IDA News

Mr. Jaime Castaneda
Executive Vice President, USDEC
and Member of the US Trade
Delegation Visits IDA House to
Discuss Success Story
of Indian Dairying



Mr. Jaime Castaneda, Executive Vice President, US Dairy Export Council (USDEC) and member of the USDA trade delegation accompanied with Ms. Shruti Bhogal, Agricultural Specialist, USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, American Embassy in India visited Indian Dairy Association (HQ), New Delhi on April 22nd at 11:00 am.

Mr. Castaneda intended to better understand the success story and development in the Indian dairy sector, and also about its potential and challenges.

Indian Dairy Association office bearers led by its President Dr. R.S. Sodhi and two Vice Presidents -Shri A.K. Khosla and Shri Arun Patil apprised him about the success story of Indian Dairying. Dr. Sodhi honoured Mr. Jaime Castaneda with bouquet, shawl and memento.

US Department of Agriculture (USDA) agribusiness trade mission, is scheduled to be held in India, during April 22-25, 2024. The US trade delegation/mission will be led by Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Ms. Alexis Taylor. Mr. Jaime Castaneda is an important participant/member of the US trade delegation. He is National Milk Producer Federation's Executive Vice President for Policy Development & Strategy. In this role, he oversees the organization's domestic policy initiatives as well as international trade. Mr. Jaime also provides government relations and advocacy support for the US Dairy Export Council, leading the US dairy industry in international trade

negotiations.

He is also Chair of a private sector advisory committee to US Trade Representative Ambassador Ms. Katherine Tai and Agriculture Secretary Mr. Tom Vilsack and regularly provides guidance to the Biden Administration on agricultural policy issues.

Chairman, NDDB and President-IDA Honored with NADSI Fellowships during National Dialogue at DUVASU

On April 9, 2024, the National Academy of Dairy Science, Indian (NADSI) orchestrated a momentous gathering during the VIII Convocation at U.P. Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Pashu Chikitsa Vigyan Vishwa Vidhyalaya Evam Gau Anusandhan Sansthan (DUVASU), Mathura. The event, themed "Bringing Smiles to Dairy Farmers," served as a platform for profound discussions and visionary insights aimed at uplifting the dairy farming community.

Dr. A.K. Srivastava, President of NADSI and VC of DUVASU, led the proceedings, accompanied by esteemed figures including Chief Guest Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman, NDDB and Dr. R.S. Sodhi, President-IDA. Noteworthy members of the NADSI governing

council, such as Dr. M.S. Chauhan, VP, NADSI & VC, GB Pant University of Agriculture & Technology; Dr. J.B. Prajapati, VP, NADSI & Chairman, IDA (WZ); and Dr. R.K. Malik, Secy, NADSI lent their expertise to the dialogue.

The convocation ceremony saw the conferment of 18 NADSI fellowships and 22 Associate fellowships to exemplary practitioners and scientists in the field of Dairy Science. Dr. Meenesh Shah and Dr. R.S. Sodhi were honored with NADSI fellowships, highlighting their contributions to the sector.

Dr. Shah shared insights into NDDB's initiatives for farmer betterment, emphasizing seven key challenges that demand attention. Dr. Sodhi illuminated the significance

of dairy sector growth, linking it to women empowerment. Dr. Chauhan stressed the need for enhanced productivity and technological integration, while Dr. Prajapati advocated for holistic well-being through health and wealth.

Distinguished speakers illuminated the path forward, with Dr. Tarun Shridhar, former Secretary of Animal Husbandry, delivering a Keynote address that chronicled India's dairy evolution and underscored global challenges. Mr. Kuldeep Sharma, founder of Suruchi Consultants, eloquently addressed the destiny orientation of farmers, weaving narratives of resilience and empowerment.

Dr. Srivastava's Presidential address extolled the nutritional virtues of milk and its components, emphasizing its role as a superfood. He concluded by reaffirming the collective responsibility of stakeholders in bringing smiles to dairy farmers.





The event culminated with a resounding call to action, echoing the sentiment that the prosperity and happiness of dairy farmers are intertwined with the collective efforts of the dairy community. As attendees departed, they carried with them a renewed sense of purpose and a commitment to fostering sustainable growth in the dairy sector.

Chairman, IDA Gujarat Chapter and MD, Amul Dairy Receives Tribhuvandas Patel Sahakarita Innovation Award

Dr. Amit Vyas, Chairman, IDA Gujarat Chapter and Managing Director, Amul Dairy was honoured with the prestigious 'Tribhuvandas Patel Sahakarita Innovation Award' by the Confederation of NGOs of Rural India (CNRI) on March 14, 2024, at ICAR-CITH Srinagar, during the National Conference on "Development of Horticulture in Indian Trans Himalayan Region through Cooperatives and Collectives". The event was jointly organized by the World Cooperation Economic Forum, ICAR-Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (CITH), CNRI, and National Cooperative Union of India.

The revered accolade was presented to Dr. Vyas by Shri Dilip Sanghani, Chairman of NCUI, IFFCO, GUJCOMASOL, in the august presence of distinguished dignitaries including Shri Raghupati Singh of CNRI; Smt. Neelkamal Darbari, IAS, former

Secretary, Government of India; and Shri Pramod

Kalekar, Project Head of IRMA.

This award stands as a testament to Dr. Vyas's visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to imparting a positive impact on society. It has been an exceptional journey for Dr. Vyas, an accomplished engineer and post-graduate from IRMA (Institute of Rural Management Anand), who has dedicated over 33 years of his career to serving the dairy industry in various capacities.

Dr. Vyas's steadfast conviction in innovation and automation has played a pivotal role in driving the



extraordinary growth witnessed by Amul Dairy. Under Dr. Vyas's dynamic leadership, Amul Dairy has achieved remarkable milestones, notably doubling its turnover to approximately 12 thousand crores (1.4 billion USD) in the past five years. His outstanding and indomitable commitment towards revolutionizing the dairy industry and fostering social upliftment for millions of dairy farmers through the embrace of digitalization and technological advancements exemplify his exemplary leadership qualities. Dr. Vyas's relentless commitment to automation, digitalization, new product development, sustainability, energy management, and innovation has left an indelible mark on the dairy sector.

