

## IDA Tamil Nadu State Chapter and NIFTEM-T Jointly Organizes a National Conference at the NIFTEM-Thanjvur

The National Conference on "Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Start-up Opportunities in Food & Dairy Sector", was jointly organized by the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, Thanjavur (NIFTEM-T) and IDA Tamil Nadu State Chapter (TSC) during October 25-26, 2024. The event was held with grandeur at the NIFTEM-Thanjvur auditorium. It was aimed to explore the dynamic and evolving landscape of the food and dairy industry. The event attracted over 1,200 students from more than 70 colleges and institutions across the country. This conference provided a robust platform for students, academicians, industry leaders, and entrepreneurs to discuss the latest trends, technological advancements, and potential in the food and dairy sectors.

### Inaugural Session

Dr. V. Palanimuthu, Director of NIFTEM-T, welcomed the esteemed guests, including Chief Guest Dr. S.V. Suresha, Vice Chancellor, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru; Special Guest Dr. Preet Pal Singh, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India; and Dr. R.S. Sodhi, Chairman of the Board of Governors of NIFTEM-T and President-IDA.

Shri K.S. Kanna, Chairman, IDA TSC, extended a welcome bouquet to Dr. Palanimuthu. Dignitaries performed the traditional "kuthuvilakku" lamp lighting ceremony, symbolizing the inauguration of the event with positivity and enlightenment.

The Chief Guest, Dr. S.V. Suresha, delivered an inspiring inaugural address, urging students to recognize and seize opportunities, adapt to industry trends, and take calculated risks to establish themselves as entrepreneurs. He emphasized the importance of innovation and encouraged the audience to transform from job seekers to job creators.

Special Guest Dr. Preet Pal Singh released the Souvenir of the Conference, which was presented to the dignitaries on the dais. Dr. Singh highlighted the significant accomplishments of the IDA over the past nine years and outlined various platforms provided by the Government of India to support start-ups in the food and dairy sectors. Dr. R.S. Sodhi delivered a special address that included insightful statistics on industry needs and offered strategies to overcome start-up challenges.

Dr. V. Palanimuthu, in his address, expressed gratitude to the distinguished guests and participants. He highlighted the vast opportunities available for food-based start-ups and entrepreneurs, especially in Tier II and Tier III cities. During the inaugural session, the Best Woman Dairy Farmer Award (Tamil Nadu and Puducherry) was given to Ms. V. Selvanayagi from Coimbatore, and the Best Dairy Tech Student Award to Ms. M. Azroon Fahmeetha, an M.Tech Scholar from the College of Food and Dairy Technology, TANUVAS, Chennai. Awards were sponsored by the IDA TNC.



Shri C.P. Charles, Secretary General, 50<sup>th</sup> DIC was felicitated for his dedication and hard work in making the conference as huge success.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks from Shri K.S. Kanna, who expressed his gratitude to the sponsors, organizing committee, and all participants for their contributions to the event's success.

### Oral and Poster Sessions

The conference featured several oral sessions that explored diverse themes such as "Innovative Products and Technologies in Food and Dairy Sector", "Advances in Farming Practices and Milk Production", "Dairy Ingredients and Functionality", "Innovations a Quality Detections", "Branding and Marketing", "Safety, standards & Regulatory compliances", "Entrepreneurship and Business Opportunities"; and "Digitalization & Computer-based Applications."

These sessions offered participants valuable insights into emerging technologies and innovative approaches that have the potential to transform the food and dairy industries.

A poster session received an impressive 266 submissions under various themes, including Innovations in Milk Production and Sustainability; Advances in Food and Dairy Processing, Value Addition, and Ingredients; Safety, Quality, and Emerging Detection Techniques; and Marketing, Retailing, and Digitalization in the Food and Dairy Industry.

These themes represented the forefront of research and innovation with posters showcasing pioneering work in product development, quality control, and market strategies. The session offered an excellent opportunity for participants to engage in discussions on practical applications and future possibilities in the sector.

### Exhibition Stalls

An exhibition added vibrancy to the conference, with stalls from leading companies in the dairy and food industries. Dodla Dairy Limited was the Diamond sponsor, with Heritage Foods, Hatsun Agro Product, Aroma, GRB Dairy, Rinac, Frick, Zeuzer, Mercelys Ice Cream, Cothas Coffee, Smart Engineering, and



NIFTEM-T as gold sponsors. These organizations showcased their latest products, technologies, and innovations, giving participants a first-hand look at industry advancements and trends.

### Valedictory Session

The Valedictory session marked the close of the conference. Shri K.S. Kanna delivered the welcome address, followed by a talk by the Chief Guest Dr. Ashok Sangappa Alur, Vice Chancellor of Kodagu University. Dr. Alur spoke about the immense potential in food and dairy entrepreneurship, encouraging attendees to explore innovative solutions for the industry's future.

Shri C.P. Charles, Central Executive Committee Member of IDA, delivered the Guest of Honour address, sharing inspiring success stories from companies such as Amul and Dodla. He also commended the organizers on their success with the 50<sup>th</sup> Dairy Industry Conference, symbolizing the growing importance of platforms that foster entrepreneurship and innovation in food and dairy.

Prof. V. Palanimuthu delivered a Presidential address wherein he expressed gratitude to the IDA TSC, for their partnership in organizing the successful event.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. D.V. Chidanand, Associate Professor at NIFTEM-T, who acknowledged the efforts of all participants and organizers in making the conference a success.

The National Conference on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Start-up Opportunities in Food & Dairy Sector was a resounding success. The event brought together a broad spectrum of industry experts, budding entrepreneurs, and students. The event provided a platform to explore trends, technologies, and entrepreneurial possibilities that will shape the future of food and dairy. Through inspiring talks, engaging discussions, and practical exhibitions, the conference motivated and equipped participants to contribute meaningfully to the food and dairy sectors, marking a new chapter of innovation and growth.

