

Tamil Nadu Chapter of IDA Organized One Day Seminar

THE TAMIL NADU CHAPTER of Indian Dairy Association organized its first Annual meet on 1st September, 2018 at Anna Auditorium, Madras Veterinary College, Chennai wherein Tamil Nadu State Chapter website was launched. One day Seminar on “Futuristic Trends on Dairy Development in Tamil Nadu” was also organized at the occasion.

Shri C. Kamaraj, IAS, Director, Milk Production and Dairy Development Department, Government of Tamil Nadu & Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation Ltd., Chennai launched the Tamil Nadu Chapter website. On the occasion, Shri Kamaraj assured that the Dairy Development Board will strengthen the activities of IDA Tamil Nadu Chapter.

Dr. G.S. Rajorhia, President-IDA presided over the function and inaugurated the Annual Meet. Dr. C. Balachandran, Vice Chancellor, TANUVAS inaugurated the Seminar and exhibition stall and delivered Special address. Shri C.P. Charles, Chairman, IDA-South Zone and Dr. J. John Kirubaharan, Dean, Madras Veterinary College delivered felicitation addresses. Dr. C. Naresh Kumar, Chairman, IDA Tamil Nadu State Chapter presented the Annual Report of the Chapter. Dr. B. Dhanalakshmi, Professor and Head, Department of Dairy Science, Madras Veterinary College and Secretary, IDA Tamil Nadu Chapter welcomed the gathering. This was followed by technical sessions held on following topics, namely (a) Perspective of Dairying in Tamil Nadu (Tamil) (b) Cold Chain - an integral part of Dairy Industry (English) and (c) Indigenous milk products for sustainability of Small & Medium Entrepreneurs (English). RINAC India Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore and Aavin (Tamil Nadu Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation Ltd.) were the major sponsors for the event. Dr. I.A.M. Justin, Vice Chairman, IDA Tamil Nadu Chapter delivered Vote of Thanks.



NATIONALnews

Unique Skill Enhancement Programme ‘N-Reach’ Organised at NDRI Karnal by Nestlé India

ON 27th JULY, 2018, Nestlé India conducted a unique skill enhancing programme for students of ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) Karnal. It was a four-day workshop focused on Leadership Development, Accountability and Ownership, Communication, Influencing and Emotional Intelligence. The students were also given a case study to

put the learnings into practise, the winners of the case competition were felicitated and students received certificates on completion of the program.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Suresh Narayanan, Chairman and Managing Director, Nestlé India said, “Nestlé India has a long history of associating with NDRI. It has several of its alumni in senior management positions in the company. The talent that students of NDRI had to offer is very impressive.” He stressed the need of more such interactions between the Industry and the educational institutes. Later, he gave a talk on Leadership Attributes for Success.



Dr. R.R.B. Singh, Director, ICAR-NDRI, Karnal said that the main purpose of organizing such a programme is to enhance the competitiveness skill of students besides their technical knowledge. He added that N-REACH has been a fruitful experience for all the final year students and hoped that the relationship of the Institute with Nestlé India will continue to grow in future. Dr. Latha Sabikhi, Head, Dairy Technology Division and In-charge Placement at NDRI said that N-REACH is aimed at enabling the final year students to manage the challenges which they are likely to face daily on entering the professional world. The programme was specifically focused on soft skill enhancement of the students to bring them a step closer to success. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was also signed between ICAR-NDRI and Nestle India for providing such trainings to NDRI students.

NDDDB organized a National Workshop on Role of Technology in Doubling Farmers’ Income



SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH, Hon’ble Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt of India inaugurated the National Workshop on Role of Technology in Doubling Income of Farmers through dairying organised by National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB) at its TK Patel Auditorium, Anand on 10th September, 2018.

Shri Parshottam Rupala, Hon’ble Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Panchayati Raj, Govt of India; Shri Ishwarsinh Thakorbbhai Patel, Hon’ble Minister of State for Cooperation, Sports, Youth and Cultural Activities (Independent charge), Transport, Govt of Gujarat; Shri Lal Sinh Vadodia, Hon’ble Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha; Shri Dilipbhai Patel, Hon’ble

Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha and Shri Dilip Rath, Chairman, NDDDB graced the occasion.