IDA KSC, MRCMPU and KVASU Organizes Farmers' Seminar

IDA Kerala State Chapter (KSC) in collaboration with Malabar Regional Co-operative Milk Producers' Union (MRCMPU) and Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (KVASU) hosted a One-day "Farmers' Seminar" on March 23, 2024 at Coffee House Auditorium, Hotel Malabar, Balusseri, Kozhikode. Around 200 farmers participated in the Seminar.

The program was inaugurated by Shri K. C James, Managing

Director, MILMA and presided over by Dr. S.N. Rajakumar, Chairman, IDA KSC. Dr. Sajith Purushothaman, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Animal Nutrition CVAS, Mannuthy deliberated during one of sessions of the Seminar on "Novel feeding techniques for profitable milk production". Dr. Deepa P.M, Associate professor & Head Dept. of Preventive Medicine CVAS, Pookode spoke on "Diseases in cattle and Strategies



for Prevention".

The mineral mixture kit as well as food products from Dairy and Meat Plant from KVASU and MILMA were distributed to farmers. Dr. C.T Sathian, Executive Member, IDA South Zone moderated for the sessions. The program was organized in continuation of series of events held on the occasion of the 'Platinum Jubilee Year' of IDA.

One-Day National Seminar and Academia Farmer's Meet Held at Banaras Hindu University

One-Day National Seminar and Academia Farmer's meet on "Clean and Green Milk Production" jointly organized by IDA Eastern UP Local Chapter, and the Department of Animal Nutrition, Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (FVAS), Rajiv Gandhi South Campus, Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Barkachha. The event was held on March 14, 2024 at FVAS, RGSC, BHU. It was fully sponsored by IDA Eastern UP Local Chapter, and the registration for the participants was free.

The event was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Professor

Ashish Singh, Professor in-charge, Rajiv Gandhi South Campus, BHU and floral tribute was paid to Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Ji. After the ceremonial lighting the lamp and BHU Kulgeet, Dr. Mahipal Choubey, Organizing Secretary delivered the Welcome speech.

The Chief Guest in his address highlighted the importance of dairy farmers. He also congratulated the participants and organizers for selecting important

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subject of the programme. He addressed the importance of milk in human nutrition. Dr. Arvind, Chairman, IDA Eastern UP Local Chapter, shed light on the collective efforts of farmers, scientists, and industry in the dairy sector and emphasized adopting a comprehensive approach for producing clean and green milk. Dr. Tejinder Singh, Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer, Mirzapur, described various ongoing state government schemes for dairy farmers. Professor Shahid Prawez, Coordinator & Dean of the FVAS, expressed his best wishes for leveraging such initiatives. Professor Amit Raj Gupta, Convener, organizing committee, discussed various general aspects of animal husbandry and animal health aiming at a better production and economic status for the farmers.

Two farmer and student-oriented books were also released during the program. One of the books entitled "Murgiyon ka Poshan evam Aahaar Prabandhan (Nutrition and feed management of chickens)" edited by Dr. Mahipal Choubey, Dr. Abhishek Kr. Singh and Dr. Sandeep Kr. Chaudhary was launched to serve as a comprehensive guide tailored for farmers and students alike. Written in a simple language, the book delves into the fundamental aspects of nutrition, focusing specifically on the needs of chickens with practical approach to feed formulation. The other book entitled "Backyard Poultry" authored by Dr. Utkarsh Kumar Tripathi, Dr. Anuradha Kumari and Dr. Manish Kumar published under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana funded project for the upliftment of farmers and enthusiastic youth in the Vindhyan region of Uttar Pradesh, was released, which is a valuable information resource for raising backyard poultry with minimum resources.

Under the direction of Shri Bagish Rai, students of the campus presented a street play based on the prestigious scheme of the Central Government "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" ('Save the girl child, educate the girl child'), for the entertainment and educational purposes of the present farmers and students, which was well appreciated by the audience.

The first session, Academia Farmer's meet was attended by more than 200 participants including male and female farmers. The session was dedicated to advancing scientific clean and green dairy production techniques. During the session, the Chief Guest requested to shed light on the current notion of vegan and vegan milk usage. Dr. Tarun Verma, Secretary cum Treasurer of the IDA Eastern UP Local Chapter, aptly highlighted the importance of cow milk in the context of veganism and vegan milk usage. Cow milk has been a staple in human diets for centuries, providing a rich source of essential nutrients such as calcium, protein, and vitamins. Its nutritional value is unmatched, especially for growing children, pregnant women, and the elderly.

Contrary to false propaganda, cow milk is a natural and wholesome food, essential for maintaining good health and well-being. The idea that vegan milk substitutes are superior is misleading. These substitutes often lack the same nutritional profile as cow milk and may be fortified with synthetic nutrients to compensate. Moreover, the sustainability argument often used to promote vegan milk fails to acknowledge the ecological benefits of traditional dairy farming. Cows play a crucial role in maintaining ecosystems, particularly in grassland areas where they help preserve biodiversity and prevent soil erosion. It is crucial to dispel misconceptions and baseless claims about cow milk. Responsible consumption of dairy products, including cow milk, is not only beneficial for health but also supports sustainable agricultural practices. During the farmer discussion, expert panellists Prof. Amit Raj Gupta, Dr. Priyaranjan Kumar, Dr. Mahipal Choubey, Dr. Anuradha Kumari, and Dr. Saroj Kumar from FVAS discussed modern animal husbandry techniques, advanced feeding, breeding practices, parasitic and other disease control in animals. Attendees engaged in knowledge-sharing sessions with discussions centred on innovative methodologies to optimize milk output and clean milk production. Dr. S.N. Singh and Dr. S.K. Goyal, KVK, Barkachha, assisted the panel during farmer discussions. The session also emphasized the importance of embracing gynaecological technological advancements and research-backed approaches to enhance productivity and profitability in the dairy sector. Dr. Tarun Verma and Dr. Sunil Meena actively participated during the farmer discussions. Other faculty members also contributed significantly. The session was chaired by

New Executive Committee of IDA North Zone Formed

The election result of IDA (North Zone) was declared on April 4, 2024. The election was held under the nominated Returning Officer Shri R.K. Gupta. The other election committee members were Shri Praveen Sharma and Shri Anil Issar. The newly elected members are: **Chairman:** Dr. Rahul Saxena; **Vice Chairmen:** Shri Ramesh K Chugh and Shri Ashok Kumar Rao; **Secretary:** Dr. Balbir Singh Beniwal; **Treasurer:** Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma; **Member (RE):** Shri Narender Raju Panjagari and Shri Gian Chand Mutreja; **Member (PP):** Shri Vijay Krishna Tewari and Dr. P.K. Jain; **Member (DI):** Shri K.L. Arora and Kanha Milk Testing Equipments Pvt. Ltd.; and **Member (MP):** Vacant. Hand over and take over ceremony was held on April 15, 2024 at IDA(HQ) office. The outgoing Chairman, IDA NZ Shri S.S. Mann thanked his colleagues for supporting him during his tenure. He also thanked all IDA staff members.

