatin (MSTN) knockout buffalo using CRISPR-Cas9-mediated genome editing combined with somatic cell nuclear transfer, establishing a new paradigm in precision livestock biotechnology. Equally path-breaking are his contributions to milk exosome biology. For the first time in India, his laboratory isolated and characterized milk exosomes and demonstrated their utility as natural delivery vehicles for miRNAs, curcumin, and antibiotics, opening new avenues for nutraceutical and therapeutic applications while enhancing milk value and farmer income.

Dr. Singh's scientific excellence has been recognized through numerous prestigious honours, including Fellowship of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), the National Academy of Sciences (India), and the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences. He is also a recipient of the BOYSCAST Fellowship (DST, Government of India), AJAS/CABI Outstanding Research Awards, and several oration and society awards. He has established international collaborations, including with FBN, Germany, and served as visiting scholar and professor at institutions such as Stanford and Cornell Universities. With over 110 peer-reviewed publications, 25 funded research projects, and mentorship of 20 Ph.D. and 23 Master's students, he exemplifies excellence in research and education.

As Director, ICAR-NDRI, Dr. Singh provided visionary leadership that resulted in historic milestones, including India's first cloned indigenous Gir cow "Ganga" and the birth of a gene-edited buffalo calf. Under his stewardship, ICAR-NDRI achieved the 2nd position in NIRF rankings, recorded 100% B.Tech placements, expanded international consultancy, benefited over 50,000 farmers annually, and underwent major infrastructure and administrative transformation with near-perfect budget utilization.

IDA is privileged to bestow this award upon Dr. Dheer Singh in recognition of his exemplary scientific achievements, farmer-centric innovations, and visionary leadership in advancing India's dairy sector.

Patronship

Dr. Rajan Sharma

Dr. Rajan Sharma is being honoured by the Indian Dairy Association (IDA) with the IDA Patronship-2026 in recognition of outstanding services rendered by him in furthering the cause of IDA and the growth of the Indian Dairy Industry.

A distinguished dairy scientist, Dr. Sharma was born on 1st August 1970 in Jalandhar, Punjab. He completed his B.Sc. (Medical) from Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, and subsequently earned his M.Sc. and Ph.D. from the ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute (ICAR, NDRI), Karnal.

Dr. Sharma joined the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in 1997 and has served in progressive roles at ICAR, NDRI, including Scientist, Senior Scientist, Principal Scientist, Head of Division, and Joint Director (Research). He has made significant contributions to milk quality assurance and analytical dairy sciences, notably developing rapid diagnostic methods for assessing milk quality and safety.

Among his innovations are 12 technologies that have been commercialized through licensing agreements with the dairy industry strengthening quality control systems across the sector. An accomplished mentor and researcher, Dr. Sharma has published over 160 scientific papers and filed 16 patents, 15 of which have been granted.

Dr. Sharma has rendered important regulatory services as Chairman, Scientific Panel on Methods of Sampling and Analysis, FSSAI during 2020-2023, and earlier as a member of the Scientific Panel on Milk and Milk Products. He is also a Lead Assessor with NABL.

His work has been widely recognized through several honours, including the NAAS Recognition Award (2023), ICAR's Bharat Ratna Dr. C. Subramaniam Award for Outstanding Teacher (2019), DBT Biotech Product and Process Development & Commercialization Award (2020), and NRDC Meritorious Invention Award (2013).



He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) and was awarded the Erasmus Mundus Visiting Professorship in 2013.

The Patronship is a fitting tribute to Dr. Rajan Sharma for his outstanding contributions to the dairy sector and his enduring commitment to excellence in dairy research, education, and development of the Indian Dairy Industry.



Shri Cephas P. Charles

Shri Cephas P. Charles is being honoured by the Indian Dairy Association (IDA) with the IDA Patronship–2026 in recognition of his outstanding services in furthering the cause of the Association and his significant contributions to the growth and development of the Indian dairy industry.

Shri C.P. Charles is a postgraduate in Dairy Science, specializing in Dairy Microbiology, from the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, and holds an Indian Dairy Diploma in Dairy Technology awarded by ICAR from the National Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore. He has also completed the General Management Programme from IRMA and a Diploma in Business Management from IGNOU.