Over 600 progressive dairy farmers from milk unions and producer companies from 16 states attended the event. Apart from orientation sessions on dairy farm management, preventive & curative animal health care, technological advancements in animal breeding, role of technology in governance of cooperatives, efficient manure management and alternate energy resources to enhance income of farmers, demonstrations of different technologies through an exhibition was also arranged. Selected women dairy farmers shared their experiences in biogas technology, IT in milk procurement, animal

nutrition and breeding.

Dairy cooperatives that have been efficiently using E-Market platform of National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India (NCDFI) for the maximum benefit of dairy farmers were also awarded by the Union Agriculture Minister.

Shri Radha Mohan Singh said that role of technology has been crucial in development of dairying as viable livelihood for the farmers. In line with Govt of India's aim of doubling farmers' income, NDDDB is promoting technology-driven income generating activities for the dairy farmers. Motivating and involving dairy farmers in multiple streams of income generation through diverse alternative activities targeted at their livelihood diversification is important for building economic resilience and welfare.

Chairman, NDDDB highlighted new technology based initiatives of NDDDB focussed on providing additional income to the dairy farmers. NDDDB has developed a genotyping chip named INDUSCHIP for Genomic Selection of indigenous cattle breeds. Improvement of indigenous breeds is also possible through In-vitro Embryo

Production technique. To make manure management a source of additional income, NDDDB is promoting use of flexi biogas plants among the dairy farmers. Another major initiative of NDDDB is creation of Solar Pump Irrigators Cooperative Enterprise i.e. SPICE through which the Solar Pump owners will be able to sell the surplus power. Village level Dairy Cooperative Societies are taking up silage production and marketing activities on commercial basis. Silage technology for storage of green fodder and crop residues has huge potential. If prepared in small bags, about 25-50 kg each, using low cost choppers, mowers, bagger balers and wrappers, it can easily be traded within the milk shed areas.

Shri Rath conveyed that popularisation of Ethno Veterinary Medicine techniques can provide milk producers considerable saving in animal treatment costs. NDDDB's Automatic Milk Collection System (AMCS) software has introduced digital innovation in strengthening cooperative business. This integrated software ensures transparency and meets the entire operational requirements at the DCS level. AMCS enables milk bill payment directly to farmers' bank accounts.

Food processing attracts heavy investment, US a key contributor

INDIA'S FOOD PROCESSING SECTOR has attracted heavy investment and the US has played a key role in the industry's initiatives, Minister of State for Food Processing Ms Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti at the 14th Indo-US Economic Summit.

Stating that the relation between India and the US in recent years has deepened, she said that the government has worked tirelessly towards the mission of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'.

This spirit of inclusive growth is not only beneficial for Indian farmers whose income the government has sought to double by 2022, but also for international partners like America, and can create economic prosperity for all.

Speaking at the event, Yes Bank Senior President and Global Head (Food and Agri Strategic Advisory and Research) Mr. Nitin Puri said Government of India is catalysing a revolution in food processing, and this environment has created many opportunities for collaboration between India and the US.

A recommended pathway for this collaboration can be investment in entire value chains. These can mitigate food wastage losses, bring global best practices and technologies like superior cold chains to India, and sell Indian goods in global markets.



Government operationalises dairy processing fund; provides ₹ 440 cr to NDDB

UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER Shri Radha Mohan Singh has recently handed over ₹ 440 crore cheque to Shri Dilip Rath, Chairman, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) from the Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF), initiating the formal launch of the fund set up to provide soft loans to modernise and raise capacity of dairy cooperatives.

NABARD has set up the DIDF with a corpus of ₹ 8,004 crore to bring more dairy farmers into organised milk marketing through cooperatives. The fund is implemented through NDDB and National Cooperative Development Corporation. The funding support is given to dairy cooperatives at an interest rate of 6.5 per cent per annum and will have to be reimbursed over a period of 10 years.