Dr. Sanjay Kumar Ravi, Head of the Department, Veterinary Gynecology and Obstetrics, FVAS, BHU. Dr. Santosh Marandi acted as the Co-chairman and Dr. Ajay Kumar Chaturvedani was the rapporteur for the technical session.

Animal health and deworming camp was held immediately after the farmer discussion session. Dr. Dayanidhi Jena and Dr. Kruti Mandal lead the camp and prescribed and distributed the medications. The farmers were also given a tour of the Livestock Farm of FVAS, BHU for familiarizing them with scientific dairy practices. The session was coordinated by Dr. Manish Kumar, Dr. Ajeet Singh, and Dr. Mahesh M S. Farmers left equipped with actionable strategies and insights for improved clean and green dairy farming, poised to elevate their operations through a scientific approach and also dewormers for their livestock.

The scientific technical session of the National seminar in hybrid mode with Dr. Suvaneeth P and Dr. Mahipal Choubey handling the online and offline sessions respectively in coordination with Dr. Vineeth M R and Dr. Demian C Johnson. There were nearly 100 participants in the offline mode and about 80 participants in the online mode. During this session, lead speaker Dr. Nitin Tyagi, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NDRI, Karnal, deliberated on "Sustainable ways for achieving carbon neutrality in livestock production".

The next lead speaker Dr. Sushma Kumari, Head of the Department, Livestock Products Technology, Bihar Animal Science University, Patna, presented on gave her presentation on "Clean and hygienic milk production". The session was chaired by Professor Amit Raj Gupta, Head, Veterinary Clinical Complex, FVAS, BHU. Dr. Amitosh Kumar acted as the Co-chairman and Dr. Abhishek Kumar Singh was the rapporteur for the session.

The lead papers were followed by technical discussion where the audience raised pertinent doubts regarding the topic of discussion which was clarified by the experts. All the offline participants were provided with complementary kit, and all participants were provided with participation certificates.

Dr. Suvaneeth P, Organizing Secretary of the event felicitated and delivered the vote of thanks. The program was anchored by Dr. Utkarsh Kumar Tripathi.

NATIONAL News

Farm Sector Can Grow Over 6% in FY25 on Good Monsoon

The agriculture and allied sectors may register over 6 per cent growth in 2024-25 going by the predictions

of a favourable monsoon and the low base of the previous year, NITI Aayog member Shri Ramesh Chand said. "This year (2024-25) will be highly favourable for agriculture, mainly due to two factors. One, the monsoon rainfall will be normal or above normal, per reports by various agencies. Even in terms of regional distribution, the forecasts are encouraging. Two, the agriculture growth in 2023-24 was 0.67 per cent, which means the base (for 2024-25) is low," Shri Chand said.

Whenever such a combination has happened in the past, farm sector growth has topped 6 per cent, he observed. There is no reason this past pattern will not be repeated this year if the monsoon rainfall turns out as predicted, he added.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted an "above normal" monsoon, at 106 per cent of the long-period average (LPA) of 87 cm, while private weather forecaster Skymet has said the monsoon is likely to be "normal" at 102 per cent of the LPA.

Shri Ramesh Chand pointed out that "real prices" of agriculture have been rising for several years. If you take the wholesale prices of agriculture relative to non-agriculture, farm prices are rising. The wholesale price index (WPI) of agri-commodities is rising faster than non-agri-commodities, adding that stability in maintaining prices is required due to this aspect.

The government's action to maintain stability is seen by some as a move to bring down prices, he pointed out, adding that such was not the case. Stability means to prevent an abnormal or unusually high level rise in the price of a commodity.

He also favoured allowing increased exports in case of surplus production of certain crops during the kharif season. Currently, the government has restricted export of non-Basmati rice, wheat, sugar, and onion. The curbs on non-Basmati rice may be revisited in September-October when the government will have made an assessment on rice production.

Dr. Meenesh Shah Elected as the Chairman of NCDFI



The apex body of dairy cooperatives, National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Ltd. (NCDFI), in its Board elections held on April 5, 2024, unanimously elected Dr. Meenesh Shah as its Chairman. The election was conducted by Shri Praveen Chaudhary, IAS, District Collector/Magistrate of Anand who

served as the Returning Officer.

Prior to this, NCDFI in its General Body meeting held on

April 4, 2024 elected eight directors on the Board unopposed which include, Dr. Meenesh Shah, Jharkhand Milk Federation; Dr. Mangal Jit Rai, Sikkim Milk Union; Shri Shamalbhai B. Patel, Gujarat Milk Federation; Shri Randhir Singh, Haryana Milk Federation; Shri K. S. Mani, Kerala Milk Federation; Shri K. S. Mani, Kerala Milk Federation; Shri Narinder Singh Shergill, Punjab Milk Federation and Shri Sameer Kumar Parida, West Assam Milk Union. Apart from these elected directors, Shri S. Regupathi, Executive Director, NDDB is the nominated director on the Board of NCDFI.