He served the National Dairy Development Board for 30 years, holding several key positions, including State Director for the Southern Region. He later served as Senior President – Dairy Operations at ABT Industries Ltd., Coimbatore, for ten years and as an Independent Director of ABT Foods Ltd. for over two years. He is currently the Director of Tedmag Dairy Consultancy and Training Academy.

Shri C.P. Charles successfully organized two Dairy Industry Conferences (DICs)—the 46th at Kochi and the 50th at Hyderabad—as well as the Southern Dairy & Food Conclave 2026 at Calicut. He extended significant support in strengthening the financial position of IDA Headquarters, IDA South Zone, and the Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana State Chapters. He was instrumental in establishing the Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Chapters of IDA in the South Zone and continues his efforts to enhance the overall image and growth of IDA in the region.

With over 45 years of continuous service to the dairy industry, Shri Charles has made several pioneering contributions. He successfully arranged long-distance transportation of partly evaporated milk from Aavin, Erode, to Mother Dairy, Delhi, for two years through rail tankers. The milk was transported over a distance of 2,500 km one way within 48 hours without spoilage, marking the longest milk haul in India. He spearheaded the successful implementation of rehabilitation plans for the Ernakulam, Erode, Villupuram, and Dharmapuri Milk Unions. He also steered the commissioning of an automatic dairy and powder plant at C.R. Patna,

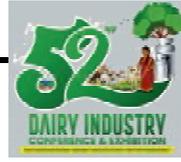


Hassan, for KMF in a record time of 30 months, with the support of the NDDDB engineering team. In addition, he designed several training programmes, prepared handbooks, and administered these programmes for both dairy cooperatives and the private sector.

He has presented technical papers in India and abroad, primarily focusing on efficiency in milk production, sourcing, and processing. He has prepared project reports and designed dairy processing facilities for several African countries. He also designed and commissioned a 4 LLPD dairy plant, a 15 TLPD powder plant, a 100 TPD curd plant, and a 4 TPD paneer plant for ABT Industries Ltd. At the village level, he implemented the Family Farm Concept based on the Israeli model at ABT Dairy.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the Association and the Indian dairy industry, IDA conferred upon him its Fellowship in February 2017.

The Patronship is a fitting tribute to Shri C.P. Charles for his exemplary contributions to the growth of the IDA and the Indian Dairy Industry.



Patronship

Shri Kasturi Lal Arora

Shri Kasturi Lal Arora, popularly known as K.L. Arora, is being honoured by the Indian Dairy Association (IDA) with the IDA Patronship-2026 in recognition of his outstanding services in furthering the cause of the Association and his significant contributions to the growth and development of the Indian dairy industry.

Born on 1st July 1939, Shri Arora has been associated with dairying from an early age. He completed his Machine Shop Engineering course in India (1956–1962) and pursued Postgraduate studies in Industrial Engineering and Management (REFA) in West Germany (1963–1966). He also obtained professional qualifications from the City & Guilds of London Institute in 1964 and worked in Germany for nearly five years, gaining valuable international exposure.

Shri Arora's professional journey in the Indian dairy sector began on 1st November 1969, a journey that continues even today. He started his career with Alfa Laval, Pune (then Vulcan Laval) from 1969 to 1976, followed by his tenure as Production Manager at Mohan Ortmann & Herbst Ltd. (1976–1986) and later as General Manager at Dany Dairy & Food Engineers Ltd. (1986–1990).

In 1990, Shri Arora established MAXCARE Marketing & Technical Services, an ISO 9001:2015 certified organization, providing quality dairy equipment and turnkey solutions to a global clientele. Under his leadership, MAXCARE successfully executed several international projects across Sri Lanka, South Sudan, Nepal, Dubai, Tanzania, Uganda, and other countries. Notably, under FAO–United Nations global tenders, MAXCARE implemented turnkey dairy projects in Afghanistan, including the production of the country's first pouch of safe pasteurized milk. The company also supplied multi-product milk processing plants in Sri Lanka, Iraq, and India, installed nine animal feed plants for dairy unions in Afghanistan, and exported Bulk Milk Cooling units under FAO–UN programmes. Shri Arora has additionally rendered dairy consultancy services in India and abroad, including an assignment for the Government of Italy through its Embassy in Kabul.