## **IDA Eastern UP Chapter Organizes International Conference at BHU**

An International Conference on "Emerging Paradigm Shifts in Food & Dairy Processing: Advances in Food Safety, Quality, and Sustainability," was organized in collaboration with IDA Eastern UP Chapter (EUC) and Association of Food Scientists and Technologists on October 25-26, 2024, at Swatantrata Bhawan, Banaras Hindu University (BHU). The Conference provided a pivotal platform for exchanging knowledge and innovations in food processing and safety.

This Conference attracted over 600 participants from academia, industry, and regulatory sectors, promoting interdisciplinary discussions on advancing food processing technologies, sustainable practices, and quality standards. During the Conference Invited Talks, Oral Presentations, Poster Session, Industry Academia Student Meet and Young Scientist Award Presentations were held.

The Chief Guest of Inaugural session was Shri Ravindra Jaiswal, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Stamp, Court fee and Registration Department. In his address, he spoke on national food security. The Registrar of BHU was Guest of Honour in the Inaugural Session. The Dean, Faculty of Agriculture welcomed the Guest. Prof. Anil Kumar Chauhan, Senior Professor (HAG, Academic Level-15),

Food Technology and Head, Department of Dairy Science and Food Technology (DSFT) while briefing the gathering about the conference acknowledged that this is the first time when Two apex society of Dairy and Food Technology has come together to discuss the very sensitive issue of food security. While, the Director, Institute of Agricultural Sciences delivered the Presidential address and Dr. Arvind, Chairman, IDA EUC and Organizing Secretary gave the vote of thanks. In his address, he applauded the hard work of Dr. Tarun Verma, Secretary, IDA EUC and all individuals involved in organizing this mega event. The support of various organizations like Dodla Dairy, Gyan Dairy, Mother Dairy, Amul were acknowledge.

Day one commenced with the Inaugural ceremony, followed by Keynote address from Dr. Digvir Jayas, President of the University of Lethbridge, who provided insights into recent trends in the food industry. Technical sessions across the two days showcased significant advancements in areas like biotechnology, food preservation, and packaging. These sessions underscored the critical need for integrating sustainable practices and safety measures into food processing, while speakers presented cutting-edge research on biotechnological interventions, novel food ingredients, and sustainable food systems.

The technical session of the conference showcased a diverse range of research aimed at addressing contemporary challenges in food safety, quality, and sustainability. Esteemed speakers presented innovative solutions and advancements to meet the evolving demands of food technology and processing.

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Poster presentations served as a cornerstone of the conference, with five dedicated themes covering areas such as innovative processing technologies, waste valorization, and advancements in bio-preservation through more than two hundred posters. A highlight was the poster session on "Innovative Processing Technologies and Sustainable Packaging Solutions for Enhanced Food Safety," which encouraged engaging discussions and peer feedback on emergent food technologies.

Moreover, the Young Scientist Award session celebrated pioneering research from early-career scientists, focusing on innovative solutions to contemporary challenges in food technology, biotechnology, and sustainability. Topics included the valorization of agricultural by-products, antimicrobial resistance, and cold plasma treatment applications, reflecting the future potential of sustainable approaches in food science.

The special Session on Industry Academia Student meet was organized wherein Industry persons had guided the students for their career option. Dr. G.S. Rajorhia, former President-IDA had chaired the session. This session was moderated by Dr. Abhishek Dutt Tripathi and Shri Sunil Meena, Training and Placement coordinator of the department.

The Valedictory session marked the conference's conclusion, celebrating the participants' contributions and distributing awards for outstanding presentations. Prof. Amit Patra, Director, IIT, BHU was the Chief Guest of the Valedictory session. This conference illuminated the pressing issues and opportunities in food and dairy processing and underscored the role of collaboration in driving advancements in food safety, quality, and sustainability for a healthier future.

## IDA (SZ) Organizes “Fodder Mela” at Veterinary College, Hebbal

'Fodder Mela' was organized by IDA (SZ) in Joint collaboration with Veterinary College, Hebbal, Bengaluru

INDIAN DAIRYMAN

(KVAFSU, Bidar) on October 25, 2024. A total of 40 stalls were exhibited and more than 3500 visitors visited the stalls wherein varieties of fodder samples, fodder seeds, root slips were exhibited. Machineries for fodder processing and dry fodder enrichment were also demonstrated to farmers. Technical brochures, leaflets were distributed to visitors. About 400 college students also witnessed this event.

The function was inaugurated by Prof. K.C. Veeranna, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, KVAFSU, Bidar in the august presence of Hon'ble Members of Board of Management of KVAFSU, Bidar Smt. Latha, D.H., Dr. Venkatachala V.S.; Dr. H.M. Jayaprakasha; Shri. Sangappa Doddabasappa Walikar; Shri. Basavaraj. P. Bhatmurge; Dr. Manjunatha S. Palegar, Director, Dept. of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Govt. of Karnataka; Dr. Padma Prakash, Director, Karnataka Milk Federation; Dr. B.V. Shivaprakash, Director of Research, KVAFSU, Bidar and Dr. H.C. Indresh, President, Karnataka Veterinary Council, Bengaluru. The function was presided by Dr. N.K. Shivakumar Gowda, Dean, Veterinary College, Bengaluru and coordinated by Dr. Manjunatha, L., Professor and Head, Dept. of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Extension Education.



The technical session on fodder evinced a keen response among the participants and about 10 resource persons shared their experience and knowledge. The valedictory programme was graced by Dr. Chandre Gowda, Principal Scientist & Director (Incharge), ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru and Dr. N. Seetharam, President, Senior Veterinarians Association of Karnataka.

## IDA Tamil Nadu State Chapter Organizes World Food Day

To commemorate World Food Day, a Students Rally for Sustainable Food System, was jointly organised by Agricultural Engineering and Food Technology departments of Nehru Institute of Technology (NIT),

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Coimbatore and IDA TSC at Race Course, Coimbatore on October 22, 2024.