Speaking about the fund, the minister said NABARD has so far sanctioned ₹ 843.81 crore under the DIDF for 15 projects with an outlay of ₹ 1,148.61 crore for dairy cooperatives in Karnataka, Punjab and Haryana. Out of this, a cheque of ₹ 440 crore was handed over to NDDB for six milk unions.

The DIDF is aimed creating at additional milk processing capacity of 126 lakh litre per day, milk drying capacity of 210 million tonne (MT) per day and milk chilling capacity of 140 lakh litre per day. This fund will benefit 95 lakh farmers in about 50,000 villages. Many skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers will get employment, directly and indirectly.

Expressing concern over poor infrastructure in cooperative dairies, the NDDB Chairman said that the fund will benefit them to modernise and expand the processing capacity in a big way. He, however, cautioned milk unions availing loans from the DIDF to complete the projects on time and asked them to adopt modern technology to run at low cost and focus on marketing and diversification to get better returns. Shri Dilip Rath also stated that NDDB has to sanction a loan of ₹ 8,004 crore in the next two years. He was hopeful that the targets would be achieved.

According to Shri R.S. Sodhi, Managing Director, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd., the cooperatives will send proposals seeking loans from the DIDF as it has plans to increase from existing 3.6 crore litre per day capacity to 8 crore litre per day in the next 10 years. At present, the country has a dairy processing capacity (both cooperative and private sectors) of 9 crore litre per day. Out of which, GCMMF alone has 3.6 crore litre per day capacity.

The way consumption is rising in double digit, the capacity will have to be increased to 30 crore litre per day in the next 10 years. And, to set up a dairy processing capacity of 20 crore litre per day, a minimum investment of ₹ 80,000-90,000 crore is required.

India is the largest milk producer in the world with an estimated production of 176.35 MT. The vision 2022 document has pegged the country's milk production at 254.5 MT.



GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE DUTY INCENTIVES FOR EXPORTS OF MILK PRODUCTS

Earlier in July 2018, the government had enhanced the duty benefits to 10 per cent under the Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS) for certain agriculture and dairy sector items. The government has again decided to increase duty benefits for exports of milk and certain milk products from 10 per cent to 20 per cent for about four months up to January 12 next year under MEIS scheme to boost their overseas shipments.

The 28 items covered under the enhanced incentives include cheese, whole milk, skimmed milk, milk and milk food for babies, condensed milk, yoghurt, butter milk and whey.

MOTHER DAIRY LAUNCHES COW MILK DAHI

Mother Dairy Fruit & Vegetable Pvt. Ltd. is further strengthening its curd portfolio with the introduction of cow milk dahi in Delhi-NCR and key markets in North India. The company is now launching Cow Milk dahi in packaged form offering convenience, taste and health benefits. The cow milk dahi will be available in the cup format in the SKUs of 100 grams & 400 grams, priced at ₹12 and ₹45 respectively.

PATANJALI PLANS TO SELL MILK AT ₹2 CHEAPER

Yoga Guru Swami Ramdev's Patanjali aims to get ₹ 500 crore from dairy products in this fiscal itself. The company is planning to sell its dairy products in Tetra pack with a target of 10 lakh litre of daily sales. According to their representative, Patanjali milk would be cheaper than other established brands by ₹ 2.

Shreeja: A milk dairy run by women

IN A MILK DAIRY nearly 75,000 women who supply milk to homes are shareholders and all the board of directors including Chairperson are women. The company was established in 2014 with Tirupati as its headquarters. Women head the organisation and milk suppliers are women. Emphasis on right quality of milk is the reason behind the success of Shreeja Milk Dairy. To become members of the organisation, women need to contribute to the capital and they have to supply minimum 200 days of milk and a minimum quantity of 500 litres per year.

The idea behind establishing the dairy was to empower women financially in the drought prone area of Chittoor district where male farmers could not earn anything in agriculture. Women can stay at home, maintain the cows and earn some money, which will be of immense use to their families, said Chief Executive of Shreeja Dairy, Jayatheertha Chary.