As a Life Member of the Indian Dairy Association, Shri Arora has been actively associated with several important committees, including Membership Scrutiny, Finance, Constitution Review, and Nomination of Patrons



and Fellows. As a member of the L&DO Committees, his decisive intervention led to the resolution of a major land dispute, earning him a Letter of Appreciation during the Dairy Industry Conference in 2014. As a member of the Zonal Executive Committee, IDA (North Zone), he has served for nearly 15 years in various capacities, including Member, Treasurer, Vice Chairman, and Secretary. The 40th Dairy Industry Conference (2012) organized during his tenure as Secretary remains widely appreciated for its unique accomplishments. He continues to serve as a senior Zonal Executive Committee Member of IDA (North Zone). He is also associated with the Indian Dairy Engineers' Association.

In 2014, Shri Arora was invited by the FAO–United Nations to deliver a talk in Rome on techno-economic options for milk cooling centres. His distinguished service has been recognized through several honours, including the National Lifetime Achievement Award – Dairying (2023) and other Lifetime Achievement and Excellence Awards.

The Patronship is a fitting tribute to Shri Kasturi Lal Arora for his exemplary contributions to the growth of the IDA and the Indian Dairy Industry.



Prof. Anil Kumar Chauhan

Prof. Anil Kumar Chauhan is being honoured by the Indian Dairy Association (IDA) with the IDA Fellowship for the year 2026 in recognition of his outstanding and sustained contributions toward furthering the objectives of the Association and advancing the growth and development of the Indian dairy industry.

Prof. Chauhan is a Senior Professor in the Department of Dairy Science and Food Technology, Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi, and currently serves as Head of the Department, providing distinguished academic and research leadership. His career is marked by significant contributions to teaching, research, and the strengthening of academia–industry linkages in dairy and food science.

Born on 10th August 1966, Prof. Chauhan completed his M.Sc. (Dairy Science) in 1988 and Ph.D. (Dairy Science) in 1992 from Agra University, Agra. His work has gained international recognition for advancing research and development in food science and technology, particularly through collaborative initiatives that promote product diversification, value addition, and market competitiveness.

Throughout his academic career, Prof. Chauhan has actively engaged in extensive industry-linked research in the dairy and food sectors. His research interests include valorisation of food by-products, fermented dairy systems, nutraceuticals and functional foods, food safety and quality control, and new product development. He has successfully developed and optimised several innovative food products and process technologies, including mango milkshake powder, whey-enriched lycopene concentrate, guava–mango milk drinks, functional quark cheese, fortified fermented dairy products, gluten-free functional cookies, and cost-effective pectin extraction from citrus peels.

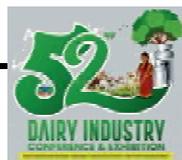
Prof. Chauhan holds Indian Patent No. 495019 for a ready-to-cook multigrain functional khichdi composition. He has served as a Visiting Scientist at the University of Copenhagen (Denmark), Wageningen University, and PTC+ Oenkerk (The Netherlands), and has played leadership roles in scientific committees of international conferences across several countries.



A committed mentor, Prof. Chauhan has guided over 60 master's and more than 15 doctoral and post-doctoral scholars and has authored over 100 research publications, numerous book chapters, and the book *Dairy Technology: A Systematic Approach*. His contributions have earned him several prestigious national and international awards.

Prof. Chauhan is a Life Member of the Indian Dairy Association and has been actively associated with its professional and academic activities.

The Fellowship of the IDA is a fitting tribute to Prof. Anil Kumar Chauhan for his exemplary contributions to the Indian Dairy Association and to the advancement of the Indian dairy industry.



Shri Ashok Kumar Rao

Shri Ashok Kumar Rao is being honoured by the Indian Dairy Association (IDA) with the IDA Fellowship for the year 2026 in recognition of his outstanding and sustained contributions toward furthering the objectives of the Association and advancing the growth and development of the Indian dairy industry.

