



Indian Delegation at IDF World Dairy Summit 2025 in Santiago, Chile

The **IDF World Dairy Summit 2025** was held at the Hotel Intercontinental, Santiago, Chile, from October 20 to 23, 2025. The theme of the Summit was **"Nourishing a Sustainable World"**, with a focus on sustainability across the dairy value chain — from farm to consumer. This is the first time that the World Dairy Summit has been hosted in South America. The programme emphasized sustainable farming, dairy processing, nutrition, innovation, technology, and responses to global challenges.

Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman, NDDDB; Board Member, International Dairy Federation (IDF) and Secretary, Indian National Committee of IDF, attended the Inaugural Plenary Session of the Summit in Santiago along with the Indian delegation, comprising officials from State Dairy Federations, Milk Producer Organizations, NDDDB and its subsidiaries such as Mother Dairy and NDDDB Dairy Services, the National Cooperative Dairy

Chairman, NDDDB was elected unopposed as Board Member, International Dairy Federation



Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman, NDDDB was elected unopposed for a second consecutive term as a Board Member of the International Dairy Federation during the Summit. His re-election reflects India's growing leadership in strengthening

global dairy cooperation and innovation, while advancing IDF's vision of "Nourishing the world" and representing the interests of India's 80 million milk producers.

The Indian Dairy Association congratulates Dr. Meenesh Shah for being elected as an IDF Board Member.

Indian Delegation at World Dairy Summit 2025



Federation of India Ltd., the Indian Dairy Association, and others. The strong participation from India reaffirmed the nation's commitment to cooperative development, sustainability, and innovation in the global dairy landscape.

Shri R.K. Chugh, Vice Chairman, IDA (North Zone), and Shri Madhav Patgaonkar, Secretary, IDA (West Zone), represented the Indian Dairy Association at the Summit.

Dr. Raja Rathinam, Senior Life Member of the IDA and Managing Director of the UNDP-initiated SKPCL, also attended the Summit. He presented the 52nd DIC brochure to the VIP delegates, including Dr. Thanawat Tiensin, Assistant Director-General, FAO, during the Summit, along with Shri Chugh and Shri Madhav.

Dr. Meenesh Shah participated in the 120th General Assembly Meeting of the IDF at Santiago, Chile. During the Assembly, he provided an update on the preparations for the IDF World Dairy Summit 2027, which will be hosted in India at the Jio Convention Centre, Mumbai, from November 16 to 19, 2027. He invited all delegates to visit India and participate in the event.



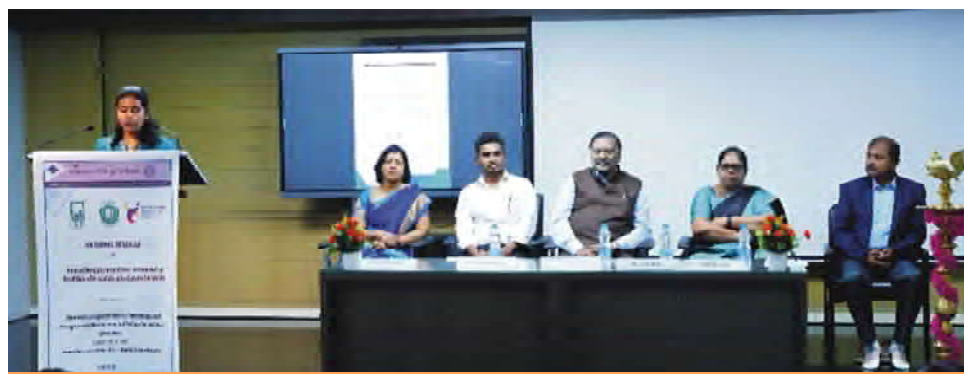
As part of the business meetings held prior to the Summit, Dr. Shah attended the Joint Committee on Marketing and Dairy Policy and Economics, followed by the Standing Committee on Dairy Policy and Economics, where discussions centred on the World Dairy Situation.

He also attended the meeting of IDF National Committee Secretaries, which focused on reviewing recent IDF initiatives and future plans.

IDA News

National Seminar on Innovative Dairy Practices: Harmonizing Tradition with Sustainable Future Solutions

A one-day National Seminar on Innovative Dairy Practices was successfully conducted at PSGR Krishnammal College for Women, Coimbatore, on 19th September 2025, bringing together academicians, researchers, industry professionals, students, and stakeholders from the dairy sector. The event was jointly organized by the Department of Food Processing Technology and Management (FPTM) of PSGR Krishnammal College and the Indian Dairy Association - Tamil Nadu Chapter (IDA-TNC).



The theme of the seminar, **"Innovative Dairy Practices: Harmonizing Tradition with Sustainable Future Solutions"**, reflected the growing need to balance India's rich traditional dairy heritage with modern technological, nutritional, and sustainability-focused approaches.

The seminar commenced with a welcome address by Dr. N. Deepa Sathish, Head of the Department of FPTM, who emphasized the importance of research-based dairy education and industry-academia collaboration.

The Presidential address was delivered by Shri C.P. Charles, Central Executive Committee Member, IDA HQ, New Delhi, who highlighted NDDDB and IDA's continuing efforts to support dairy farmers through innovation and policy frameworks.

Shri K.S. Kanna, Chairman, IDA-TN Chapter, in his Special address, stressed the importance of functional foods, and value-added dairy innovations to keep pace with consumer demand. He also underlined the vital role of IDA in linking academia with the dairy sector to prepare the next generation of professionals.

Dr. T. Anuradha, Designated Officer, FSSAI - Coimbatore,



The competitions not only tested creativity and technical knowledge but also created a platform for networking between students, faculty, and industry experts. Winners were recognized with certificates and appreciation, reflecting the commitment of IDA-TNC and PSGR Krishnammal College to nurturing talent in the dairy sector.

Interactive Segment: Dairy Pro Connect

An engaging segment titled "Dairy Pro Connect", led by Er. Dayanand Peter, Executive Committee Member (RE), IDA-TNC, and HOD, Department of Food Processing Technology, Karunya University, provided a platform for participants to share their experiences, challenges, and perspectives. The session served as a bridge between academia and industry, encouraging students to actively explore opportunities in research, entrepreneurship, and professional development in the dairy field.