Subsequently, the newly formed Board met on April 05, 2024 and elected Dr. Meenesh Shah as the Chairman, NCDFI. Shri Srinivas Sajja, MD, NCDFI said that the newly elected Chairman of NCDFI, Dr. Meenesh Shah has a wide range of experience and expertise as currently, he is holding the Chairmanship of several esteemed Institutions such as NDDB, Mother Dairy, IDMC, Indian Immunologicals Ltd. (IIIL), National Cooperative Organics Ltd (NCOL), NDDB Dairy Services (NDS), Institute of Rural Management (IRMA), NDDB CALF, NDDB MRIDA, Anandalaya, Jharkhand Milk Federation, West Assam Milk Union, etc. Dr. Meenesh Shah is also serving as Director on the Board of the International Dairy Federation.

Dr. Shah has long been acknowledged for his pivotal role and substantial contributions to the dairy cooperative sector, fostering growth and sustainability over the years. The appointment of Dr. Meenesh Shah will significantly contribute towards enhancement of various initiatives of NCDFI aimed at addressing the evolving needs of dairy farmers and various stakeholders across the country. His leadership at NCDFI will definitely foster stronger collaborations within the dairy community to take forward the dairy industry.

Dr. Meenesh Shah expressed his gratitude for this opportunity and responsibility given and emphasized his commitment towards advancing the objectives of NCDFI and the broadening its activities and reach across the country reinforcing the centrality of cooperative framework in the dairy and allied sector.

NCDFI has been crucial in facilitating the supply of milk and milk products under its Institutional Sales category to over 400 different Defence units of the Army, Air Force, and Navy under the Ministry of Defence and several units of ITBP under the Ministry of Home Affairs. NCDFI's digital platform for eMarket facilitates dairy cooperatives and other organizations' efficient sale and purchase requirements of different dairy/agri commodities and services. In collaboration with NDDB Dairy Services, it has ventured into the supply of 'Smart Dairy Solutions' to various stakeholders across the dairy value chain.

Household Income of Small Farmers from Livestock Increased to 16%: ICRIER Study

Potential for increasing farmers' incomes lies primarily in moving towards animal husbandry and pisciculture, finds a study led by prominent agricultural economist Dr. Ashok Gulati and three other researchers.

Titled "New Deal for Agriculture for Viksit Bharat@2047", the study, which was published by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) earlier this month, recommends five policy options that could benefit farmers "without placing any undue costs on the rest of the economy."

The paper authored by Dr. Gulati, Dr. Ranjana Roy, Dr. Ritika Juneja and Dr. Manish Kumar Prasad of the ICRIER, recommends "diversification away from crops towards high-value commodities" like the livestock sector and fisheries, which have seen drastic growth over the past few years.

The study finds that the contribution of the livestock sector to the total income of agricultural households has increased to 16 percent in 2018-19 from 4 percent in 2002-03.

"The introduction of institutional innovations, such as contract farming and vertical integration of farm operations, have helped the poultry industry become one of the fastest-growing sectors in India," notes the paper.

Meanwhile, the fisheries sector accounted for 15.2 percent of the country's agricultural exports in 2022-23.

"Innovative production techniques, such as under controlled environment in polyhouses equipped with fertigation can augment productivity and incomes of farmers, while saving on water and fertilizers. These findings suggest that the potential for increasing farmers' incomes lies primarily in animal husbandry and pisciculture," highlights the study.

The demand in these sectors is expected to strengthen in the future as the income of consumers increases and dietary preferences diversify. The paper recommends encouraging the private sector to build "efficient value chains" through a "cluster-based approach", which can be a good investment strategy.

The paper further recommends improved "market access" for farmers through four ways for better returns, especially for small producers. The first way suggested by the authors is "contract farming", where a direct link between the market and primary producers is a predetermined contract.

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"They assure pre-determined market demand, thereby mitigating price and production risks and uncertainties in the market, helping smallholders navigate imperfections of markets and their own asset limitations," says the study.

Such arrangements are already in place in parts of the country for some specific crops. "Studies have also found that farmers' returns have been higher in contract farming," it adds.

The second way is Farmers' Producers Organizations (FPOs), where market access for FPO members is increased due to improved "bargaining power, enhancing their productivity, increasing incomes, and ultimately mitigating rural poverty."

According to the authors, the government needs to put in more effort to bring more farmers under such organizations to increase their bargaining power, which will result in better returns and augment their incomes.

The government has already introduced a central sector scheme to establish 10,000 new FPOs by 2027-28.

Innovative Climate Insurance Solution from Heat Wave

IBISA, a leading Insurtech pioneer headquartered in Luxembourg, has launched its latest innovation - the Heat Stress Solution - a groundbreaking advancement in climate-risk insurance that underscores its commitment to addressing critical challenges faced by the dairy industry.

In response to the significant decline in milk yield, estimated at 30-35 percent during severe heat waves, IBISA's Heat Stress Solution utilizes advanced climate metrics and satellite technology to provide vital protection for dairy farmers. By offering compensation for revenue losses incurred due to heat stress, this unique solution serves as a lifeline for dairy farmers across India, said a company press release.

Since its introduction in 2024, the Heat Stress Solution has already safeguarded over 100,000 livestock within a mere fortnight, spanning 14 districts in Kerala. Notable beneficiaries include farmers associated with the Trivandrum, Malabar, and Ernakulam Regional Cooperative Milk Producers' Unions (TRCMPU, MRCMPU, and ERCMPU respectively).

Furthermore, the product is currently operational in select districts of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Gujarat. IBISA anticipates expanding its reach in the coming months through collaborations with multiple milk unions and key partners within the dairy value chain. Strategic partnerships with Dehaat, a leading Agritech firm, and Behtar Zindagi,

an online agri marketplace platform provider, further enhance the product's accessibility and impact.

IBISA's expertise in developing, distributing, and overseeing effective climate insurance solutions is unparalleled. As an Insurtech firm, IBISA collaborates with local insurers, providing comprehensive support in insurance risk modelling, design, assessment, and technological infrastructure, ultimately enabling insurers to underwrite and deliver tailored insurance products efficiently.

"Identifying and addressing a critical necessity, we've brought to the fore an insurance model that is not just accessible but also comprehensible to our clients," remarks Shri Balachandran M.K., IBISA's Head of Growth for Asia. The surge in IBISA solution's adoption is a clear indicator of the heightened awareness and demand for such protective measures amidst climatic adversities.