The event aimed to raise awareness about the importance of a sustainable food system and advocate for food. The rally was inaugurated by Shri K.S. Kanna, Chairman, IDA TSC and Shri Murali, MD of A1 chips along with Shri Daniel Paul, HOD, Food Technology and Dr. Hema Prabha, Dean (Agricultural and Food Technology), NIT.

Nearly 400 students from Nehru Educational Group participated in the event. The energetic crowd of students and supporters chanted slogans, fostering a sense of solidarity and urgency around food justice. The event highlighted the need for collective action towards, creating a more equitable and sustainable food system.

## IDA Kerala State Chapter Organizes Hands on Training- PAALARIVU'24

IDA Kerala State Chapter (KSC) organized 3-day Hands on training program- "Paalarivu" in collaboration with the final year students of B.Tech Dairy Technology, VKIDFT.



The training was held on the topic "Preparation of Value-Added Dairy Products for Small Scale Entrepreneurs" during October 14-16, 2024 under the guidance of Dr. S.N. Rajakumar, Dean VKIDFT and Chairman, IDA KSC; Ms. Rashmi KG, DEO on Deputation, Department of Dairy Technology; Dr. Divya K.B., Assistant Professor Dairy Technology. 24 participants registered for the program. The training covered Khoa, Peda and Gulab Jamun and demonstrated their production method on the first day. On the second day, lectures and demonstration were

conducted for products such as set curd, yoghurt, yoghurt smoothie, paneer, paneer pickle, Grape whey squash and ice cream mix.

On October 16, the last day of the training program, the trainees were allowed to visit KVASU Dairy plant to familiarize themselves with the day-to-day operations of a Dairy plant. They also learned in detail about cream separation, ghee manufacturing, Ice cream Sip up making plant. They also visited the KVASU Feed mill and KVASU dairy farm. The Valedictory ceremony was conducted in the Seminar Hall of VKIDFT.

## IDA (North Zone) Invites Application for the Best Maintained Dairy Plant Award (Each in Private and Cooperative/ Govt. Sector) in North India

Indian Dairy Association (North Zone) invites application for the Best Maintained Dairy Plant Award (Each in Private and Cooperative/Govt. Sector) in North India.

The applications are invited from different dairy plants located in the states of Haryana, Punjab, Jammu-Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan in the prescribed format.

The Application Form can be downloaded from IDA Website or through link (<https://indiandairyassociation.org/uploads/others/IDA-NZ-Best-Maintained-Dairy-Plant.pdf>). The duly filled applications should be sent to IDA (North Zone) Office, IDA House, Sector-IV, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110022. Last date for receipt of the applications is 15-01-2025.



The applications should be accompanied with a fee of Rs. 10,000/- (Ten thousand) per plant. It may be paid directly to IDA North Zone bank account in ICICI Bank as per details given below:

**Account Holder Name:**

Indian Dairy Association North Zone

**Bank:** ICICI Bank

**Account No.:** 182401001311

**IFSC Code:** ICIC0001824

**Branch:** R.K. Puram Branch, IDA House, Sector IV, R.K. Puram, New Delhi - 110022

## NATIONAL News

### FSSAI Draft Labelling and Display Regulation Gives Fried Product like Namkeen Snacks Healthier Rating than Paneer



Dairy is a rich source of Natural Saturated Fat, Lactose & Sodium. Dairy nutrients are currently considered as 'Nutrient of Concern' for Front-Of-Pack Nutrition Labelling (FoPNL). Dairy inherent nutrients cannot be replaced in the

reformulation strategies while Dairy alternatives have this liberty.

While calculating the star rating under the new proposed labelling regulation, similar perceived products like 'Dairy Analogues' will have higher rating or will have scope to reformulate to achieve better rating than 'Dairy'. This is a lacunae and disadvantage to the Dairy Industry and is detrimental for a nation which delivers highest milk production in the world.

India produces nearly one-fourth of the world's milk with a growth rate in milk production that is more than double the global average. The dairy industry plays a crucial role in ensuring nutritional security for 1.4 billion people in India and provides livelihoods for over 80 million families.

Therefore, in addition to the two categories -Solid & Liquid, one more category -'Dairy' as a separate category should be included in the current FOPNL upcoming regulation. If we use the current methodology/algorithm 'Soy Milk' will have higher rating from milk.

Similarly, a fried unhealthy product like Namkeen gets 4-star rating while product like Paneer that is a Rich source of Protein, Calcium gets a lower rating of 2.5-Star. Cheese contains high Protein, Calcium and Phosphorus yet getting a lower rating of 0.5, while Cheese analogue getting a rating of 1.

Dairy naturally contains beneficial of 65-70% saturated fats and 4.8-5% 'Lactose' which needs to be built in Algorithm. Half of the milk consumed in India since centuries is Buffalo milk that has 6-8% Milk Fat. So the limit Saturated Fat should start from 4.5 g /100 g (70% of Milk fat) instead of 1 g in algorithm baseline points. Similarly, naturally present 'Lactose' deliver multiple health benefits, therefore total sugars in algorithm baseline points should start from 5 g instead of 4.2 g /100 g.

### NDDB's Wheels of Cooperation Campaign Celebrates Spirit of Cooperation: Chairman, NDDB

The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in collaboration with Amul Dairy, Baroda Dairy, Surat Milk Union, Amidhara Fruit and Vegetables Cooperative Limited, Vasudhara Dairy, Godavari-Khore Milk Union, Kopargaon and Sahyadri Farms celebrated the 71<sup>st</sup> All India Cooperative Week (November 14-20, 2024) with the theme "Role of Cooperatives in Building 'Viksit Bharat'," through the "Wheels of Cooperation"



campaign. This initiative is one of many planned to celebrate NDDB's Diamond Jubilee year.