“Actually women have been excelling in cow management in the district where milk is a major industry. To provide them a reasonable support price for their milk was the basic idea which has earned distinction in the country by emerging as the largest such company.”

The Producer's company was established with the idea conceived by National Dairy Development Board which gives technical support and financial aid besides supporting marketing. The quality of their products was tested and certified by National Institute of Nutrition.

In India, there are five such milk producers' companies among which Shreeja is the only women milk producers' company. Starting from a mere 27 shareholders now it has crossed 75000 mark in its journey. Its turnover was around ₹ 360 crores and employed 325 persons. The company gives dividends to the shareholders and even pays bonus to those who supply milk for more than 200 days in a year in a bid to encourage others. During last financial year they have paid ₹ 3.13 crores as bonus. All the payments are credited directly to their accounts every 15 days. Its activities spread to neighbouring Nellore and Anantapur districts also.

Presently, the company procures 3.5 lakh litres of milk on an average per day and has about 2400 milk pooling points. Milk is cooled at bulk milk cooling centres and sent to Balaji Dairy in Tirupati, where processing and packing of milk, butter milk and curds is done. Besides selling the milk products on their



own, Shreeja also sells milk in bulk quantity to Mother Dairy and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK).

The company trains women to acquire leadership qualities to help in running business and in management of cows. Now, the woman are even insuring their animals and observing deworming day for animals to make them healthy.

The Chairman of Board of Directors B Lavanya Kumari shared, “We had a tough journey to reach this stage. We have succeeded in creating confidence among all women milk producers and taking all steps to maintain the same. There was heavy competition in milk industry especially in this district, but we have managed to withstand successfully with our principles and policies.”

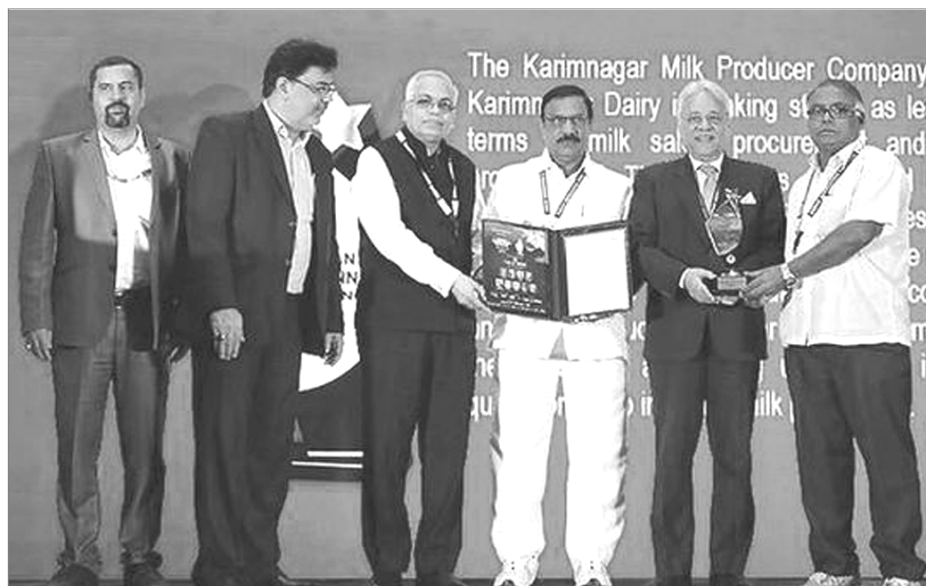
Excellence award for Karimnagar Dairy

THE KARIMNAGAR MILK PRODUCER COMPANY popularly known as Karimnagar Dairy, a leading dairy in Telangana, received the national level Indian Agri-Business Excellence Award-2018.

Karimnagar Dairy Chairman Ch. Rajeshwara Rao along with its Managing Director P. Shankar Reddy received the award at a function organised by Indian Conventions in Bengaluru in association with India Foodex and Agritech India on 1st September, 2018.