Recognizing the impact of climate change on various sectors, IBISA is committed to addressing insurance gaps in the poultry industry as well. Through strategic collaborations and grassroots awareness initiatives, IBISA aims to redefine India's agri-insurance landscape, empowering farmers and enterprises to navigate climate uncertainties effectively.

New Norms to Rein in Defaults in AHIDF Dairy Scheme

The Central Government has specified measures to disincentivize defaults in the guidelines for the realigned Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) Scheme. Interest subvention, which is up to three per cent, will not be provided for defaulters at any point of time for repayment, official states, adding that the lender is free to take actions as per their guidelines.

The guidelines, which were finalized a few days ago, stipulate that no interest subvention will be provided for the duration an account is a non-performing assets (NPAs).

Initially, the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, will pay interest subvention amount upfront to the lending agency for the first year based on the demand from the lender. The guidelines have mandated that the banks concerned will transfer the funds received under the scheme to the loan account of the beneficiary within three days of receipt.

Interest subvention from the second year onwards would be released based on the non-NPA borrowers' entitlement claimed by the lending agency every year in advance.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)

approved the AHIDF Scheme worth Rs.15,000 crore in June 2020 to facilitate incentivization of investments in infrastructure for dairy, meat processing, value addition infrastructure, and animal feed plants in the private sector. The eligible beneficiaries were farmer producer organizations (FPOs), MSMEs, Section 8 companies, private companies, and individual entrepreneurs with a minimum 10 per cent margin money contribution by them.

Shri Parshottam Rupala, Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying launched the realigned AHIDF Scheme on February 14 for implementation for another three years. Dairy cooperatives were included in the list of beneficiaries.

According to the government, in the last three years, more than 5,000 project proposals were received under the scheme. Around 15 lakh jobs have been generated so far. The beneficiaries include small and marginal farmers as well as industries.

Havmor Ice Cream Launches Range of Ice Cream Flavours, this Summer Season

Havmor Ice Cream brand, a part of LOTTE Wellfood Co. Ltd., has launched an exciting range of new ice cream flavours just ahead of the summer heatwave. It is committed to innovation and strives to keep up with the dynamic and evolving preferences of consumers. With this in mind, the brand has carefully curated a delectable assortment of flavours that blends timeless classics with innovative twists, ensuring a delightful experience for every palate.

It understands the preferences of Indian consumers and strives to launch flavours that delight their taste buds. From Indian dessert-inspired ice cream flavours of Shahi Kesar and Rajwadi Kulfi to modern twists on classic favourites with Blueberry Cheesecake, Cookie N Cream cone, ice cream sandwich and summer specials Ratnagiri Hapus, rose flavoured ice cream and Jaljeera & Kalakhatta for refreshing treat, there's something delicious for every palate.



Shri Komal Anand, Managing Director, Havmor Ice Cream, said, "At Havmor, we're passionate about crafting unique and distinctive flavours and our relentless focus on understanding consumer preferences is at the heart of our R&D and innovation. We are launching around 12 new flavours this season, and considering the current K-wave among consumers; we are also expanding the LOTTE range by adding new Koreaninspired products in the coming months. The category has a lot of headroom for growth, and brands with a national footprint have been growing at a CAGR of about 20-25% post-Covid. We expect the category momentum to continue. To cater to the growing demand, we have increased the production capacity in the existing factories and will be ready to service more demand through our upcoming factory in Pune starting July- August 2024."

Importance of Innovative Solutions in Industrial Setting: Need of the Hour



Recently, an Amul Dairy's employee, Shri Jafarbeg Anwarbeg Mirza, working at Dr. Kurien Cheese plant, Khatraj, was awarded the prestigious 'Rajya Shram Ratna Award' for his innovative work at the cheese Plant. His efforts in implementing a solution to minimize productivity loss and product loss in the production of paneer and mozzarella cheese are commendable.

By installing isolation valves on both refrigeration systems and enabling them to operate interchangeably, Shri Mirza significantly reduced the risk of downtime due to machine unavailability. This innovative approach ensured continuous production while maintaining the required sub-zero temperatures for the perishable products.

The Award was presented for Shri Mirza's work by Shri Balvantsinh Rajput, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister of Industries, Micro, Small and Medium Industries,

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Cottage, Khadi and Rural Industries, Civil Aviation, Labour and Employment, Government of Gujarat.

Chairman and Managing Director, Amul Dairy Shri Vipulbhai Patel and Dr. Amit Vyas congratulated Shri Mirza and extended heartfelt wishes on behalf of entire Amul Dairy to him for the commitment and innovative approach adopted by him. Shri Mirza's recognition not only celebrates his achievements but also encourages others to strive for excellence in their respective fields.

Everest Instruments Pvt. Ltd. Unveils Groundbreaking Dairy Solutions



According to the Press Release of Everest Instruments Pvt. Ltd. - a pioneer in innovative dairy and food testing solutions, they have launched three revolutionary products unveiled by Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman of NDDB, at the esteemed 50th Dairy Industry Conference in Hyderabad from March 4th to 6th, 2024.

1. YAMA FTIR Milk Analyzer with Adulteration Screening: The first Indian-designed Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy Analyzer, offering rapid and accurate raw milk composition analysis. Capable of



detecting common adulterants in milk within just 30 seconds, this analyser is set to revolutionize village-level milk collection and Milk Chilling Centres (BMCs) with its affordability and efficiency.

2. Gas Chromatography for Milk Fat Fatty Acids and

Triglycerides (Everest GC4500): Providing detailed profiling of fatty acids and triglycerides, crucial for understanding milk, milk products, and ghee quality. With its focus on nutritional value and authenticity, the GC4500 sets new standards in dairy analysis.



3. Somatic Cell Analyzer:

A cutting-edge solution for detecting and counting somatic cells in raw milk, serving as a vital indicator of milk quality and animal udder health. With its precise analysis, Everest Instruments ensures the highest standards of dairy production.



For more information, interested members/readers may visit www.everestinstruments.in

Heritage Foods Builds on Flexibility of SIG Technology to Offer Beverages in Aseptic Carton Packs

Heritage Foods Limited, India's second largest private dairy, has partnered with SIG to package its beverages in aseptic carton packs. SIG has supplied Heritage Foods Limited with state-of-the-art, highly flexible filling solutions and innovative aseptic packaging, that will help position the company to meet evolving consumer needs.