A distinguished and widely respected leader of the Indian dairy sector, Shri Rao brings over 36 years of rich professional experience encompassing dairy operations, manufacturing excellence, quality and food safety systems, institutional development, and industry leadership. His career reflects an unwavering commitment to strengthening the dairy sector through continuous improvement, innovation, operational discipline, and people-centric leadership in highly competitive and quality-sensitive environments. An alumnus of the ICAR–National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal, Shri Rao graduated in Dairy Technology in 1986 and further enhanced his professional capabilities by earning an MBA in 1999, enabling him to seamlessly integrate technical expertise with managerial and strategic decision-making.

Shri Rao began his professional journey with the Haryana Dairy Development Cooperative Federation Limited, where he gained valuable exposure to cooperative dairy systems, milk procurement, processing operations, and stakeholder engagement. Over the years, he progressed through positions of increasing responsibility and retired in 2021 as General Manager, Dudhmotisagar Dairy (Amul), Dharuhera. In this role, he made significant contributions to operational strengthening, productivity enhancement, product quality improvement, and customer satisfaction. His comprehensive understanding of the dairy value chain enabled him to implement solutions that were technically sound, economically viable, and operationally sustainable.

A hallmark of Shri Rao's career has been his exceptional contribution to manufacturing excellence and quality management. He led the successful implementation of GMP, GHP, HACCP, ISO 9001, ISO/FSSC 22000, 5S, Kaizen, SPC, and Small Group Activities, resulting in measurable improvements in efficiency, cost optimization, workplace hygiene, and product safety. As a Certified Lead Auditor, he played a pivotal role in strengthening



quality governance, regulatory compliance, and preventive food safety cultures within dairy organizations.

Renowned for his people-centric and ethically grounded leadership, Shri Rao has mentored and motivated cross-functional teams, fostered a culture of continuous improvement, and aligned operational excellence with organizational strategy. His leadership has contributed to successful process optimization initiatives, cost reduction programmes, and the launch of new dairy products that emerged as key growth drivers.

In addition to his professional achievements, Shri Rao has rendered distinguished service to the profession and academia. He has served two terms as Executive Member, IDA (North Zone) and presently holds the position of Vice Chairman, IDA (North Zone), contributing significantly to professional development, knowledge dissemination, and industry-wide collaboration. Since 2007, he has also served as General Secretary, NDRI Graduates Alumni Association, strengthening alumni engagement, supporting students, and reinforcing the vital linkage between industry and academia.

The Fellowship of the IDA is a fitting tribute to Shri Ashok Kumar Rao for his exemplary contributions to the Indian Dairy Association and to the advancement of the Indian dairy industry.



Dr. Rakesh Kumar

Dr. Rakesh Kumar is being honoured by the Indian Dairy Association (IDA) with the IDA Fellowship for the year 2026, in recognition of his outstanding, sustained, and multifaceted contributions toward furthering the objectives of the Indian Dairy Association and advancing the growth, innovation, and sustainability of the Indian dairy industry.

Dr. Kumar serves as Professor-cum-Chief Scientist and Head of the Department of Dairy Microbiology at the Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Dairy Technology (SGIDT), Bihar Animal Sciences University (BASU), Patna. With more than three decades of professional experience, he has emerged as a distinguished dairy technologist, academician, researcher, and extension specialist. His expertise spans dairy microbiology, fermented and functional dairy foods, probiotics and synbiotics, food safety, dairy entrepreneurship, and skill development, contributing significantly to the modernization of India's dairy industry.

Born on 1st July 1965, Dr. Kumar completed his B.Sc. (Dairy Technology) from SGIDT, Patna, in 1987, followed by an M.Sc. in Dairying (Dairy Microbiology) from SMC College of Dairy Technology, Anand, Gujarat, in 1990. He subsequently earned his Ph.D. in Dairy Microbiology from the West Bengal University of Animal and Fisheries Sciences, Mohanpur, West Bengal.

He brings nine years of rich industrial experience, having served in senior managerial roles at reputed dairy organizations in Haryana and Punjab, including Karnal Milk Foods Ltd., Rahul Dairy and Allied Products Ltd., Kurukshetra, and Verka Milk Plant, Gurdaspur. His industrial contributions strengthened quality assurance systems, promoted value-added product development, enhanced cooperative operations, and ensured compliance with national and international quality standards.