The seminar concluded with a collective understanding that the Indian dairy sector stands at the crossroads of tradition and modernity. With India continuing to be the world's largest producer of milk, there is a pressing need to integrate traditional dairy wisdom with modern sustainable practices to ensure nutritional security, environmental responsibility, and farmer prosperity.

The organizers expressed gratitude to all participants, experts, and the Indian Dairy Association - Tamil Nadu Chapter for their support. The event underscored the importance of collaborative efforts in building a resilient dairy sector capable of addressing present challenges while preparing for future opportunities.

shared regulatory insights, emphasizing food safety standards and the role of quality assurance in strengthening consumer trust in dairy products.

Technical Sessions: Insights into Dairy Innovation

The seminar featured technical sessions from eminent experts covering diverse aspects of dairy processing and innovation:

Dr. Paa. Rajeswari, Associate Professor, Department of Food Science and Nutrition, Avinashilingam Institute, delivered a lecture on Sustainable Dairy Innovations, highlighting eco-friendly technologies, waste utilization, and the role of renewable energy in dairy processing.

Shri K.S. Kanna, Chairman, IDA-TNC, led an interactive session on Next-Generation Dairy Integration, discussing opportunities in fortified milk, probiotic curd, etc. aligned with changing consumer lifestyles.

Dr. Veena Paul, Assistant Professor, Department of Food Processing Technology, Karunya Institute, presented advances in Encapsulation of Dairy Functional Ingredients, showcasing how cutting-edge processing techniques can preserve probiotics, bioactive peptides, and micronutrients for improved functional benefits.

The technical sessions were highly interactive, with students and participants engaging in discussions on commercialization challenges, consumer acceptance, and policy implications of adopting innovative dairy practices.

Student Engagement: Ideathon and E-Poster Competition

A highlight of the seminar was the Ideathon and E-Poster Competition, designed to encourage young minds to present innovative solutions for the dairy industry. Students showcased creative ideas on topics such as sustainable packaging, digital traceability, plant-dairy blends, and functional dairy products.

FoSTaC Training on Milk and Milk Products at Nehru Arts and Science College

The Department of Food Science and Nutrition, School of Life Sciences, Nehru Arts and Science College, Coimbatore, organized a FoSTaC course on Milk and Milk Products on 13th and 14th October 2025. The programme was conducted in collaboration with the Indian Dairy Association (IDA), Tamil Nadu Chapter (TNC), and Tedmag Training Academy, Bangalore, with 50% of the course fee sponsored by IDA (South Zone).

The two-day training aimed to enhance knowledge and skills in food safety, hygiene, and quality management, with special emphasis on the handling, processing, and regulatory compliance of milk and milk products.

The resource persons for the programme were:-

Shri C.P. Charles, NLRP (FoSTaC) and Central Executive Committee Member, IDA, HQ, New Delhi and Shri K.S. Kanna, Trainer & Assessor, FoSTaC, and Chairman, Indian Dairy Association - Tamil Nadu Chapter.

Both shared their extensive expertise in dairy operations, regulatory frameworks, and industry best practices, providing participants with valuable insights into ensuring safety and quality throughout the dairy value chain.

The training, attended by students and faculty members, was structured in accordance with Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) guidelines. Organizers emphasized the critical role of professional



training in meeting rising consumer expectations for safe, hygienic, and high-quality dairy products.

The programme was successfully coordinated under the leadership of Ms. G. Thilagavathy (Organising Secretary), Dr. A. Swarnalatha (Dean, I & A), and Dr. V. Vijayakumar (Principal).

This initiative marks an important step in strengthening the academia-industry interface and equipping future professionals with the competencies required for leadership in the dairy and food sectors.

NATIONAL News

India's Dairy Sector Achieves Record Growth: PIB Highlights Production, Cooperatives, and Women's Leadership

India has made remarkable progress in the dairy sector over the past decade, according to the latest release from the Press Information Bureau (PIB). National milk production surged by 63.56%, rising from 146.30 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 239.30 million tonnes in 2024-25. Per capita milk availability also increased by 48%, reaching 471 grams per day—well above the global average. India continues to lead the world in milk output, contributing nearly 25% of global supply. Dairy has emerged as the country's largest agricultural product, accounting for approximately 5% of national

GDP and directly engaging over 80 million rural households.

The cooperative dairy network remains a cornerstone of this growth. As of 2025, the sector comprises 22 milk federations, 241 district cooperative unions, 28 marketing dairies, and 25 Milk Producer Organisations (MPOs), collectively serving around 2.35 lakh villages and representing 1.72 crore dairy farmers. Women play a pivotal role in this transformation, performing nearly 70% of the workforce in dairy farming consists of women, and about 35% are active in dairy cooperatives. Across the country, more than 48,000 women-led dairy cooperative societies operate at the village level, bringing inclusive growth and empowerment to rural communities.

With the formal launch of White Revolution 2.0, the government has set ambitious targets for 2028-29, including expanding cooperative coverage and increasing daily milk procurement to 1007

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Southern Dairy and Food Conclave, SDFC-2026, Kerala

The Indian Dairy Association – Kerala Chapter is proud to present the second edition of the Southern Dairy Summit, reimagined as the Southern Dairy and Food Conclave 2026 (SDFC-2026). The event will be held from January 8–10, 2026, at the Calicut Trade Centre, Kozhikode, Kerala — which will be ceremonially renamed Verghese Kurien Nagar in honour of Padma Vibhushan Dr. Verghese Kurien, the pioneer of India's White Revolution and a native of Kozhikode. This year, the Conclave expands its focus to include Food alongside Dairy, underscoring their interconnected roles in nutrition, sustainability, and economic growth.

Conference Theme:

The theme **"Transforming Dairy and Food Systems for Global Health"** underscores the vital role of sustainable dairy and food systems in enhancing health outcomes worldwide.