The company has installed XSIim 12 Aseptic filling machine at its manufacturing unit in the Medchal-Malkajgiri district of Telangana. The filling machine can fill 12,000 XSIimBloc carton packs per hour and has the flexibility to fill nine different volume sizes (from 80ml to 200ml) on the same filling line - and it takes less than 15 minutes to complete the volume change. This will help it to reach diverse consumer groups targeting different price points.

Mrs. Bhuvaneswari Nara, Vice-Chairperson & Managing Director at Heritage Foods Limited, said, "At Heritage Foods, our core promise is to delight our consumers with our products and deliver health and happiness. With the commissioning of the new line from SIG, we will be launching a wide range of products that cater to the numerous taste preferences of our consumers - from sweet and indulging milkshakes, to refreshing spiced buttermilk. We value our partnership with SIG as we share common values of sustainability and convenience."

NDDB Congratulates IDMC Ltd for Achieving Turnover of Rs. 1000 Cr. during FY 2023-24

NDDB wholly owned subsidiary IDMC Limited organized Annual Conference during April 12-13, 2024 for achieving the milestone turnover of Rs. 1000 Cr. during the financial year 2023-24.



Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman, NDDB and IDMC Ltd. congratulated the team for the great achievement.

He also took the participants through the journey of IDMC and appreciated the employees for their dedication and efforts. He noted that 90% of the equipment is manufactured in-house by IDMC. He advised the team to optimistically stay focused and develop manufacturing capabilities of the equipment that are currently being imported. Dr. Shah emphasized the importance of keeping the flag high and advised IDMC to increase exports in order to achieve global reach. He also motivated the entire IDMC team to collectively strive to double the turnover to Rs. 2000 Cr. in next five years.

On this momentous occasion, Dr. Shah, Chairman stated that IDMC is a market leader in the dairy equipment sector and one of the largest suppliers of packaging films to cooperative dairies exemplifying the spirit of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India' initiative.

Ajooni Biotech Limited Announce Contract Agreement with NDDB for Supplying High-Quality Cattle Feed and Feed Supplements

Ajooni Biotech Limited is pleased to announce a strategic partnership with the esteemed National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) Dairy Services. Through this partnership with NDDB, Ajooni Biotech Limited anticipates fresh monthly order for cattle feed and feed supplements.

With this collaboration, company will supply high-quality cattle feed and feed supplements to support NDDB's efforts in enhancing the productivity of milk producer companies and promoting sustainable livelihoods among dairy farmers.

NDDB Dairy Services, a pivotal entity in India's dairy industry, with 170 million unions operating across 285 districts and encompassing approximately 96,000 villages, they play a crucial role in the livelihoods of over 10.7 million farmers and labourers who are integral members of its network. This partnership underscores company's commitment to contributing to the growth and welfare of India's dairy sector by leveraging their expertise in providing superior cattle feed and supplements.

Ajooni Biotech Limited is a PURE VEG. animal health care solutions company. It stands as a trailblazer, innovator, and frontrunner in the realm of animal feed production, prioritizing excellence in quality, safety, and production innovation, along with a commitment to delivering exceptional customer service.

NABARD Issues Statement to Dispel Misinformation Regarding Dairy Loan Yojana

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) issues a statement to address the recent misinformation circulating about the NABARD Dairy Loan Yojana. A series of false claims suggesting that NABARD is directly providing loans to farmers for dairy farming ventures under their Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme. NABARD, categorically and unequivocally states that these assertions are fake.

NABARD, as an apex development finance institution, functions by extending financial assistance and support to various financial institutions and cooperatives involved in rural development. It does not extend loans directly to individual farmers. All stakeholders are strongly urged,

particularly farmers and rural entrepreneurs, to exercise utmost caution and refrain from believing or propagating such misinformation. Unverified information can lead to financial risks and misunderstandings. Accurate information can be obtained from NABARD's official website, www.nabard.org.

NABARD remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting rural development and agriculture through various initiatives and schemes aimed at fostering sustainable livelihoods. Hence, cooperation of all stakeholders is solicited in ensuring the dissemination of accurate information and discouraging the spread of misinformation.

IDA to Organize a Seminar on "Technological Interventions in Indian Dairy" at Yashobhoomi, IICC New Delhi

Indian Dairy Association is organizing a one-day seminar on "Technological Interventions in Indian Dairy," scheduled on June 6, 2024, at Yashobhoomi, IICC, New Delhi.

This seminar aims to provide a platform for discussing and deliberating on the latest technological advancements in the dairy industry. The technical sessions have been meticulously curated to facilitate and encourage dairy technology providers to share information about their breakthrough technologies and services aimed at enhancing productivity.

Professionals working in various roles within the dairy industry, including managers, technicians, quality assurance personnel, and researchers, will benefit from gaining knowledge about emerging trends and technologies shaping the sector. The Seminar can help them stay updated with industry best practices and drive innovation within their organizations.

To view the schedule and register for the seminar as a panelist or attendee, please visit Registration Link https://interfoodtech.com/IDA_Delegate. For any inquiries, feel free to contact us at idahq@rediffmail.com



INTERNATIONAL News

International Dairy Market: USDA

As per the latest USDA data of mid April, 2024, international market overview are as follows:

EUROPEAN

Western European

After a slow start to the year, EU milk production has picked up, and weekly milk intakes are above 2023 levels within some countries. According to some European publications, week 13 milk collections in Germany were 0.7 percent above those of week 13 in 2023, and milk collections in France were 1.3 percent higher for the same period.

Milk pay prices have been relatively stable through the course of the first three months of 2024. The average EU farm gate milk pay price has been close to the mid 40 euros per 100kg since the beginning of the year. Spot milk prices have been at, or slightly lower than, the current milk pay prices. Industry sources suggest that milk is readily available for processing needs. Cream prices are trending higher ahead of strong demand for butter and fresh cream and milk products. Skimmed milk concentrate prices are slightly weaker due to lackluster demand for milk powders and greater than anticipated milk supplies.