In the academic and extension domain, Dr. Kumar served for nine years at Rajendra Agricultural University (RAU), Pusa, and five years at Bihar Agricultural University (BAU), Sabour, where he worked as Senior Scientist-cum-Head and Programme Coordinator. His efforts significantly advanced dairy research, technology transfer, entrepreneurship development, and large-scale skill training, benefiting thousands of farmers, rural youth, and women. Since joining BASU in 2017, he has provided visionary leadership in curriculum



modernization, laboratory upgradation, expansion of probiotic and food safety research, and strengthening industry-institution linkages. Dr. Kumar has authored 45 research papers, 2 books, 12 book chapters, 25 extension publications, and 30 popular articles.

A Life Member of IDA since 2005, he has received several accolades, including Best KVK Scientist, Distinguished Scientist, and Excellence in Teaching and Extension Awards.

The Fellowship is a fitting tribute to Dr. Rakesh Kumar for his exemplary contributions to the IDA, visionary leadership, academic excellence, and enduring impact on the Indian dairy industry.

Fellowship

Shri Kirit K. Mehta

Shri Kirit K. Mehta is being honoured by the Indian Dairy Association (IDA) with the IDA's Fellowship for the year 2026 in recognition of his outstanding contributions toward furthering the objectives of the Indian Dairy Association and his transformative role in the growth and development of the Indian dairy industry, particularly in the private milk producers' sector.

Born on 26th January 1956, Shri Mehta is a distinguished dairy entrepreneur from Kolhapur district of Maharashtra and the Managing Director and Partner of the Sphurti Group of Companies. With a professional journey spanning over five decades, he has been instrumental in building one of the region's most successful dairy enterprises. Under his visionary leadership, a modest city-based dairy handling merely 1,000 litres of milk per day was progressively transformed into a modern, large-scale industrial operation with a processing capacity of 5,00,000 litres per day, offering a diversified portfolio of more than 20 value-added milk and dairy products.

Shri Mehta has been a pioneer of modernization and innovation in the regional dairy sector. He was among the first to introduce polythene-packed milk pouches in the Kolhapur region, significantly improving milk hygiene, packaging standards, and consumer access. His continuous efforts toward modernization of processing infrastructure, quality assurance, and product diversification have contributed to strengthening the competitiveness of the private dairy sector.

A strong advocate of farmer-centric development, Shri Mehta has worked closely with milk producers at the grassroots level to promote clean milk production, scientific breeding practices, and modern dairy farming techniques. Through the growth of the Sphurti Group, he has directly and indirectly supported the livelihoods of nearly 20,000 rural families, fostering inclusive growth and bringing sustained prosperity to milk producers in the region.

Recognizing the challenges faced by private milk producers in a cooperative-dominated landscape, Shri Mehta co-founded the Kolhapur–Sangli District Milk Producers and Processors Welfare Association. As a Vice President of the Association, he has played a key role in articulating industry concerns, engaging with central



government departments on product standards, pricing issues, and regulatory fairness, and advocating for policy measures ensuring a level playing field for all stakeholders in the dairy sector.

Shri Mehta has maintained a close and meaningful association with the Indian Dairy Association. He served for two terms (2015–2022) as a Member of the Central Executive Committee (CEC) of IDA, New Delhi, representing milk producers. In this capacity, he actively participated in national-level deliberations, policy discussions, and committees addressing critical challenges confronting the Indian dairy industry, particularly those impacting private processors and farmers.

The Fellowship is a fitting tribute to Shri Kirit K. Mehta for his visionary entrepreneurship, farmer-centric approach, industry leadership, and dedicated service to the Indian Dairy Association and the Indian dairy industry at large.



Dr. Kajal Sankar Roy

Dr. Kajal Sankar Roy is being honoured by the Indian Dairy Association (IDA) with the IDA Fellowship for the year 2026 in recognition of his outstanding and sustained contributions toward furthering the objectives of the IDA and advancing the growth and development of the Indian dairy industry.

Dr. Roy, presently serving as Principal Scientist at the ICAR–National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology (NIANP), Bengaluru, is an eminent animal physiologist whose distinguished career has significantly enriched research, education, and extension in dairy animals and other livestock species in India. Renowned for his scientific excellence, innovation, and unwavering commitment to national priorities, he has played a pivotal role in strengthening the scientific foundations of sustainable and climate-resilient dairy production systems.