While felicitating the participating farmer members, Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman, NDDB commended the farmers for their contributions to dairying, manure management, organic farming and the adoption of grid connected solar irrigation. He expressed confidence that the experiences shared by these farmers would inspire others to diversify their income, protect the environment, ensure nutrition security and promote sustainable livelihoods. The fact that these initiatives were achieved through cooperation among the farmers highlights the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji's vision of "Sahakar se Samridhi," under the guidance of Hon'ble Union Home Affairs & Cooperation Minister, Shri Amit Shah ji.

The "Wheels of Cooperation" campaign was flagged off by Executive Director, NDDB on 14th November 2024 at NDDB, Anand. The campaign organised by NDDB during November 14-18, 2024, brought together cooperative leaders and members from Mujkuva village in Anand district, Gujarat. This village is a hub for 4 diverse cooperative societies, each with a unique focus, providing valuable perspectives. These cooperatives include the Mujkuva Milk Producers' Cooperative Society, which integrates advanced milk collection systems and environmental initiatives; Mujkuva Sakhi Khad Sahakari Mandali, one of India's first women-led manure cooperatives; Mujkuva Solar Pump Irrigators Cooperative Enterprise, which supports farmers by using solar energy for irrigation and enables them to sell surplus energy back to the grid and Mujkuva Organic Farmer Cooperative Society. The campaign aimed to foster collaboration by promoting best practices in dairy, solar irrigation, manure management and organic farming.

The campaign introduced participants to key cooperative organisations, such as Amul Dairy, Baroda Dairy, Surat Dairy, Vasudhara Milk Union, Godavari-Khore Milk Union, Kopargaon and other farmer centric organisations like Amidhara Fruits and Vegetables Cooperative Ltd, as well as Sahyadri Farms. These visits offered valuable insights into cooperative management, dairy production, sustainable farming practices, and income-generating activities such as beekeeping, value addition to fruits & vegetables and the management of farmer collectives.

In a learning, cross learning and knowledge dissemination spree the farmers of Mujkuva visited Tribhuvandas Food Complex at Mogar; a bovine breeding farm at Mogar; a calf rearing farm at Sarsa and interacted with the officials of Baroda Dairy on cooperative-driven innovations and rural economic growth. The participants then travelled to Surat Milk Union and exchanged ideas on livestock feed production. The team further proceeded to Amidhara Fruits and

Vegetables Cooperative Society in Chikhli where the delegation was oriented on the processing of fresh horticultural produce and export processes. Following this, the delegation met with members of Soldhara Dairy Cooperative Society under Vasudhara Milk Union to gain knowledge about best practices in honey production, beekeeping, manure management and composting as income-generating practices and shared their own learnings. Campaigners also discussed best practices in dairy and crop management with the members of India's largest farmer producer company, Sahyadri Farms. Finally, the group toured the dairy plant of Godavari-Khore Milk Union at Kopargaon, engaging in knowledge-sharing sessions.

This five-day journey was not only a learning experience for the leaders of the cooperatives in Mujkuva but also a celebration of the cooperative spirit. It catalysed awareness generation in innovation, technology, good governance, entrepreneurship, skill development and the role of cooperatives in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through knowledge exchange about the various initiatives in Mujkuva. These initiatives align with the theme of the 71st All India Cooperative Week reinforcing NDDB's vision of fostering sustainable rural development through collaboration and mutual learning.

## ‘Intake of Fermented Dairy Products can Reduce Risk of Diabetes’: Dr. V. Mohan

According to Dr. V. Mohan, Chairman, Dr Mohan's Diabetes Specialties and Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, recent studies have confirmed that yogurt can reduce the risk of diabetes. "Our research at the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, Chennai, strongly supports the fact that dairy in general, and yogurt in particular, can be protective against diabetes. We found that the benefit was more with fermented dairy products like yogurt," said Dr. Mohan.



With respect to the recent US FDA announcement, this was in response to a company which asked the FDA not to oppose the claim that yogurt can help to reduce type 2 diabetes risk and the FDA complied with their request. This is a significant development given the fact that many people, particularly vegan groups, claim that dairy is the cause of diabetes and all dairy products should be completely eliminated from one's diet.

Dr. Mohan said, "We first found in our Chennai Urban Rural Epidemiology Study that dairy was actually protective against diabetes but that was a cross sectional study which can have a lot of bias. Later in the longitudinal Prospective Urban Rural Epidemiology (PURE) study, we followed 130,000 individuals for over 15 years and looked at the baseline dietary consumption with the development of new onset type 2 diabetes and metabolic syndrome. We found that dairy in general (including high fat dairy) was protective against not only diabetes, but also hypertension and metabolic syndrome."

In other PURE studies, we showed that intake of dairy also reduced all causes of mortality as well as decreased cardiovascular mortality. Hence, dairy in general and in particular yogurt, seems to have beneficial metabolic effects and I am happy that the US FDA has come out strongly in favour of yogurt. This will help to dispel a lot of myths among people that dairy products are harmful for health.

Yogurt also has probiotic action which could also help in its metabolic benefits. It must be stressed, however, that it is plain (unsweetened) yogurt that one should take.

## Disease-free Production System in Indian Dairy Industry



Biotechnology and Bio-manufacturing policy will soon address the significant challenges faced by India's dairy

industry, the largest in the world, in maintaining disease-free production systems, Dr. Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology said.

He was speaking during the Bangalore Tech Summit (BTS) recently, where he highlighted how the integration of 'Precision Fermentation' technologies and genetic advancements is expected to enhance milk yields, reduce dependency on traditional methods, and minimise risks associated with zoonotic diseases.

He highlighted how biotech-driven solutions, including genetic testing and disease prevention techniques, are already providing farmers with the tools they need to combat illnesses that affect livestock. "These innovations are helping to create disease-free herds, ensuring that milk production remains safe, sustainable, and high in quality," Dr. Gokhale added.