Disclosing this to newsmen at the award ceremony, the Karimnagar Dairy Chairman said they had secured the excellence award for the milk procurement, sales, milk producers' welfare programmes and the health of milch animals through veterinary medical camps at the doorstep of farmers.

Giving details about the recently sanctioned Union government's mega expansion project of setting up another 3 lakh litres capacity at a cost of ₹ 63 crore. The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) had also sanctioned ₹ 6.38 crore for setting up 12 additional bulk cooling units (BCU) and secure additional 30,000 liters of milk from the farmers in the rural areas.



47TH DAIRY INDUSTRY CONFERENCE 7th - 9th Feb., 2019

**Samrat Ashok Convention Centre
Patna (Bihar)**

IDA (East Zone) in association with Bihar State Chapter of IDA is organizing 47th DIC and Dairy Expo at Samrat Ashok Convention Centre, Patna, Bihar during February 7-9, 2019. The theme of the conference is “**Innovative Approach for Enhancing Dairy Farmers' Income**”. The conference will provide an excellent platform for interaction and sharing of experiences with eminent professionals, experts, researchers, policy makers and milk producers from diverse corners of India and abroad on different ways to increase dairy farmers' income.

For more information, contact Secretary General, 47th DIC, Indian Dairy Association, Bihar State Chapter, C/o Managing Director Office, Patna Dairy Project, Vaishal Patliputra Dugdh Utpadak Sahakari Sangh Ltd., Feeder Balancing Dairy Complex, Phulwarisharif, Patna-801505. Email: idabihar2019@gmail.com

IRMA LAUNCHES 15 MONTHS PROGRAMME - EXECUTIVE POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MANAGEMENT (RURAL) Starting from Jan. 2019 IRMA, Anand

IRMA launches 15 months full time programme to strengthen further managerial excellence in professionals through knowledge and skills in rural management.

Eligibility: Graduate in any discipline with 50% (for reserved category 45%) aggregate marks; Minimum 5 year's work exp. in any sector; CAT 2015-2017 / XAT 2016-2017 / GMAT or Mini GMAT score from 1st Oct. 2015 to 30th Sept. 2018.

Visit www.irma.ac.in Email: pgdmxr@irma.ac.in

ICAR-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (Karnal) celebrated 35th Foundation Day

ICAR-NATIONAL BUREAU OF ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES (NBAGR), located at Karnal is the leading institute working for management of farm animal genetic resources including preserving its diversity in the country. On 20th September 2018, the Bureau celebrated its 35th Foundation Day with great zeal among the staff.

On the Occasion, Dr. G.S. Rajorhia, President, Indian Dairy Association was honoured as Chief Guest of the function. Dr. R.S. Rana, Former Director, ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (New Delhi) and Mr. Amarjit Singh, Assistant General Manager, Canara Bank, Karnal Zone were the

Guests of Honour of the occasion. Dr. Arjava Sharma, Director, NBAGR voiced the progress of the institute during the period of 34 years and admired the Bureau's predecessors for contributing immensely to make the institute as a premier at national and international level. The bureau has achieved unique position in country's livestock sector and crossed important milestones in a short span, he added.

The institute is among six Bureaux working for documenting and preserving of different types of genetic resources related to agriculture biodiversity in the country established by Indian Council of Agricultural Research. NBAGR is mandated with management of Animal Genetic Resources of the country including its characterization, conservation and utilization as well as developing capacity building and policy issues. Since its inception, NBAGR has worked for identification and characterization of new indigenous livestock and poultry breeds, and has registered 169 breeds of these species, which include 41 of cattle, 13 of buffalo, 42 of sheep, 28 of goat, 18 of chicken, nine of camel, seven each of horse and pig; and one each of yak, donkey, geese and

duck. During 35 years, more than hundred livestock and poultry breeds and populations have been characterized by the bureau. The institute has identified more than 50 new populations of farm animals, specifically from remote regions of the country. Scientific literature in form of

descriptors and monographs has been published for each of the breed till now. Bureau has developed specific databases covering different aspects of native AnGR and its management. Institute's National Gene Bank is the repository of germplasm in form of semen, embryo, somatic cells and DNA. At present, about 1.5 lakhs of semen doses of over

40 livestock breeds have been cryopreserved at Gene Bank.