Born on 3rd January 1971 at Khaspur in the North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, Dr. Roy completed his B.V.Sc. & A.H. in 1993 from Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV), Mohanpur, West Bengal. He earned his M.Sc. (Dairying) in Animal Physiology in 1995 and Ph.D. in Animal Physiology in 2005 from ICAR–National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal, Haryana, and subsequently undertook postdoctoral research at the University of Arizona, Tucson, USA, in 2010.

Dr. Roy’s research encompasses critical areas of stress physiology, reproductive physiology, and adaptive mechanisms in livestock, with particular emphasis on improving reproduction, productivity, and animal welfare across diverse agro-climatic conditions. His pioneering work on endocrine responses, nutritional modulation, and physiological adaptation—especially under heat stress and other environmental challenges—has generated valuable insights of immense relevance in the context of climate change. Notably, his research outcomes have translated into practical, field-oriented solutions that enhance animal performance, resilience, and farm sustainability.

A prolific scientist, Dr. Roy has published numerous high-impact research papers in reputed national and international journals and has contributed scholarly chapters to scientific books. His widely adopted innovations, including “Reprovardhak” and the “ProKisAna Protocol” for oestrus induction in different



animal species, have made tangible and lasting impacts at the field level.

Equally commendable is his contribution to human resource development. Dr. Roy has guided postgraduate and doctoral students, mentored young scientists, and fostered a culture of scientific excellence and ethical research. A committed member of professional bodies, he has been associated with the Indian Dairy Association for nearly three decades, serving in various executive capacities and contributing significantly to its growth. Through extensive training programmes, workshops, seminars, and conferences, he has effectively bridged the gap between research and practice.

The Fellowship of the IDA is a fitting tribute to Dr. Kajal Sankar Roy for his exemplary contributions to the Indian Dairy Association and to the advancement of the Indian dairy industry.

Best Dairy Women Farmer Award

Smt. Kuljit Kaur



Smt. Kuljit Kaur, wife of Shri Harpreet Singh, has been selected for the Best Dairy Woman Farmer Award-2026 by **Indian Dairy Association (North Zone)**, in recognition of her exceptional dedication and outstanding contribution to the growth and development of the Indian dairy sector.

Smt. Kuljit kaur hails from Haruwal village P.O Dera Baba Nanak, Distt. Gurdaspur, Punjab. For the past two years, she has been supplying milk to the Milk Union Gurdaspur.

Smt. Kuljit kaur is a highly skilled dairy farmer and a role model for her peers, managing a herd of eighty (80) dairy animals on her farm. She has adopted the latest scientific techniques in dairying and has produced an impressive 8,92,247 litres of milk, earning Rs. 3,47,28,485/- during the Calendar year 2025 (Jan-Dec).

Her dedication and hard work have earned her numerous accolades.

The Best Dairy Woman Farmer Award – 2026 conferred upon Smt. Kuljit Kaur is a fitting recognition of her outstanding achievements, exemplary contributions, and continued service to the dairy sector in Haruwal village P.O Dera Baba Nanak, Distt. Gurdaspur, Punjab, and to the Indian dairy industry as a whole.

Smt. Bimla Devi

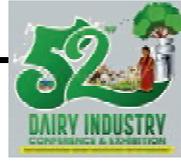


Smt. Bimla Devi, wife of Shri Ashok Mahto, has been selected for the Best Dairy Woman Farmer Award-2026 by **Indian Dairy Association (East Zone)**, in recognition of her exceptional dedication and outstanding contribution to the growth and development of the Indian dairy sector.

A resident of Itkithakurgaon village, District Ranchi, Jharkhand, Smt. Bimla Devi has been supplying milk to the Jharkhand State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited since its inception in 2014, demonstrating unwavering commitment and loyalty to the cooperative movement for the past 12 years. Through her consistent efforts and perseverance, she has emerged as an experienced dairy farmer and a source of inspiration for the farming community in her region.

She manages a progressive dairy farm with a herd strength of 30 animals, adopting modern and scientific practices in dairy management. During the previous year, she supplied 76,594.60 litres of milk, earning a total income of Rs. 30,05,612.97, reflecting her efficiency, professionalism, and dedication to quality milk production.