Contact Details - SDFC-2026

Organizing Secretary: Dr. S.N. Rajakumar
M.: 9495882953 Email: rajakumar@kvasu.ac.in

Convenor: Shri Anil Kumar I.S.
M.: 9400909222/9447204203
Email: isnilkumar@malabarmilma.coop

Technical Committee Chairman: Dr. R. Rajendra Kumar
M.: 9446442759 Email: rrkumarkau@yahoo.com

Program Management and Publicity Committee Chairman:
Shri N.K Premlal
M.: 9447885868 Email: premlal@malabarmilma.coop

Innovators Product Display Exhibition Committee Chairman:
Dr. P. Sudheer Babu
M.: 9447331231 Email: sudheer@kvasu.ac.in

Oral and Poster Session Chairman: Dr. A.K Beena
M.: 94446293686 Email: akbeena@kvasu.ac.in

Publication Committee Chairman: Dr. P.I. Geevarghese
M.: 9447391283 Email: drgeevarghese@gmail.com

Registration Committee Chairman: Dr. C.T Sathian
M.: 9495039707 Email: ctsathian@gmail.com

Registration Details

Categories	Early Bird registration November 30 (Rupees)	Late From December 1 (Rupees)	On spot Registration (Rupees)
IDA Non Member	4000	5000	8000
IDA Member	3000	4000	5000
Farmers/Students/ IDA Senior Citizens (>60 Years)	2000	3000	4000
One day Registration for UG and PG students only for pre-conference Day	1200		
Note: 1. The fees are inclusive of GST @18%. GST No. 32AAAT10442A2ZL 2. Fellows / Patrons / Dr. Kurien awardees are exempted from payment of registration fee. Early bird discount up to 30 th November 2025. Those who intend to register are advised to complete the process at the earliest. Students will have to upload/produce a certificate from college/ID card, while Sr. Citizens may upload / produce an Aadhar card / Proof of Date of Birth. Bank Details: Name of Account: SOUTHERN DAIRY AND FOOD CONCLAVE 2026 (SDFC-2026) Bank Name: State Bank of India Branch: Ollukkara Account Type: Current Account No.: 4424070234-9 IFSC Code: SBIN0070210			

Sponsorship Tariffs

Platinum	15.00 lakhs
Diamond	10.00 lakhs
Gold	7.50 lakhs
Silver	5.00 lakhs
Bronze	2.50 lakhs

The amount is exclusive of GST. All sponsors are eligible for freebies.

Key Highlights of SDFC-2026:

January 8, 2026 - Pre-Conference Day:

Student and research paper presentations, young scientist forums, startup showcases in dairy and food, and innovative business idea sessions.

January 9-10, 2026 - Main Conclave:

Techno-commercial presentations, scientific sessions, poster discussions, farmer-interactive forums, and a comprehensive display of dairy and food products, equipment, and innovations.

Padma Talk:

A special commemorative session, **"Padma Talk,"** will be organized to honor Dr. Verghese Kurien and his enduring legacy.

For SDFC 2026 Souvenir Tariff and Sponsorship Tariff, visit **Latest Updates** on www.indiandairyassociation.org

For further information regarding sponsorship and official communications, please contact: sdfckerala@gmail.com OR idakeralachapter@gmail.com

day concluded with "Ee Marathanalil," a cultural evening dedicated to Dr. S.N. Rajakumar, outgoing Dean of VKIDFT and Chairman, IDA Kerala State Chapter.

Day 2 sessions focused on management, employability, and food innovation, with speakers from GCMMF, Cognizant, and IFF UAE. The event concluded with vibrant interactions among industry professionals, academia, and students.

The two-day summit provided an enriching platform for professionals, students, and innovators to exchange ideas on the future of dairy. It highlighted the collaborative spirit of Kerala's dairy fraternity-linking industry, academia, and government to build a smarter, sustainable, and inclusive dairy ecosystem.

The summit also served as a homecoming for alumni of the College of Dairy Science & Technology, many of whom now hold leadership positions in the dairy sector across India and abroad. Their active participation added a unique sense of belonging and inspiration to the event.

CM, Bihar Lays Foundation Stone for Mother Dairy Plant in Munger



On October 4, 2025, Hon'ble CM Shri Nitish Kumar, Govt. of Bihar inaugurated the foundation stone for a new Mother Dairy facility in Jamalpur, Munger. Spanning 15 acres and involving an investment of Rs.250 crore, the plant is projected to create approximately 250 direct employment opportunities. Milk collection will commence from nearby villages through local chilling units, with an initial processing capacity of 1 lakh litres per day, scalable to 2 lakh litres in subsequent phases.

During his address, Shri Nitish Kumar also unveiled a series of developmental initiatives totalling Rs.12,000 crore for Munger and adjoining regions. Key infrastructure projects highlighted included the Ganga Pathway, ring roads, and other schemes designed to stimulate regional economic growth.

The establishment of the Mother Dairy plant represents a strategic advancement in Bihar's dairy infrastructure, particularly in a state where organized milk processing remains relatively underdeveloped. Localized processing is expected to minimize transit losses, enhance product freshness, and improve income for dairy farmers. If successful, the initiative could pave the way for further expansion by dairy corporations into Bihar's raw milk belt, intensifying competition with existing cooperatives and private sector players.

Gomini Links Urban Investors to Rural Dairy Revival

Gomini, a Bihar-based startup founded in 2025 by Shri Arjun Sharma and Gauri Shankar Maheshwari, is working to bridge the urban-rural divide by making cow preservation-particularly of indigenous breeds-commercially viable.

With the Indian dairy market valued at nearly Rs.19 lakh crore in 2024 (according to IMARC), Gomini sees a significant opportunity in the absence of scalable, sustainable models for gaushalas (cow shelters), which have traditionally struggled with funding and the upkeep of native breeds.

The startup employs a decentralized model that supports small farming families with cows, feed, and capital. Once a sufficient number of families are onboarded, they are organized into clusters via Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). At the village level, these clusters produce value-added dairy products such as ghee, A2 whey, butter, and even cow-based soaps-ensuring local production and economic empowerment.

Gomini also introduces a novel urban fractional ownership model, allowing city-based investors-dubbed "Cow Guardians," "Heritage Partners," or "Cowvestors"-to invest in individual cows or clusters. For instance, under the "Guardian" model, owning one or two cows' costs approximately Rs.4.2 lakh per cow, with monthly deliveries of A2 dairy products and projected returns targeting a 13% CAGR. Higher investment tiers, involving clusters of 5 to 99 cows or more than 100, range from Rs.20 lakh to over Rs.4 crore and include profit-sharing, impact reports, and other benefits.