"In addition to ensuring disease-free animals, biotechnology is also contributing to sustainable practices by reducing the environmental impact of dairy farming," he highlighted adding that by improving animal health and optimising production systems, these biotech solutions are set to ensure the growing demand without compromising on quality or sustainability.

Highlighting the Bio-manufacturing Economy, Environment, and Employment (E3) policy, Dr. Gokhale highlighted that it uses biotechnology for economic growth, environmental sustainability, and societal balance. He stressed that for India to progress, it must avoid the "middle-income trap," a challenge faced by countries, which, despite vibrant economies, struggled to transition into high-income nations.

"India, currently in the middle-income category, must create a balanced ecosystem that benefits all and technological advancement is key to this transition," he pointed out, noting the importance of twin transitions-digital and green technologies-to drive sustainable growth. Innovations in these areas will create jobs, boost the economy, and address global challenges like climate change, resource depletion, and waste management.

Dr. Gokhale used examples to illustrate these challenges and noted how commodities like clothing, once essential, now contribute to environmental issues due to overproduction and waste. He highlighted the need for biodegradable alternatives and sustainable practices. Similarly, in agriculture, where 40% of India's workforce is employed, he stressed the urgency of creating new jobs as the sector becomes more efficient.

The solution lies in continuous technological innovation, which can drive economic sustainability. This approach has already transformed industries like IT and holds similar potential for biotech which can bring a 'bio-revolution,' he said.

## Punjab Govt. to Record Milk Production of HF Cows in Three Districts

Punjab Government is all set to initiate a project to identify and establish the milk production potential of the Holstein Friesian (HF) cows for boosting the profitability of the dairy farming sector in the state.

Sharing details about the project worth Rs. 5.31 crore, Punjab Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries Minister Shri Gurmeet Singh Khudian said that the project will be kicked off in the first week of December 2024 and the project supervisors, along with local staff from the animal husbandry department, will identify eligible HF breed cows to record their milk production.

He further said milk production of around 13,000 Holstein Friesian cows will be recorded in 90 villages across three districts including Ludhiana, Moga and Fatehgarh Sahib for the financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26. Farmers will milk the selected cows at their homes as usual, with a milk recorder provided to collect data on milk output using a GPS-enabled smart weighing scale. This data will be automatically uploaded to the national database, making it accessible to farmers, government agencies and other stakeholders across the nation. Complete milk recording will take place two to three times a day, depending on the farmer's convenience, for a duration of 10 months, he added.

Shri Khudian said that this initiative will empower livestock farmers to identify the genetic potential and germ plasm of their cows, besides assisting them in making informed decisions on breeding and management for enhanced productivity, besides establishing the milk production potential of these cows.

He further stated that the state government will also facilitate the purchase of male HF calves delivered by these animals, which will further enhance the value of animals. With the launch of this project, unemployed educated youth of these villages will have the opportunity to earn income as milk recorders. Additionally, this initiative will boost the animal husbandry sector in the state, besides helping to mitigate the issue of stray animals over time.

## Nova Dairy Launches Traditional Refreshing Beverages - Lassi and Chhaach

Sterling Agro Industries Ltd. (Nova Dairy), has launched two of the country's most cherished traditional beverages, Lassi and Chhaach, bringing authentic, high-quality refreshments to consumers. These yogurt-based drinks are an ideal addition to the festive season, offering a

combination of taste, heritage, and health benefits that align with the company's commitment to quality and authenticity.

Its Lassi is available in both savoury and sweet varieties, with options infused with rose water or fruits for a contemporary twist.

Shri Ravin Saluja, Director, Sterling Agro Industries Ltd., (Nova Dairy), said, "Our goal with the launch of Lassi and Chhaach is to provide consumers with authentic, high-quality dairy beverages rooted in tradition and packed with health benefits. As a leading dairy brand, we're committed to offering fresh, delicious, and functional products, ensuring that these beloved drinks meet our rigorous standards."

## Event CALENDAR

### 51<sup>st</sup> Dairy Industry Conference

**Date:** March 6-7-8, 2025

**Venue :** Samrat Ashoka International Convention Centre, South Gandhi Maidan, Patna (Bihar)

The 51<sup>st</sup> Dairy Industry Conference (DIC) is scheduled to be held during March 6-8, 2025 at Samrat Ashoka International Convention Centre, South Gandhi Maidan, Patna (Bihar). The theme of the DIC is "**Indian Dairying : Global Growth; Local Strength.**"

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### IDA SZ to Organise Southern Dairy Summit 2025 in Bengaluru

**Date:** 09-11, January, 2025

**Venue:** NIMHANS Convention Centre, Bengaluru

The maiden Regional Dairy Conference - Southern Dairy Summit 2025 is being organized by IDA (SZ) at NIMHANS Convention Centre in Bengaluru during January 9-11, 2025.

The three-day conference is expected to be attended by about 1000 delegates comprising Dairy Industry Professionals, machinery manufacturers, Feed and feed additives/supplements manufacturers, Researchers, Farmers, Students and Young Scientists.

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## VAMNICOM & GCMMF Launched 'The Clean Fuel Rally' in Pune

**Initiative to culminate on National Milk Day in Delhi, honouring legacy of Dr. Kurien**

VAMNICOM partnered with the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) and Bajaj Auto are hosting 'The Clean Fuel Rally' as part of the 71<sup>st</sup> All India Cooperative Week celebrations.

The rally highlighted the role of cooperatives in promoting sustainability and self-reliance, aligning with this year's theme, "Cooperatives for a Sustainable and Self-reliant India."

The event, held under the leadership of VAMNICOM Director Dr. Hema Yadav, showcased the institute's commitment to environmental sustainability. Students from the 31<sup>st</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> PGDM-ABM batches actively participated, along with faculty and staff, emphasizing their dedication to sustainable initiatives.