The Bureau also works through networking with different universities, departments and NGOs for conservation of threatened breeds in their respective native tract. Nine conservation programmes across the country, including revival of Krishna valley cattle, Beetal goat and Kilakarsal sheep in their native tracts has been successfully completed by the Bureau, in recent time. At molecular level, the bureau has created large genomic information on buffalo, goat, and camel. Bureau has also identified QTLs for growth, milk and reproduction traits of buffaloes and now, it is in process of developing the buffalo DNA chip for genomic selection. Genomics for adaptive traits including heat tolerance and disease resistance in native bovines is also important facet of the research. Bureau's scientists are also validating the effects of A1/A2 milk using mouse model.

The institute regularly organize the various training programmes on management of AnGR for the academicians, researchers, veterinarians and other stakeholders. Beside this the bureau is instrumental in



developing guidelines, formulating policies and modulating national and international issues related to management of AnGR in country.

Dr. G.S. Rajorhia, admired the Bureau for its significant achievements in a small time and congratulated the Director and staff for their efforts. In his Foundation lecture, he strongly advocated the role of dairy animals in social and nutritional security as well as upliftment of the rural society in the country. There is tremendous scope for growth of dairy sector in the country, which needs to be further intensified by giving more emphasis to native breeds, he added. Milk from native cattle and buffaloes, major contributor in Indian dairy industry, is fulfilling the daily need of milk proteins



for the people of the country. Since, the contribution of crossbred cows is also increasing in dairy, the issues related to quality specifically A1/A2 milk should be addressed judiciously, he cautioned. There is need to put scientific awareness among wider section of the society to dilute misconception about the use of dairy products in daily life. Milk of non-conventional species like goat, camel and donkey having nutraceutical qualities would open new vistas of opportunities and play important role for their better utilisation and value addition, he added.

Guest of Honor Dr. R.S. Rana, Former Director, ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (New Delhi) emphasized on the need of developing the resilient dairy breeds which can produce in upcoming future of climate change. Mr. Amarjit Singh, AGM, Canara Bank, Karnal Zone briefed about financial support given to the farmers specifically in dairy sector. During the occasion, Dr. G.S. Rajorhia also conferred different awards to the Bureau staff including Dr. P.G. Nair Award to the best scientist.

Kind Attention : IDA Institutional Members



IDA has established a Convention Centre for its Institutional Members at IDA House in New Delhi. Convention Centre aims to provide Institutional members with working space for various dairy and food projects. This will facilitate the members to coordinate their dairy development activities from New Delhi.

Space is now available in the Convention Centre.

Interested Institutional members may contact

Secretary (Establishment), Indian Dairy Association

Ph.: 011-26179780/26165237/26165355 Email: idahq@rediffmail.com

ICAR-NDRI Students Bag First Position in National Dairy and Food Quiz Contest

SHETH M.C. COLLEGE OF DAIRY SCIENCE, Anand Agricultural University (AAU), Anand, Gujarat conducts National Dairy and Food Quiz Contest every year for acquainting the dairy and food science students and technocrats with the latest developments in dairy and food research, industrial developments and regulatory affairs. This year, the seventh edition of the contest was held on September 7, 2018 at Prof. A.C. Pandya Auditorium, College of Food Technology and Bio Energy, AAU, Anand. A total of 23 teams from various Dairy and Food Science Colleges and dairy industries throughout the country participated in this year's event. The contest was highly competitive and enthusiastically



conducted by the organizers and participated by the competitors with much zeal and enthusiasm. Ms Parul, Final year M. Tech and Mr. Akash Gill, Final Year B. Tech student of ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal secured the First Position in the Contest. Dr. Kaushik Khamrui, Principal Scientist (Dairy Technology) trained and accompanied the students to participate in the event. Dr. R.R.B Singh, Director, ICAR-NDRI, Karnal and Dr. Latha Sabikhi, Head, Dairy Technology Division congratulated the team members for their success.