The profit distribution is thoughtfully structured: farmers receive around 55%, urban investors 25%, Gomini 10%, and the remaining 10% is allocated to charitable

initiatives supporting abandoned or injured cows.

In its initial phase, Gomini has onboarded approximately 500 farmers and facilitated the establishment of over 200 sustainable gaushalas. Participating farmers have reportedly seen income increases of 20-30%, driven by transparent profit-sharing and reduced dependence on intermediaries. Looking ahead, the founders plan to expand Gomini's direct-to-consumer (D2C) branded product portfolio, further strengthening the rural dairy ecosystem.

Private Dairies Drive Tamil Nadu's Milk Boom

By 2023-24, India's per capita milk availability had reached 471 grams per day, surpassing the global average of 394 grams per day. During the same period, India's milk production surged by 63.6%, rising from 146.3 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 239.3 million tonnes.

In Tamil Nadu, the dairy sector is expanding rapidly. The state ranks 11th in milk production and 4th in cooperative milk procurement within India. Its milk output grew from 8.75 million tonnes in 2020 to 10.8 million tonnes in 2024. The dairy market in Tamil Nadu was valued at Rs.1,38,070 crore in 2024 and is projected to reach Rs.4,23,700 crore by 2033, growing at a CAGR of 12.61% between 2025 and 2033.

Among private sector players, Hatsun Agro Product Ltd (India's largest private dairy) reported revenue of Rs.8,699 crore last year. It currently processes over 40 lakh litres of milk daily and operates across six states. Of its revenue, 56% comes from milk (brand Aroky), 14% from ice creams (brands Arun, Ibaco), and 18% from cultured dairy items (e.g., paneer). The company acquired Odisha-based Milk Mantra in January of the same year for Rs.233 crore.

Another major private entity, Milky Mist Dairy Foods Pvt Ltd (based in Erode), recorded revenue of Rs.2,349 crore in 2024-25. It has diversified into products including cheese, butter, ghee, yogurt, UHT items, frozen and ready-to-eat foods, and chocolates. Its paneer plant in Erode has a capacity of 150 tonnes per day, which is

claimed to be the largest in India. Between April 2022 and March 2025, Milky Mist exported to more than 15 countries, including the US, Singapore, West Asia, and Australia. It also operates 108 exclusive parlours across eight states; six of these are company-owned in Erode. Milky Mist has filed a draft red herring prospectus with SEBI, BSE, and NSE for its proposed IPO.

Other private players from outside Tamil Nadu are also active. Akshayakalpa Organic (based in Tiptur, Karnataka) earns approximately Rs.40 crore in monthly revenue, with around 25% of its earnings coming from the Chennai and Hyderabad markets. It currently processes about 2.8 lakh litres per day across its facilities in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and a planned plant in Telangana. Its growth-such as cluster formation-is slower, as expansion depends on establishing organic farm networks: its Tiptur cluster took 15 years to build approximately 1,500 farms, while the Chengalpet cluster (around 80 farms) took seven years.

In the broader context of organized dairy in India, Tamil Nadu's organized sector share is estimated at over 35%. In contrast, Uttar Pradesh-despite being the highest milk-producing state-has only about 10% of its dairy market in the organized sector. Among all states, Tamil Nadu pays the highest procurement (farmgate) price to farmers.

Maharashtra Forms State-Level Panel to Strengthen Dairy Sector

The Maharashtra government has constituted a state-level committee to advance dairy production and empower farmers across the region. Tasked with formulating strategic policies, the committee will focus on enhancing milk yield, strengthening procurement systems, expanding infrastructure such as cold chains and chilling centers, and improving market access for rural cooperatives. Key mandates include promoting technology adoption, improving cattle breeds, and offering targeted incentives to support smallholder producers.

This initiative aims to address persistent raw milk shortages in drought-prone districts and align dairy sector growth with the state's broader food security objectives. By institutionalizing dairy policymaking, Maharashtra seeks to reduce fragmentation in cooperative strategies, streamline procurement incentives, and accelerate investment in critical infrastructure, including bulk milk coolers and chilling units.

If backed by robust funding, clear performance metrics, and inclusive governance involving farmers and cooperatives, the committee could emerge as a model for other states pursuing dairy-led income growth.



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However, its success will hinge not merely on policy formulation but on effective implementation, accountability mechanisms, and the ability to link incentives directly to farmer adoption and participation.

Chief Minister of Telangana Advocates Linking Dairying with Organic Farming

The Indian Foundation for Quality Management (IFQM) organized a Conference on the theme "**Implementing Viksit Bharat 2047**" on 19th September, 2025 at Taj Palace, New Delhi. The prestigious event saw participation from several eminent leaders and industry experts.

Hon. Chief Minister of Telangana, Shri A. Revanth Reddy, was invited as the Chief Guest. In his address on "Telangana Rising: Achieving the Vision of Viksit Bharat 2047," he highlighted the State's development initiatives across various sectors. He highlighted Telangana's strengths, including its infrastructure and skilled workforce, to attract industries. He assured potential investors about the safety and security of doing business in the state. The Hon. Chief Minister emphasized the importance of linking dairying with organic and herbal farming to enhance farmers' income and provide consumers with healthier food options.



During an interaction with Dr. Raja Rathinam, Senior Life Member of the Indian Dairy Association and Managing Director, UNDP-initiated SKPCL, the Hon. Chief Minister underscored the need for concerted

efforts from farmers, professionals, and organizations to realize the immense potential of such integrated farming systems both in India and globally.

He further proposed launching a pilot project through the cooperative model, involving committed farmer members, to promote training and entrepreneurship in integrated dairy-organic farming practices. The project, he suggested, could begin in a selected district and later be replicated in other regions through collaborative efforts across sectors.

The Hon. Chief Minister also assured full support from the State for taking these initiatives forward.

India's Dairy Moment: Rs.825 Crore Boost in Haryana



Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah inaugurated India's largest dairy production facility at IMT Rohtak, Haryana, marking a major milestone for the cooperative sector and the state's economic development. The Rs.325 crore Sabar Dairy Plant is

equipped with state-of-the-art machinery and boasts a daily production capacity of 150 metric tonnes of curd, 3 lakh litres of buttermilk, 10 lakh litres of yoghurt, and 10 metric tonnes of sweets. The facility is expected to generate nearly 1,000 direct and indirect jobs, strengthening the dairy value chain and enhancing local employment.