The rally, flagged off at the Bajaj Auto Plant in Pune, reached its first destination at the VAMNICOM campus, covering notable stops such as AMUL's plant in Khed. Supported by Bajaj Auto, the rally introduced the Bajaj Freedom 125, the world's first CNG-powered motorcycle.

With an innovative design featuring a 2 kg CNG tank and a 2-liter petrol tank, the bike offers exceptional mileage of 102 km/kg on CNG and 65 km/liter on petrol, making it a symbol of efficiency and eco-friendliness. The rally aims to promote green energy while celebrating cooperative values.

The initiative culminates on **National Milk Day, November 26, 2024**, in Delhi, honouring the legacy of Dr. Verghese Kurien, the "Father of the White Revolution." His pioneering efforts in transforming India's dairy industry and his work with AMUL and Operation Flood are commemorated during this event, which underscores the

importance of sustainable practices in the cooperative sector.

A group of 12 participants from GCMMF, including VAMNICOM alumnus Shri Shubhendra Dwivedi, played a vital role in the rally.

This rally not only honours Dr. Kurien's contributions but also serves as a powerful reminder of the cooperative sector's potential to drive innovation and sustainability.

## INTERNATIONAL News

### International Dairy Market: USDA

As per information gathered between Oct. 28 - Nov. 8, 2024, international dairy market overview on Europe, OCEANIA and South America are as follows:

#### EUROPEAN

##### Western European

Milk production remains variable throughout West Europe. In Germany, milk deliveries are still down slightly year over year. Both Ireland and the United Kingdom are seeing year over year increases in milk production. Contacts continue to share overall milk supplies have been tight for an extended period, which continues to affect production and, therefore, availability and pricing of various dairy commodities. Similarly to the United States, herd sizes in West Europe are smaller than in previous years.

The UK-based Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) released data showing daily milk deliveries for the last whole week of October averaged at 33.41 million liters, up 0.6 percent from the week prior and up 2.9 percent from the same week last year.

The Irish Central Statistics Office released total milk intakes by processors and cooperatives in September 2024 is estimated at 769.6 million liters. This is an increase of



0.8 percent from September 2023, an increase of 6.9 million liters. Fat content in milk deliveries averaged 4.60 percent in September 2024, up from 4.55 percent in September 2023. Protein content in milk deliveries averaged 3.88 percent in September 2024, up from 3.78 percent in September 2023.

A large dairy cooperative in Ireland announced slight increases in its October purchase price index (PPI). The September PPI is 151.7, which increased from 151.4 in October.

A large European dairy cooperative recently announced the November guaranteed milk price will increase by 2.00 euros to 55.50 euros per 100 kg. The increase demonstrates the expectation that reference milk prices will continue to rise slightly.

### **Eastern Europe**

The European Commission reports the Combined Drought Indicator (CDI) shows warning drought conditions in eastern Poland, Belarus, central-eastern Ukraine, and southern Russia. Drought watch conditions have improved somewhat in pockets of eastern Europe.

The USDA Foreign Agriculture Service published the Ukraine Grain and Feed Quarterly report. The Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine reported wheat and barley harvesting has ended. The estimated total wheat harvest for marketing year 2024/2025 was 22.3 million metric tons, which is in line with marketing year 2023/2024. The estimated total barley for marketing year 2024/2025 was 5.5 million metric tons, a 5 percent decrease in gross weight from marketing year 2023/2024. The estimated total corn harvest for marketing year 2024/2025 was 23.3 million metric tons, a 25 percent decrease in gross weight from marketing year 2023/2024. The sharp decrease is attributed to unfavorable conditions covering 88 percent of Ukraine's corn growing areas. The 2023/2024 harvest was the second highest yield for corn in Ukraine in the past ten years.

Russian butter prices have risen sharply since December 2023. Butter imports from Belarus are not enough to sustain current demand, and the Russian government reportedly is slated to import butter from Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, and India.

## **OCEANIA DAIRY MARKET**

### **New Zealand**

Standards for herd testing in New Zealand, which provided data on milk production, animal health, and genetic traits, have recently been updated. In New Zealand roughly 80 percent of dairy cows are tested annually. The herd testing standards were recently updated to provide more accurate animal evaluations by introducing changes to animal recording and production data. A spokesperson for DairyNZ's New

Zealand Animal Evaluation Limited stated the standards, which were last updated in 2015, provide good guidance for testers, but updates were necessary to include new technology and provide high-quality data for animal evaluation.

The farmer levy established by DairyNZ has remained the same price since it was established 17 years ago. A spokesperson for DairyNZ noted they plan to increase the levy early next year and said an increase is necessary for the organization to balance the books while continuing to aid dairy farmers. They further noted changes would be made after consulting farmers, and likely go into effect in early 2025.

The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade recently announced free trade agreement negotiations between the country and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have concluded. When enacted, tariffs on New Zealand exports to GCC countries will be eliminated for 99% of products over 10 years. The GCC region is the second largest export market for dairy from New Zealand, as roughly NZ\$1.9 billion were exported to the region last year. A spokesperson for DCANZ noted eliminating tariffs on dairy products exported to the region will aid dairy exporters in the country.

### **Australia**

According to Dairy Australia, September 2024 milk production, 812.5 million liters, was up 1.4 percent from September 2023. September 2024 milk production was up from the prior year in New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia. Meanwhile, milk production was down in Queensland, Western Australia, and Tasmania. Milk production from the start of the season in July 2024 through September 2024, 2,073.5 million liters, increased 1.9 percent compared to the same time frame a year earlier.

The September 2024 Production Inputs Monitor from Dairy Australia was recently released. The report stated rainfall in most of the country's dairy regions was average to below average during September, but rainfall was above average in Tasmania. This contributed to higher prices for cereal hay in Tasmania, while prices declined in other parts of the country. The Australian Bureau of Meteorology predicts average to above average rainfall in most of Australia from October through December. Cull cow prices decreased by 2 percent in September and the number of head sold declined by 29 percent.