Eastern European

The march to spring flush is continuing across much of Eastern Europe. However, while milk production is still growing in some Eastern European countries, Ukrainian milk production is still well below the levels of milk produced in the country prior to the Russian invasion. Online information services report February 2024 Ukrainian milk production was 460,000 tons, compared to 525,000 tons in February 2021. February 2023 Ukrainian milk production was 458,000 tons.

On March 28, negotiators from across the EU reached a tentative agreement to extend the tariff-free food import status for Ukrainian goods to June 2025 and impose tariffs on poultry, eggs, sugar, oats, maize/corn, groats, and honey if imports exceed the average levels of a reference period for those products. The new agreement expands the reference period used by the EU to include the last half of 2021, as well as 2022 and 2023. The agreement now needs to be ratified by the European Parliament. Market observers expect some countries may seek to add more restrictions. France and Hungary have indicated that wheat should also be included with the products that have the tariff triggers. The agreement is important to both sides and tries to strike a balance

...continue on Page 64

between protecting EU agricultural markets and supporting the Ukrainian economy amid the war with Russia.

OCEANIA DAIRY MARKET

New Zealand

During GDT event 353 last week, prices rose for most products traded, with the all contracts prices only falling for buttermilk powder and lactose. Meanwhile, the volume of products traded during this event was down from the previous event and was the least sold at a GDT event since May of 2020.

In New Zealand, a group which forecasts dairy prices increased their forecasted milk price by 10 cents, to \$7.72/kgMS, following the most recent GDT event. The group stated milk powders had the largest impact on increasing the forecasted milk price as whole milk powder and skim milk powder prices both increased during GDT event 353. For the 2024-2025 season, the forecasted farmgate milk price was raised by 18 cent to \$8.49/kgMS.

The New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries recently released a newsletter stating the last known dairy farm in the country with Mycoplasma bovis has been cleared, reducing the number of confirmed cases of the infection to zero. Despite this, they anticipate a few more cases may arise in the coming season. Within New Zealand, the ministry is in year 6 of a 10-year eradication plan and moving into a phase of the plan centered on surveillance. The newsletter stated the ability of Mycoplasma bovis to go undetected clinically creates a need for years of data collection and no new cases of infection to be confident farms in New Zealand are free of the bacteria.

A real estate agency in New Zealand recently released a report discussing trends affecting the value of dairy farmland in the country. This report stated interest rates and operating costs have been increasing in New Zealand this season, but land value remains supported by restrictions which limit land conversion to dairy usage. The report stated buyers are interested in environmental information on properties. The real estate agency stated they anticipate the number of dairy farms operating to decline, as smaller farms are acquired by larger operations.

Australia

According to Dairy Australia, February 2024 milk production, 601.8 million liters, was up 8.7 percent from February 2023. Milk production was higher in February 2024 compared to a year earlier in every state, with the largest percentage increase, 10.3 percent, seen in Victoria. Milk production from the start of the season in July 2023 through February 2024, 5,949.0 million liters,

increased 3.1 percent compared to the same time frame a year earlier. From the start of the season in July 2023 through February 2024 the cumulative volume of milk produced was higher in every state compared to the prior season.

The March 2024 Production Inputs Monitor from Dairy Australia was recently released. This report relayed southern Australia had rainfall which was below average and temperatures which were warmer than average. Meanwhile, rainfall was above average in most of western Australia and northern Australia. The dry conditions in parts of the country were noted as contributing to higher demand for supplementary feed during March and contributing to steady or rising feed input prices. The report continued to state prices have pushed higher in grain markets, amid increased demand from northern feedlots.

A financial institution discussed dairy market conditions in Australia in a recently released report. This report stated favorable weather during the summer months and good farmgate prices have contributed to strong milk production in the country. The institution forecasts milk production volumes this season to surpass the previous season by 2.6 percent and for growth in milk production to continue upwards next season by increasing another 3 to 4 percent.

A company in Australia recently released milk advertised as more environmentally friendly, due to the addition of a Tasmanian red seaweed in the diets of milking cows. The company stated adding this seaweed into the cows' diets will reduce methane emissions in burps. They further noted the milk is packaged in materials that are 100 percent recyclable.

SOUTH AMERICA DAIRY MARKET

In late 2023, USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service estimated a two percent decrease in Argentinian milk output for calendar year 2024. After the first quarter, contacts suggest two percent may have been a conservative estimate. Argentina's recent milk output woes are being brought into the discussion from contacts throughout the Southern Cone. That being said, Brazilian demand for dairy and dairy powder commodities has been quieter in recent weeks. Contacts in Uruguay and Argentina say milk powder loads are staying within their borders, and more loads are going into processing plants within the respective country of origin.

Crop conditions are variant in the region. Brazilian farmers are contending with dryness and heat. Soybean harvest is nearing its final weeks, while planting of the second crop corn is nearing its final days. In Argentina, wet soil has delayed harvests for both beans and corn for an indeterminate amount of time, but some estimates are up to a 30% delay from previous years' averages.

In recent years, dairy farming costs have gradually, or even abruptly, elevated alongside volatility with farmgate check amounts. Dairy farmers are hopeful for a bountiful harvest to alleviate some of those growing operational costs.

Milk Production and Consumption in the US

In the US and many other countries, milk consumption has dropped over time due to changing demographics and other factors. Americans drink 47% less milk today than they did in 1975, according to USA Facts, a company that analyses US Department of Agriculture data.

At the same time, however, milk production in the US has increased by a whopping 96% since 1975, reaching an all-time high of 26.4 billion gallons in 2023. This is partially due to increased exports, but also components of milk being used in a growing number of convenience products, from pasta mixes to candy and ready-to-make desserts.

To keep US milk production high, the industry is doing its best to popularize other dairy products besides milk, including those new to US consumers - and exploring other industries besides food as well. The Center for Dairy Research (CDR), based at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has just announced new initiatives.

Building excitement for new cheese

The CDR is supporting the large-scale introduction of 'Quark' in the US, with the belief that this type of cheese could find significant demand. Across Europe, these cheeses are very popular (known as Quark in Germany and other countries, Topfen in Austria, and Tvorog in eastern Europe) in sweet and savour foods.

"Ultimately, education is needed," Dean Sommer, CDR food and cheese technologist, recently noted, but Quark must also be marketed by more companies. CDR is now offering equipment and staff expertise support to help dairy processors develop a Quark cheese.