This inauguration forms part of a broader Rs.825 crore development initiative spanning Rohtak and Kurukshetra. During his visit, Shri Shah underscored the pivotal role of cooperatives in empowering farmers, artisans, and rural communities.

At the Khadi Karigar Mahotsav, organized by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission under the Ministry of MSME, tool kits were distributed to 2,200 artisans. The event, themed "Swadeshi Se Swaavlamban", highlighted the government's commitment to integrating traditional skills with modern economic opportunities.

Additionally, Rs.301 crore was disbursed as margin money under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), aimed at supporting small-scale enterprises and fostering rural entrepreneurship.

Milking Competition 2025-26 in Punjab

The Punjab Animal Husbandry Department is all set to organise the 'Block Level Milking Competition – 2025–26' across the state, Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries, Shri Gurmeet Singh Khudian, announced.

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Sharing details about the year-long initiative commencing on October 6, Shri Khudian said the competitions will be held on the second Monday of every month across all 154 blocks in the state. The event aims to provide a platform for dairy farmers to showcase their best livestock and adopt improved animal husbandry practices.

Outlining the categories and minimum milk yield criteria for participation, he said:

- Murrah and Murrah-graded buffaloes: 16 kg or more milk
- Neeli Ravi and Neeli Ravi-graded buffaloes: 14 kg or more milk
- Sahiwal and other indigenous cows: 12 kg or more milk
- HF and HF crossbred cows: 30 kg or more milk
- Jersey and Jersey crossbred cows: 16 kg or more milk
- Goats (any breed): 2.5 kg or more milk

Urging livestock farmers to actively participate, the Minister said, "Our farmers are the backbone of Punjab, and the dairy sector holds immense potential to propel the rural economy to new heights. This competition is not just about winning prizes; it is a strategic mission to identify, reward, and promote best practices in livestock management. By encouraging farmers to rear high-yielding breeds, we are directly contributing to higher incomes, improved genetics, and a more robust, sustainable dairy ecosystem in Punjab."

Dairy and Fisheries Cooperatives to Serve as Bank Mitras: Expanding Financial Inclusion through the Cooperative Network

In a landmark initiative to strengthen financial inclusion across rural India, the Ministry of Cooperation has announced that dairy and fisheries cooperative societies will now function as *Bank Mitras* for District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) and State Cooperative Banks (StCBs). Supported by NABARD, the programme will equip eligible societies with micro-ATMs to deliver doorstep digital banking services in rural and semi-urban areas.

The scheme was first launched as a pilot on July 12, 2023 in two Gujarat DCCBs—Banaskantha and Panchmahal—and subsequently expanded across the state from January 15, 2024. Encouraged by the results, the Ministry issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on September 19, 2024 to facilitate nationwide implementation.

Under the SOP, Primary Dairy Cooperative Societies (PDCS) and Fisheries Cooperatives can become *Bank*

Mitra agents of DCCBs and StCBs. Through micro-ATMs, these societies will provide essential banking services such as cash deposits, withdrawals, small savings, and the issuance of RuPay Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs). NABARD will support the deployment of devices and related digital infrastructure.

The programme aims to strengthen the inclusion of women, marginalised communities, and underserved rural populations by integrating financial services into the cooperative ecosystem. During the Gujarat pilot, over 7,446 micro-ATMs were installed and more than 7.25 lakh RuPay KCCs were issued, according to ministry data (cooperation.gov.in).

Implications for the Dairy Sector

For the dairy cooperative movement, this initiative marks a significant diversification of roles—from milk collection and processing to financial service facilitation. It allows farmer-members to access banking services within their own societies, reducing travel and transaction costs while improving access to credit.

Experts believe that this dual role will strengthen member loyalty and reinforce the cooperative as a comprehensive rural service platform. However, societies will need to invest in governance systems, digital literacy, and risk management to effectively manage their expanded mandate.

As India advances its cooperative-led development model, integrating financial inclusion with dairy and fisheries cooperatives underscores the sector's pivotal role in building a self-reliant rural economy.

Nandini Sweets Hits Rs. 46 Cr, Sets Record in Festive Season



Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), through its Nandini sweets line, sold 1,100 metric tonnes of products and generated revenue of Rs.46 crore during the Dasara-Diwali season—a 38% increase over last year.

Last year, KMF recorded a volume of 725 tonnes and a turnover of Rs.33.48 crore during the same festival period.

KMF procures roughly one crore litres of milk daily from farmers across Karnataka, of which about 65 lakh litres are sold daily as milk, curd, and UHT products both within and outside the state.

The brand offers over 175 product variants under Nandini—including ghee, butter, paneer, sweets, milk powder, and beverages—and distributes them across Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala, Delhi, and Assam.

INTERNATIONAL News

Yili Group Drives Next Wave of Global Dairy Innovation

Yili Group, China's leading dairy company, is accelerating its push in product innovation and environmental sustainability, according to *FoodBev Media*.



At the IDF World Dairy Summit 2025, Yili Group secured five nominations and two wins at the IDF Dairy Innovation Awards, marking its fourth consecutive year of recognition.

Yili's key initiatives include premium raw-milk sourcing with top-quality indicators, a network of 15 innovation centres worldwide, and a sustainability roadmap featuring certified "green factories," "water-saving enterprises," and a goal to achieve a carbon-neutral value chain by 2050.

Yili's dual focus is raising the global benchmark. Success in dairy is now measured not just by volume or price, but by quality, nutrition, and value-chain impact.

For Indian dairy players, the implications are clear: rising demand for premium functional products such as bone-health formulas and clean-label milk, increasing importance of sustainability credentials, and the need to engage in global innovation ecosystems to remain competitive.

International Dairy Market: USDA

As per the latest USDA data till October 10, 2025, international market overview are as follows:

EUROPEAN

Western European

The Bluetongue Virus (BTV) surged in the UK in early October 2025, confirming numerous new cases in both sheep and dairy cows. Worryingly, this marks the emergence of a strain of BTV which has not been seen since 2008.

The Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine implemented new regulations in September requiring farmers to test their entire farm's soil every four years to ensure they are meeting phosphorus level thresholds. If the tests indicate phosphorus levels above a certain threshold, then the farm's use of phosphorus fertilizer will be restricted.

Eastern Europe

Russia is successfully shifting its dairy export focus, driving overseas sales up 16% in volume year to date. The nation primarily sells to the Eurasian Economic Union (consisting of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan in addition to Russia), Uzbekistan and China, and now actively seeks to strengthen its presence in new markets across Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia.

OCEANIA DAIRY MARKET

New Zealand

A large New Zealand cooperative announced a final farmgate milk price of \$10.16 per kilogram milk solids (kgMS) for the 2024/2025 season. This resulted in \$15.3 billion in payments to dairy farmers, a \$3.8 billion increase in revenue over the prior season. The cooperative also announced an organic milk price of \$12.35/kgMS, setting a new record for the cooperative over the 2023-2024 organic milk price of \$10.92/kgMS. Additionally, the cooperative's shareholders will receive a dividend of \$0.57/kgMS, equivalent to \$916 million. The cooperative is continuing to forecast a \$10/kgMS milk price for the 2025/2026 season, with a range of \$9/kgMS to \$11/kgMS. A New Zealand dairy processor also announced their final milk price for the 2024/2025 season, matching the large cooperative discussed above at \$10.16/kgMS. The processor, a private corporation, reported incentive payments totaling \$0.50/kgMS, bringing the average payment to \$10.66/kgMS.

Australia

Milk production data from Australia for August 2025 were recently released by Dairy Australia. These data show total August 2025 milk production was 661.5 million liters, down 20.4 million liters (3.0 percent) year over year. Milk production in Victoria, Australia's largest milk-producing state, was down 3.6 percent year over year. August milk production decreased year over year in New South Wales (down 0.1 percent), South Australia (down 8.2 percent), and Western Australia (down 6.8 percent) but increased year over year in Queensland (up 3.5 percent) and Tasmania (up 1.1 percent). To date, Australia's reported milk production total in the 2025/2026 season is 1,217.9 million liters, down 43.5 million liters (3.4 percent) from the same time span in the 2024/2025 season.

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Dairy Australia recently released export data for Australia showing milk export volumes in July and August 2025 totaled 28,367 metric tons, an increase of 13.0 percent compared to export volume totals in July and August 2024.

SOUTH AMERICA DAIRY MARKET

Milk production in South America is stronger as it ticks towards seasonal peaks. Milk production is up year over year throughout South America. Stakeholder sentiment concerning milk prices is on the bearish side. Industry sources report a strong grain harvest, which could contribute to keeping feed costs in check for South American dairy farmers. Weather conditions across the region are supporting stronger farm-level milk output. Handlers indicate soil moisture levels are adequate and the spring season is bringing some precipitation to the area. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecasts a 71% chance for La Niña conditions during the remaining months of 2025, which could impact weather conditions in South American dairy regions.

Stakeholder sentiments are generally bearish for dairy commodities. Operating costs are rising, which is decreasing producer profitability. Inflation is hitting consumer purchasing power to some degree.

Loads of whole milk powder, skim milk powder, and cheeses are available. Production is generally outpacing demands in South American countries and stakeholders are looking to garner further interest from buyers outside of South America. Production schedules are mixed. Dairy processing capacity in Uruguay has taken a hit due to a plant closure and labor disputes leading to decreased milk intakes for some Uruguayan processing plants.

US Dairy Processors Invest Record \$11 Billion to Expand Capacity

America's dairy processors are ramping up capacity in response to surging domestic and global demand, committing more than \$11 billion in new and expanded manufacturing facilities across 19 states, according to data released by the International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA).

The investments—covering over 50 projects scheduled between 2025 and early 2028—will boost production of cheese, milk, yogurt, butter, powders, and ice cream. This expansion aims to meet rising consumption trends as US milk production is projected to increase by 15 billion pounds by 2030, fueled by consumer demand for high-protein, nutrient-dense foods and beverages.

"These investments reflect strong confidence in the future of American agriculture and dairy," said Dr. Michael Dykes, President and CEO of IDFA.

The US dairy industry is a cornerstone of the manufacturing economy, contributing \$779.45 billion in total economic impact, supporting over 3 million jobs, and generating nearly \$83 billion in state and local taxes.

October marks Manufacturing Month in the US, recognizing innovation and productivity across the sector. Dairy processing remains one of the fastest-growing manufacturing segments, with more than 1,200 processing plants sourcing milk from nearly 24,000 American dairy farms.

Key Drivers Behind Investment Growth

Rising Milk Output: Production is expected to climb by 15 billion pounds—equivalent to 1.7 billion gallon jugs—by 2030.

Export Expansion: Growing demand from South and Central America, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East is boosting U.S. dairy exports.

Protein-Powered Demand: Consumers increasingly prefer high-protein foods such as yogurt, smoothies, whey protein, and cottage cheese—whose US sales surged 20% year-on-year to June 2025 (Circana).

Record Consumption: Per capita dairy intake reached an all-time high of 661 pounds per person in 2023, driven by cheese and butter. Cheese consumption has doubled in 50 years, while fluid milk sales are growing again for the first time since 2009.

Top 5 States by Investment Value

New York: \$2.8 billion; Texas: \$1.5 billion; Wisconsin: \$1.1 billion; Idaho: \$720 million; Iowa: \$701 million

Investments by Product Category

Cheese: \$3.20 billion; Milk & Cream: \$2.97 billion; Yogurt & Cultured Dairy: \$2.81 billion; Butter & Powders: \$1.60 billion; Ice Cream: \$530 million

The IDFA, headquartered in Washington, D.C., represents the nation's dairy manufacturing and marketing sector, encompassing companies of all sizes—from multinational corporations to regional cooperatives. Together, its members account for the majority of milk, cheese, yogurt, cultured products, and dairy ingredients produced in the United States and sold worldwide.

A Robotic Revolution in Dairy Farming: Ned-Tex Dairy's Journey

In an era where dairy producers continually seek ways to boost efficiency and productivity, Ned-Tex Dairy in

Stephenville, Texas, stands out as an example of how technology can reshape traditional farming. The family-owned operation has successfully transitioned to robotic milking, achieving higher yields and improved herd management—without expanding its labor force.