## **SOUTH AMERICA DAIRY MARKET**

Milk output in South America, per reports, has begun to close the gap from previous years' figures. That said, it is still relatively low throughout the major milk producing countries in the region. Uruguayan and Brazilian milk outlooks are further behind Argentinian milk yield expectations moving deeper into the spring. Uruguayan

contacts are, and have been, reporting a notable year-over-year decline in milk output and availability based on dry conditions. One positive trend in the region is farmgate milk checks have been bolstered by the aforementioned tighter overall milksheds. Feed prices for dairy farmers are generally steady, while milk prices have shifted based on tightness and demand. That said, Brazilian dairy farmers' feed availability has been hampered by weather conditions along with recent wildfires.

South American dairy powder trading is holding in a steady pattern, generally. Despite tighter milk supplies, exporters in Argentina and Uruguay say the buying pace from customers has remained at its recently brisk level. Regarding United States importers, contacts anticipate whey derivatives produced in South America may begin to be sought after from American end users due to the tightness of the entire whey complex in the United States.

### Local Milk Purchase is Mandatory for Importers in Indonesia

Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Food Affairs Mr. Zulkifli Hasan stated that milk importers will be allowed to import on grounds that they have purchased milk from local sources and received the Ministry of Agriculture's approval.

He revealed that the Ministry of Agriculture will now be

involved in dairy cows' milk imports to Indonesia. Importers can only bring in milk from other countries after being permitted by the agriculture minister.

"Hence, now, we will start involving the minister of agriculture regarding the approval of milk imports only if the importer has been proven to buy milk from local sources," he remarked.

He urged that factories or importers found to bring in imported milk without purchasing local milk should be reported to the relevant ministry.

Acting Governor of Central Java, Nana Sudjana, stated that the dairy processing industry must be willing to procure milk from local farmers.

"They are also expected to be mentors for the farmers, and we will continue to monitor this process. We hope that the issue of marketing will be followed up as soon as possible," he remarked.

Sudjana made assurance that he would continue to monitor the local milk issue. In addition, his side is working to improve the quality of livestock and dairy cows in Central Java, including in Boyolali.

### Fonterra Lifts FY25 Forecast Farmgate Milk Price

Fonterra Co-operative Group Ltd., raised the midpoint of the 2024/25 season forecast Farmgate Milk Price from \$9.00 per kgMS to \$9.50 per kgMS.

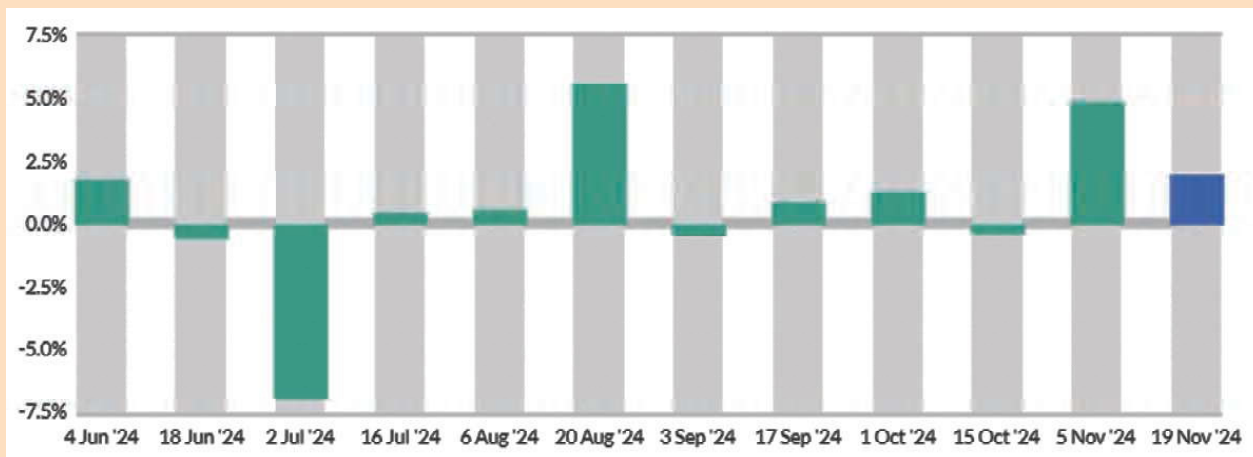
### GDT Index Prices up again with 1.9% from Previous Event

The Global Dairy Trade (GDT) Event 368, held on November 19, 2024, saw an increase of 1.9% from its previous event. Global dairy price index average winning price was USD 4089/MT. Whole Milk Powder (WMP) prices was up 3.2% at USD 3826 and Anhydrous milk fat also remained up 1% at USD 7622.

The biggest percentage fall came from mozzarella, which tanked 6.6% to an average of USD4315/MT.

Cheddar cheese too was down 3.1% to an average of USD 4834. Skim milk powder — Fonterra's second-biggest reference product — rose a modest 0.9%, to an average of USD 2882/MT.

A total of 36,244 MT of product was purchased by 106 successful bidders, compared to 36,595 MT and 112 winning bidders last time.



The co-operative also announced a narrowing of the forecast range from \$8.25 - \$9.75 per kgMS to \$9.00 - \$10.00 per kgMS, reflecting the fact that more of the FY25 sales book has been contracted since the last forecast Farmate Milk Price update in September.

Miles Hurrell, CEO, says the improved outlook has largely been driven by strong demand for reference commodity products, which has helped to push prices up in recent Global Dairy Trade auctions. He said, "This demand has been seen out of China, where there are indications that domestic production is below expectations, and also in Africa, Middle East and Southeast Asia. Looking ahead, we'll closely monitor any factors that could have an impact on supply and demand. This would include any significant change to milk supply in New Zealand over the second part of the season which could lead to pressure on global milk prices. We'll also continue to utilise our scale and flexibility when it comes to optimising our product mix, including putting more of our farmers' milk into the higher returning products to capture the value from every drop."