The Best Dairy Woman Farmer Award – 2026 conferred upon Smt. Bimla Devi is a fitting recognition of her outstanding achievements, exemplary contributions, and continued service to the dairy sector in Itkithakurgaon village, District Ranchi, Jharkhand, and to the Indian dairy industry as a whole.



Best Dairy Women Farmer Award

Dr. Sau. Poonam Prashant Patil

Dr. Sau. Poonam Prashant Patil has been selected for the Best Dairy Woman Farmer Award-2026 by **Indian Dairy Association (West Zone)**, in recognition of her contribution to the growth and development of the Indian dairy sector.

Aged 43 years, Dr. Sau. Poonam Prashant Patil hails from Bhadgaon, District Jalgaon, Maharashtra. She has been consistently supplying milk to the Jalgaon Jilha Sahakari Dudh Utpadak Sangh Maryadit, Jalgaon, for the past 15 years, demonstrating unwavering dedication, perseverance, and commitment to cooperative dairying.

A progressive and accomplished dairy farmer, Dr. Patil manages a well-maintained herd of 109 dairy animals and has successfully adopted scientific dairy management practices in breeding, feeding, health care, and overall farm operations. During the previous year, she supplied 109,173 litres of milk, earning a total income of Rs. 62,82,426, reflecting her efficiency, discipline, and strong entrepreneurial acumen.

In recognition of her exemplary performance, Dr. Patil has also been honoured as the Largest Buffalo Milk Pourer in the District. Beyond her individual achievements, she serves as a role model and source of inspiration for women dairy farmers in the region, actively encouraging



the adoption of modern, scientific, and sustainable dairy farming practices.

The Best Dairy Woman Farmer Award – 2026 conferred upon Dr. Sau. Poonam Prashant Patil is a fitting recognition of her significant contribution to the advancement of dairying in Bhadgaon, District Jalgaon, Maharashtra, and to the Indian dairy industry as well.

Best Dairy Women Farmer Award

Mrs. Bindu V.P.

Mrs. Bindu V.P. (Bindu Shaji) has been selected for the Best Dairy Woman Farmer Award-2026 by **Indian Dairy Association (South Zone)**, in recognition of her contribution to the growth and development of the Indian dairy sector.

Born at Sulthan Bathery and presently residing at Mandad, Wayanad, Kerala, Mrs. Bindu V.P. has completed her Plus Two education and has been closely associated with dairy farming since childhood. For her, dairy farming is not merely an occupation but a way of life driven by self-employment, personal fulfilment, and a strong commitment to supplying healthy and quality milk to society.

She has been a dedicated member of Thenery Ksheerasangam since 2018, supplying milk exclusively through the cooperative society, thereby demonstrating her firm belief in the cooperative movement and collective growth of dairy farmers.

Mrs. Bindu manages a scientifically operated dairy unit with a total herd strength of 115 animals, including 67 milking cows. Through systematic management and adoption of modern practices, she pours an average of 850 litres of milk per day, making her farm one of the notable dairy units in the region.

Her farm, spread over 11 acres, is fully devoted to own fodder production, mainly Super Napier grass. She follows advanced feeding practices such as the Total Mixed Ration (TMR) system and maintains two silage pits of 20 tonnes each, ensuring year-round feed availability.

A strong proponent of sustainability, Mrs. Bindu has developed a zero-waste dairy farming model. Dung is processed using a dewatering system and sold as organic manure, while the slurry is utilized for biogas



production and agricultural use, contributing to environmental conservation and additional income.

The farm infrastructure includes loose housing sheds, calf pens, automatic water bowls, an 18-unit milking parlour, open yard grazing facilities, good ventilation, and regular mineral supplementation to ensure animal health and welfare.

With the support of her family and farm workers, and by actively guiding neighbouring farmers, Mrs. Bindu V.P. has emerged as a role model for women-led, modern, and sustainable dairy entrepreneurship.

The Best Dairy Woman Farmer Award – 2026 conferred upon Mrs. Bindu V.P. is a fitting recognition of her outstanding achievements, exemplary contributions, and inspiring leadership in Mandad, District Wayanad, Kerala, and to the Indian dairy industry as well.