A Strategic Leap into Automation

By mid-2021, owner Roeland Stoker realized the limits of his existing double-15 parallel parlor. “Our initial goals were to expand the herd without increasing labor and to make better use of our existing space,” he says.

In June 2021, the dairy installed 12 Lely Astronaut A5 robotic milking systems, later adding three more units to complete the barn setup by 2023. The switch allowed

the operation to sustain growth while addressing a growing challenge across US dairy farms—labor shortages.

“The robot never calls in sick or oversleeps,” Stoker says. Each cow follows the same procedure for milk prep, harvesting, and post-treatment, 24/7, 365 days a year.

A Dutch Legacy Meets American Ingenuity

Stoker’s parents, Roel and Deanne, emigrated from the Netherlands—home to some of the world’s most advanced dairy systems—and were already familiar with the Lely brand. Their local partner, Thomson Services,

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Global Dairy Prices Weaken Further at GDT Event 390

The Global Dairy Trade (GDT) Event 390, held on October 21, 2025, reflected continued softness in international dairy ingredient prices, signalling a subdued market outlook.

GDT Trading Event 390 recorded a 1.4% decline in the overall GDT Price Index. The average price landed at US \$3,881 per metric tonne. Among key product movements:- Mozzarella fell sharply by 5.3% priced at \$3,230/MT; WMP down by 2.4% to \$3610; Cheddar down by 1.9% to \$4758; SMP down by 1.6% to \$2559 followed by Butter down by 0.8% to \$6662. Only Anhydrous Milk Fat (AMF) was up by 1.5% to \$7,038/MT.

The Trade Event witnessed participation from 165 registered bidders, with 117 emerging as winning bidders across 18 competitive bidding rounds. Sellers offered between 37,070 MT and 45,086 MT of dairy products, with 40,621 MT successfully sold.

According to trade commentary, the auction signals a weak outlook for global dairy prices. The organisers later confirmed that the price indices for Trading Event 390 have now been resolved following a correction

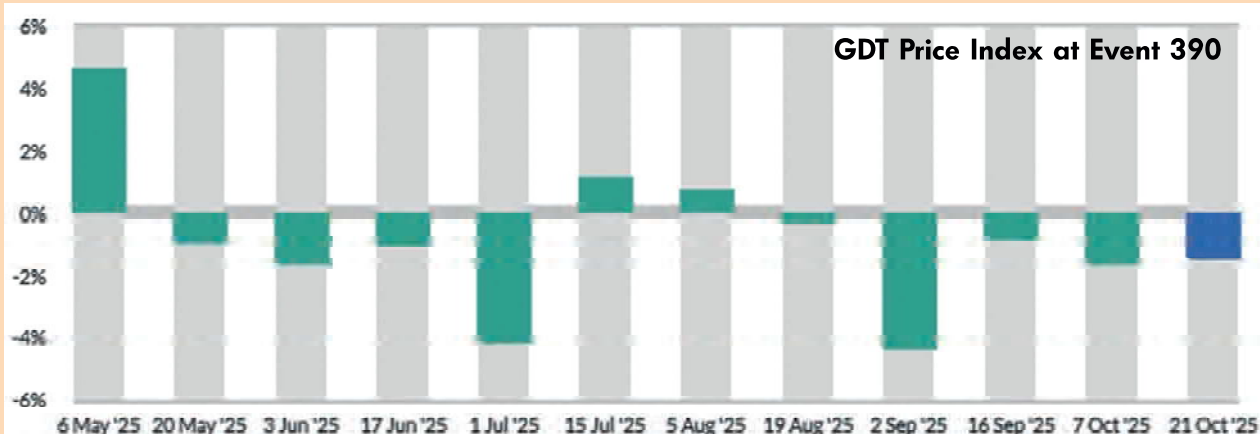
process, and the updated figures are now available.

The GDT Price Index fell by 1.4% compared to the previous event, extending the downward trend observed across recent auctions. Market analysts noted that bidding activity appeared muted, with buyer caution more evident and some products offered at higher starting prices or lower volumes.

With milk production steady or expanding across key exporting regions such as New Zealand, the European Union, and the United States, the risk of accumulating ingredient surpluses remains high—limiting prospects for any near-term price recovery.

In addition, slower growth in downstream dairy consumption, currency headwinds in major importing markets, and elevated feed and input costs for producers may continue to constrain demand for high-priced commodity powders.

As GDT auctions include multiple forward delivery periods, the current soft bidding could also reflect risk-hedging for later shipments, suggesting that immediate contract periods may continue to experience downward pressure on price indices.



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became a Lely dealer and had completed two installations before tackling the Ned-Tex project.

The result was a seamless integration of tradition and technology—Dutch precision combined with Texan scale.

Measurable Gains and Healthier Herds

Since the installation, the dairy has seen notable improvements in both milk output and herd health. “We’ve always had a high-producing herd, but the robots help our cows achieve higher and more sustained peaks,” Stoker notes. Each cow receives customized feeding through digital feed tables based on individual milk production levels.

Using NEDAP collars, the team can now identify heat cycles and health concerns faster, leading to improved conception and pregnancy rates. “Shortening that response time has been incredibly valuable,” he says.

Stoker also takes a hands-on approach to equipment upkeep. “I do most of the maintenance myself so I can better understand the system,” he explains. His local dealer supports scheduled monthly, quarterly, and annual servicing.

Balancing Tradition and Technology

Despite embracing automation, Ned-Tex Dairy continues to milk about 100 cows in a conventional parlor. “It’s beneficial to have both systems,” Stoker explains. Some cows’ udder profiles or milk speed aren’t ideal for robotic milking, but they’re still excellent cows for our herd.

This hybrid approach ensures flexibility and optimal care across the operation.

Looking Ahead: Growth from Within

The farm’s next focus is organic herd expansion—growing numbers and improving genetics internally rather than through external purchases. “With reduced stress on our herd, we expect our replacement ratio to extend by an extra year over time,” Stoker says. Combined with our efficiency gains in reproduction, we can develop an ideal herd suited perfectly to our facility.