## **Arla Foods Ingredients moves forward with Acquisition of Volac Whey Nutrition business**

Arla Foods Ingredients is moving forward with its acquisition of Volac's Whey Nutrition business, after it was approved by UK's Competition and Markets Authority. The regulator's go-ahead followed an agreement between the two companies, which was signed in April 2024.

The business is built around a processing facility at Felinfach in Wales, which handles large volumes of whey and specialises in the production of whey protein isolate (WPI). The site will now become a cornerstone of its global production facilities, with further investment and expansion planned in the coming years.

The acquisition gives it a significant additional quantity of whey, helping it meet a growing market need. There is particular demand for WPI in the health and sports nutrition sectors, which grew by a CAGR of 9% between 2010 and 2023. It projects that its sales of WPI will rise significantly over the next five years. The facility will also produce whey fat concentrate and lactose.

Luis Cubel, Group vice president and managing director at Arla Foods Ingredients, said, "Our acquisition of Volac Whey Nutrition brings together two major manufacturers of whey ingredients, and consolidates our position as a leader in the space. Having Volac's experts - and its network of trusted supply partners - as part of our team gives us several strategic advantages. It expands our market reach, helping us serve even more customers,

and strengthens our global supply chain at a time when demand for whey is growing. Furthermore, these are two companies with shared values and a joint commitment to quality, sustainability and innovation. We look forward to learning from our new colleagues and partners and harnessing our respective strengths to meet the evolving needs of manufacturers and consumers, especially in the sports nutrition space."

## **How Genetics has Changed the Science of Animal Breeding**

Maeve Williams, VistaMilk from Ireland explains how genetic differences and modern breeding techniques, including DNA sequencing, are used to improve traits for economic and environmental sustainability in dairy farming.

When geneticists talk about genetic information, we are generally referring to the DNA that makes up our genes. These genes function as the 'instruction manual' for our bodies, which provide all of the information required to build and maintain our different cells.

From a gene perspective, all living creatures are very similar, from plants to cattle to humans; we all share genes because we all have cells that perform similar functions. In fact, humans share approximately 80% of their genes with cattle and we even share about 60% of our genes with bananas. Given genes are so similar between different species, it is not surprising that within a species, such as human or cattle, it is normal to share more than 99% of your DNA with other members of your species.

In animal breeding, our goal is to exploit the small genetic differences between animals - that less than 1% difference - to breed for more economically, environmentally and socially sustainable animals. For thousands of years, farmers improved the genetic merit of their animals by breeding animals with desirable traits together, assuming that if two parents displayed desirable traits, their offspring would likely display the same desirable characteristics. This approach to breeding resulted in the wide variety of breeds we have within every domesticated species.

Modern animal breeding relies on the same principle of breeding animals with desirable traits together to improve the next generation. In addition to evaluating the performance of potential parents, we can now use the performance data of related animals (such as siblings and cousins) to estimate an animal's genetic merit for key traits, even if the animal itself does not yet have performance records. In Ireland, we have a dairy breeding index, called the Economic Breeding Index (EBI), which applies a single ranking value to each dairy animal in the country. This single figure profit index helps



farmers identify the most profitable bulls and cows for breeding dairy animals.

The EBI considers the genetic merit of animals for milk production, fertility, calving performance, beef, health, maintenance, management and carbon emissions. Rather than choosing the parents of the next generation based solely on their appearance or performance, Irish farmers now use the EBI to choose which dairy animals should become the parents of their next generation; similar breeding indexes are available for beef cattle and sheep.

As well as helping farmers to choose which of their animals should be the parents of the next generation, estimates of genetic merit are also generated for newly-born calves and lambs. Farmers can use these estimates of genetic merit as an indication of how an animal is likely to perform for traits such as milk production and fertility long before the calf is old enough to produce milk or have offspring. These estimates were traditionally

calculated as simply the average of the genetic merit of both parents. However, in reality, the genetic merit of each offspring differs from the average of the parents.

In recent years, being able to directly examine the DNA of all animals (a process called genotyping or DNA sequencing) has enabled farmers to receive more accurate estimates of an animal's genetic merit for economically important traits. A large proportion of Irish farmers now collect tissue samples from their newborn calves and send them to a lab for genotyping. After a dairy calf is genotyped, farmers receive more accurate estimate of each calf's genetic merit, and these more accurate values can be particularly useful for farmers who want to buy or sell young animals.

Animal breeding has changed considerably over the last few decades, and this is likely to continue as we gain more knowledge. However the focus on improving the lives of animals and farmers remains at the centre of these changes.

## Australian Dairy Farmers Turning to Housed Systems

The sight of dairy cows eating feed or lounging in a massive shed instead of green pastures might seem off-kilter, but it is becoming more common in Australia.

Dairy Australia reports that about 20 per cent of the country's cow's milk now comes from intensive or housed systems and expects it could reach 40 per cent within the next 20 years.

Instead of grazing paddocks, the cows stay in large sheds or feed pads and are fed a high-nutrition ration of grain and hay.

Dairy farmer Mr. Neil Jolliffe has invested \$2.7 million in a large open shed to house his 300 milking cows at Euberta near Wagga Wagga in southern New South Wales.

"It's really hard to expand, with the cost of land, to run more cows," Mr. Jolliffe said.

"With this shed, we designed it for 400 cows, I've got a 16,000-litre vat and basically my plan is to go as close to filling that as possible every day in the future," he said.

The massive shed, two-thirds the size of a rugby league football ground, allows the cows to move freely around on a bedding of compost.

"It's really about welfare for the cows," Mr. Jolliffe said.

They are not out exposed to the wet winters and extreme hot summers and it's a nice environment to be in. They can go for a feed, behind them is a water trough and then go in onto the pack, lie down, sit and ruminate.