Master Cheesemakers

To support a vibrant US cheese market, the CDR and other organizations continue to support the Wisconsin Master Cheesemaker programme. It has been running since 1997. The CDR states: "It is the only of its kind in the US and continues to move the industry forward while preserving traditions." Every year, the programme graduates over 100, and the class expands every year.

New uses for 'waste' milk components

The CDR also just received a 'Build to Scale' (B2S) grant

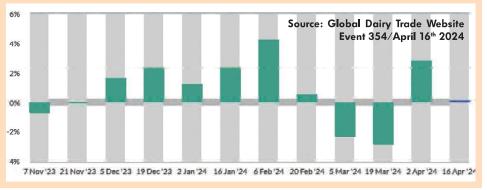
Global Dairy Price Index Remain Unchanged

Global Dairy Trade Event 354 concluded with the GDT Price Index up 0.1% with average global price index touching USD 3590/MT.

Key results remains as are:- AMF index up 1.7%, average price US\$7, 062/MT (Rs. 580/Kgs); Butter index down 1.4%, average price US\$6,546/MT (Rs. 535/Kgs/MT); BMP index not available, average

price not available; Ched index down 8.5%, average price US\$3,974/MT (Rs. 326/Kgs); SMP index 4% unchanged, average price US\$2,541/MT (Rs 208/Kgs); WMP index up 0.4%, average price US\$3,269/MT (Rs 268/Kgs). Indian domestic prices are around 20% lower for AMF or ghee and 30% lower for Butter.

SMP prices in Indian markets are higher from 7% to 30% as compared to global prices. Recently there has been an uptick in the prices of SMP, Butter and Ghee in Indian domestic markets. Ghee prices have gone up by Rs. 50 per kgs in last two weeks from Rs. 6500 to Rs. 7300 for 15 kgs tins. SMP prices have also moved up by Rs 30-40 per kgs in all range of powders.



ERRATUM

In the April 2024 Issues of the *Indian Dairyman* an article on "Journey through Time: 75 Years of the Indian Dairy Association" was published. On Page 83 of the same article, a list of Presidents of IDA, since its inception, was published wherein the tenure of the current President Dr. R.S. Sodhi has inadvertently been printed as "Since 2002 - continuing". The correct line is "Since 2022 - continuing". The typographical error printed on page 83 is regretted.

of US\$1.2 million (EURO 1.1 million) from the US Department of Commerce, the only organization in the food industry to do so. The grant will "support inventors, entrepreneurs, and businesses that are developing methods to utilize dairy co-products, like permeate and acid whey, and convert them into higher-value products" like novel food ingredients, but also bioplastics, organic acids and more.

Waste not, want not

The dairy industry produces large volumes of dairy coproducts that often are disposed of or go to pig feed. New and emerging technologies hold the key to changing that forever.

"The B2S grant programme will allow CDR to select innovative technologies from anywhere in the US that are ready to be scaled up," states the organization. Successful applicants will bring their promising technologies to CDR's world-class pilot plant where they will have access to equipment and staff expertise.

Impact of Wet Weather on EU Dairy Market Outlook

As wet weather continues, it is expected to have a negative impact on the dairy market outlook, according to global dairy analyst for Rabobank, Mr. Richard Scheper.

Due to current field conditions, the country is expected to accumulate lower milk output in 2024. While speaking during a Seminar recently, he said that the situation will be the same for north-west Europe, which accounts for 39% of total milk supply growth since 2010. Looking at the long-term perspective, the market outlook will depend on nitrogen derogation limits.

"There are lots of discussions on that and water quality, so I do think that is going to be a pivotal point," he said.

Looking across Europe, EU milk supply peaked in 2020 and has been at a "standstill" ever since. This is due to a combination of factors, including labour issues, along with severe weather conditions from flooding to drought, Mr. Scheper said.

Looking ahead to 2035 and taking into account the current standstill, he said that there is an expected decline the dairy herd by 1.6% annually. The most

significant decline is expected in the Netherlands.

For Ireland in particular, milk supply is expected to stabilise at the current nine million tonnes. Mr. Scheper further said that people should be aware that after a period of rising interest rates and escalating costs, capital challenges have become more evident.

For dairy companies, the significant loss in milk volumes could over time have a meaningful impact on their capital structure and balance sheet, such as the asset and equity value. He added that in order to ease the situation in dairy markets, "more consistent policies" are needed.

Dairy Consumption Falls again in Germany

The consumption of milk in Germany declined again in 2023, government data shows. According to preliminary figures published by the Bundesinformationszentrums Landwirtschaft (BZL), the per capita consumption of milk in Germany shrunk to less than 46 kg in 2023, from 46.1kg in 2022, which had been a record low.

Meanwhile, the production of drinking milk fell by almost 1% to around 4.2m tons compared to the previous year. Cheese consumption per person decreased from 24.6kg to 23.8kg, a fall of more than 3%.

However, production of cheese increased to 2.66m tons in 2023 from 2.64m tons in 2022 due to rising exports. The amount of cheese Germany exported reached an all-time high in 2023 of 1.41m tons, a 6.6% rise on the previous year. The number of dairy cows shrunk by 2.5% in 2023 to around 3.7m animals.

According to the BZL, people have also been using less butter in Germany. The per capita consumption of butter, milk fat and milk fat products fell by 1.4% to 5.6kg in the country.

Butter production fell by almost 4% last year but the overall production of the "butter, milk fat and milk fat products" category slightly increased overall by 1.8% to 481,000 tons.

Earlier this month, the BZL reported that meat consumption in Germany also fell to a new record low in 2023. Consumption declined 0.8% year-on-year to 51.6kg. This marked a new record low level for the country, after a drop to 52kg per person in 2022.

Event CALENDAR

IDF World Dairy Summit 2024

Date: October 15-18, 2024 Venue: Rendez-vous, Paris, France. Visit https://www.idfwds2024.com

IDA's One-Day Seminar on

Technological Interventions in Indian Dairy

Date: June 6, 2024 Venue: Yashobhoomi, IICC, Dwarka, New Delhi

Register at https://interfoodtech.com/IDA_Delegate