Fonterra to Sell Global Consumer Brands to Lactalis for NZ\$4.2 Billion

Fonterra, the New Zealand dairy co-operative owned by around 10,000 farmer-shareholders, has announced plans to sell its global consumer-goods division—including iconic brands such as Anchor, Mainland, Kapiti, Fresh’n Fruity, Anmum, and Fernleaf—to French dairy giant Lactalis for approximately NZ\$4.2 billion (US\$3.8 billion). The move is part of Fonterra’s strategy

to focus more on high-value ingredients and food-service operations.

The proposed sale includes three manufacturing sites in New Zealand, along with long-term supply agreements between Fonterra and Lactalis. Under the deal, the raw-milk supply agreement is structured for an initial 10-year term plus a 36-month notice period, while the global brand and ingredient supply agreement extends for three years with a similar notice clause.

Why Fonterra Is Making the Move

Fonterra says its consumer business accounts for less than 7% of total milk solids sales, compared with 79% going into ingredients (such as powders and proteins) and 14% into food service and wholesale. The board argues that divesting the lower-margin consumer division will enable stronger value creation for farmer-owners by doubling down on high-growth, business-to-business (B2B) segments.

However, the decision has drawn criticism from Winston Peters, leader of the NZ First Party, who says the sale risks eroding New Zealand’s dairy heritage, identity, and farmer control. Peters warns that the deal could ultimately allow Lactalis to source cheaper or non-New Zealand milk once the contract periods expire, undermining the nation’s “dairy sovereignty.”

He has also questioned the transparency of the deal—including potential executive bonuses—and urged farmer-shareholders to reconsider their support. Peters has called for regulatory scrutiny and a “national interest” review of the sale.

Implications for Farmers and the Industry

For farmer-owners, the deal offers a tax-free payout of NZ\$2 per share, which could equate to about NZ\$200,000 for a smaller farm producing 100,000 kg of milk solids annually.

Supporters view this as a logical commercial step that will allow Fonterra to consolidate and strengthen its position in the global dairy ingredients market. Critics, however, fear that selling household brands may reduce domestic value addition, weaken control over New Zealand’s dairy value chain, and diminish farmer empowerment in strategic decisions.

The Overseas Investment Office (OIO) and other regulators are expected to assess the transaction through a national-interest lens, given the brands’ deep association with New Zealand’s dairy identity and export reputation.

For global dairy observers, the deal highlights two broader trends shaping the industry:

Value-chain concentration: As raw milk becomes more commoditised and export powders dominate trade flows,

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co-operatives in major dairy nations are increasingly retreating from consumer-facing brands — leaving room for multinational giants like Lactalis to acquire them.

National interest vs commercial logic: The sale underscores an ongoing tension between maximising returns for farmer-shareholders and preserving national interests such as brand heritage, food sovereignty, and rural livelihoods.

For countries like India, which are expanding their global dairy footprint, Fonterra's move serves as a cautionary example of how critical it is to maintain value addition and farmer governance, even while pursuing international growth.

Charles Sturt Ph.D. Student Recognised for Groundbreaking Dairy Research

A Charles Sturt University Ph.D. student has gained international recognition for her innovative work tackling antimicrobial resistance in dairy cows.



Ms Tiarna Scerri, based at the CSU Gulbali Institute for Agriculture, Water and Environment in Wagga Wagga, was named one of five Groundbreakers by evokeAG, a flagship program of AgriFutures Australia.

The program highlights emerging talent shaping the future of Australia's agrifood sector.

Ms Scerri's research focuses on developing alternatives to antibiotics for treating mastitis, a major health and productivity challenge in dairy herds worldwide.

"My research aims to design treatments that can replace antibiotics when they become less effective," Ms Scerri said. Mastitis is one of the biggest health and production problems in dairy, and managing antimicrobial resistance is critical for industry sustainability.

Mastitis costs the Australian dairy industry up to \$400 per affected cow and affects 5–10% of herds annually. Globally, the disease costs the sector around US\$32 billion each year. Ms Scerri is testing nucleotide- and protein-based treatments targeting key mastitis-causing bacteria, with her research due for completion in 2027.

As part of the Groundbreakers award, Ms Scerri will receive mentoring, professional storytelling support, and \$3,000 to strengthen industry connections and drive innovation across Australia's agrifood technology ecosystem.

Event CALENDAR

52nd Dairy Industry Conference

Date: 12-13-14 February, 2026

Venue: Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, Sec-25, Dwarka, New Delhi

For early participation in Sponsorship, Contact:

Shri Ashok Kumar Tripathi, Secretary General, 52nd DIC. **Web:** www.52dic.in

Email: 52nddic@gmail.com **Mob.:** +91 9811620563

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info.52dic@dairyindustryexhibition.com

Mob.: +91 7827770651 (Mr. Rakesh Jha)

+91 9311098450 (Md. Wasin Fazal)

Southern Dairy and Food Conclave 2026

Date: 08-10 January, 2026

Venue: Kozhikode (Calicut), Kerala

The Indian Dairy Association - Kerala Chapter is pleased to announce the second edition of the Southern Dairy Summit, titled the Southern Dairy and Food Conclave 2026 (SDFC-2026), scheduled to be held from January 8 to 10, 2026, in the historic city of Kozhikode (Calicut), Kerala. The theme of the Conclave is "**Transforming Dairy and Food Systems for Global Health**".

For SDFC 2026 Souvenir Advertisement Tariff and Sponsorship Tariff, visit Latest Updates on www.indiandairyassociation.org

For further information and official communications, please contact: sdfckerala@gmail.com or idakeralachapter@gmail.com

Two-Day National Seminar

Date: 7th & 8th November, 2025

Venue: NIO Auditorium, CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography, Goa.

IDA (WZ) in association with DAHD, Govt. of Goa; Goa Dairy; and Sumul Dairy Organizing A two-day National Seminar during Nov. 7-8, 2025 at NIO Auditorium, Goa.

Four technical sessions will be held covering topics on Animal Husbandry and Milk Productivity, Govt. Policies; Smart Dairy Farming; Feed and Fodder; Manure Management; Training Needs; Processing; Marketing and Innovations. Nutrition, Health and Livelihood topics will be covered during the Seminar.

Download brochure from Latest Updates of IDA Website OR from the below link directly:

https://indiandairyassociation.org/Uploads/Others/IDA_Goa_Brochure_16oct25.pdf