Dr. Verghese Kurien Bronze Bust installed in Shimul Campus in Shivamogga



SHIMUL (Shivamogga, Davanagere and Chitradurga Co-operative Milk Union Ltd) President Mr. Vidyadhar Unveiled the bust of the late Dr. Verghese Kurien, father of India's White Revolution, in the premises of Shimul office at Machenahalli near Shivamogga.

This initiative is said to be the first of its kind in South India in order to commemorate the services of Kurien towards transforming India from a milk-deficient nation to the world's largest milk producer.

Shimul Managing Director Mr. A.R. Chandrashekhar, directors of administrative board, retired Dairy Engineer Mr. D.V. Mallikarjun, Mr.

K.M. Rudrayya, officers and staff of the Shimul were present at the occasion.

It may be recalled that Mr. D.V. Mallikarjun, a retired dairy engineer with Shimul had donated the bust to Michigan State University (MSU).

FSSAI will soon come out with regulations for analogue products

INDIA'S DAIRY SECTOR is attracting a host of new players making an entry into this space. While the retail major Future Group has just announced a joint venture with Fonterra, ITC has also made an entry into the dairy sector. The growing competition has also increased the presence of analogs in the market. An analogue dairy product is made up of milk solids and vegetable fat which is not a pure dairy product.

To counter the increasing presence of analogous dairy products, companies such as Amul have appealed to FSSAI to take note of this growing market. Analogs are cheaper than pure dairy products and therefore, consumers are buying these products due to lack of information. The absence of labelling regulations that specifically point out the difference between dairy analogs and pure dairy products are missing at this point. Amul believes that this has adversely impacted the dairy company's income as well as the livelihood of farmers.

The dairy industry is also asking for a new logo to be printed on dairy analogs so that a consumer can distinguish between a dairy and non-dairy product. Amul has alleged that food items such as cheese, paneer, ghee, butter and other value added products are being sold under the garb of dairy products, when they are in reality the analogs.

FSSAI has received representations and concerns around the issue of analogues and is examining the matter at present. Since this is a complex process, the regulator will decide on whether any modifications are required in the labelling regulations of analogous products and this could take a couple of months.

INTERNATIONAL news

UK China dairy deal 'important for Northern Ireland (NI)'

INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARY Liam Fox has said an agreement for UK dairy in China could benefit NI dairy producers. The deal, which is valued at almost £240m over five years, was secured in China recently.

China approves imports of dairy products made in the UK, such as milk powder, cream and yoghurt. The agreement means that Chinese dairy processors can use milk from third countries like the Republic of Ireland. Lakeland Dairies in Northern Ireland is likely to be the main beneficiary of this deal.

Lakeland sources a significant proportion of its milk from the Republic of Ireland. A spokesperson for the

company said it welcomed any trade agreements which enhance the possibility of further export growth towards China.

Northern Ireland has high potential to supply good quality dairy products to meet increasing demand for dairy worldwide.

Dairy is one of the fastest growing areas of food demand in China. They are increasingly looking to the UK. The government has a duty to prepare contingency plans in the event of a no-deal. China is the UK's fifth largest trading partner, with exports growing by 28.5% in 2017 when compared with the previous year.

Researchers feed seaweed to dairy cows to reduce emissions

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA researchers are feeding seaweed to dairy cows in a bid to make cattle more climate-friendly. An animal scientist, Ermias Kebreab, is studying whether adding small amounts of seaweed to cattle feed can help reduce the emission of methane, a potent greenhouse gas that is released when cattle burp, pass gas or make manure. In a study this past spring, researchers found methane emissions were reduced by more than 30 per cent in a dozen Holstein cows that ate the seaweed, which was mixed into their feed.

Dairy farms and other livestock operations are major sources of methane. California is requiring them to cut emissions by 40 per cent by 2030.