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FEB 16, 2024 DAIRYNEWS7X7@GMAIL.COM

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## FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

DAIRY PULSE 199<sup>th</sup> EDITION (01<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024)



Infant is a little bit of heaven sent down to earth-Lets save them



### CATEGORIES OF THE EDITION

- ★ Dairy News 7X7 Blog: Uncovering the Dairy Landscape
- ★ Indian News
  - Animal Health/Protection
  - Marketing
  - Dairy Policy
  - Regulatory/Legal
  - Survey/Report
- ★ Foreign News



## Dairy Pulse 199<sup>th</sup> Edition (1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, February 2024)

### Content

<b>BLOG .....</b>	<b>8</b>
Infant is a little bit of heaven sent down to earth-Lets save them.....	8
<b>INDIAN NEWS .....</b>	<b>16</b>
Honorary Doctorate to RCDF Administrators & MD Sushma Arora .....	16
Amul launch Cattle feed to increase SNF in milk .....	17
Milk price increased by Rs 6 per liter in Himachal Pradesh .....	18
All milk dairies in Indore asked to install fat-checking machines .....	20
Hyderabad man finds worm ‘crawling’ in Cadbury Dairy Milk .....	21
Milma launches instant Puliserry mix, planning more products .....	22
India’s Dairy Production Model: Narendra Modi.....	23
The cow’s status doesn’t protect her,’ says Yamini Narayanan .....	25
Govt grants Income Tax Exemption to Boost Dairy Cooperatives.....	28
Parag Milk Foods consolidated revenue up 8.8% at ₹800.84cr in Q3 .....	30
Susthira offers a sustainable option for dairy farmers .....	32
World’s Largest Grain Storage Plan by Ministry of Cooperation.....	33
Kerala Budget 2024-25   Animal husbandry earmarked ₹277.14 crore .....	43
BJP workers bring cattle to Bengaluru protest, ask milk subsidies.....	44
FSSAI approves amendments to do away with Agmark, BIS .....	45
Sterling Agro earns “Danone Partner for Excellence” award for 2023.....	46
Fodder challenges offer much food for thought .....	47
NDDDB to provide consultancy to set up 225 crore plant in Himachal .....	50
Consumers deplore hike in price of milk in Manapparai.....	55
Bihar’s Sudha milk company to increase milk prices? .....	56
No milk payment, Jind co-op society operators on strike .....	57
Whats for dairying in Budget 24-25 by Finance minister .....	58
Dairy Tech Startup Stellapps In Talks To Raise \$20 Mn To Fuel Expansion .....	59
Farmers in Coimbatore seek release of electricity connections to all.....	60
Dodla Dairy Limited Just Missed EPS By 15%: What next ?.....	61
Rockwell Automation and ISAP India to Modernize Dairy Farming .....	62

**Global News ..... 65**

- Camel milk–derived bioactive peptides and diabetes ..... 66
- China is poised to become the world’s 3rd-largest milk producer..... 68
- Amul Eyes Sri Lankan Livestock Farms Team for Inspection in SL ..... 69
- Dairy ingredient innovation contributing to consumption shift..... 70
- High protein dairy is booming but how healthy is it ? ..... 72
- Animal-free” milk brand Remilk gets green light in Canada..... 75
- 13 Dairy Brands Recall Products- Possible Listeria Contamination ..... 76
- GDT: Increase in SMP and Butter global prices raise hopes in India ..... 77
- Sunak is ‘sad’ parents are forced to water down baby formula..... 78
- ‘Disruptive’ dairy brand pledges 1% of all revenues to RABI..... 79
- A cow produces about 220 pounds of methane each year. .... 80
- Milk Production in Europe Continues to Fall: Two Big Reasons Why..... 82

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*Journey* **Organized by**

Indian Dairy Association (South Zone) Anchored by  
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The Golden Jubilee 50<sup>th</sup> Dairy Industry Conference envisages addressing contemporary issues concerning Dairy Entrepreneurship backed by Innovations in the Industry. The Technical Sessions are being carefully coined to facilitate and encourage young dairy entrepreneurs to improve their business commensurating with the increasing demand for milk and milk products. A Poster Session, in line with the theme of the Conference, will be organized to encourage display of the latest original research innovations and field applications. The concurrent Indian Dairy Expo would help dairy entrepreneurs to choose suitable and time-tested machinery, equipment and other services for establishing/improving their infrastructure facilities.

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SOUTH ZONE  
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## BLOG

INFANT IS A LITTLE BIT OF HEAVEN SENT DOWN TO EARTH-  
LETS SAVE THEM

<https://dairynews7x7.com/infant-is-a-little-bit-of-heaven-sent-down-to-earth-lets-save-them/>



The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) recently approved amendments to food safety regulations, eliminating the need for Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) or Agmark certifications for food products. The move aligns with the “One Nation, One Commodity, One Regulator” concept, streamlining certification processes for food businesses and fostering a more business-friendly environment. Discussed during the 43rd meeting of the food safety authority in New Delhi, the amendments aim to simplify regulations. Additionally, a comprehensive manual of methods of analysis for ensuring regulatory compliance of food products was approved during the meeting.

This step marks progress in concentrating a Food Business operator’s focus on a single agency, freeing them from multiple differential standards for certain products. Although BIS plays a crucial role in developing standards for various critical products, the recent amendments by FSSAI intend to consolidate certifications, making FSSAI certification the sole requirement. Until the amendments are approved, the dairy industry currently requires separate BIS certification for certain products, like dried milk categories. Infant milk powder, a critical product in this category, follows stringent standards, and Indian products are considered among the safest globally. As the name suggest, this product is used by the most vulnerable group of infants and toddlers.

BIS became the first certification body in the world to reduce the SPC count in finished product to below 500/gm in three samples out of five as a testing protocol. The other countries which stood very near to India are GCC nations at 1000 CFU/g and CIS countries at 2000 CFU/g. However, leading global companies manufacturing in India, such as Nestle, Danone, Abbot, Amul, and Nutricia, already adhere to high international standards in their production processes.



## **Is it true that Indian infant milk powder is safest in the world ?**

The answer is both yes and no. When we look at world's best names in this category then we have Nestle, Danone, Abbot, Amul, Nutricia, etc already manufacturing their products in India. Infant milk powder manufacturing is a complex process requiring hygiene and food safety comparable to that of pharmaceutical sector. These companies have set up state of the art technology plant and machineries to manufacture the product matching international standards.

The standards for infant milk substitutes, outlined in BIS standards under IS 14433:2022, emphasize nutritional suitability and quality criteria.

“A breast milk substitute product based on milk (see 4 of IS 13688) and other ingredients which has been proven to be suitable for infant feeding, to meet the nutritional requirements of infant during the first six months. The product may be modified by the partial removal/substitution of milk fat with edible vegetable oils rich in polyunsaturated fatty acids and/ or by different milk solids, either singly or in a suitable combination; carbohydrates; salts such as phosphates and citrates; vitamins and minerals. The product may be in liquid or powdered form. Vegetable oils rich in polyunsaturated fatty acids may be added to partially substitute milk fat to an extent that the product shall contain a minimum of 12 percent by mass of milk fat.”

## IS 14433 :2022 Infant milk Formula

The final requirements of the product is prescribed as below :

IS 14433 : 2022

**Table 2 Requirements for Infant Milk Substitutes (Type I and Type II)**  
( Clause 5.7 and 5.10 )

Sl No.	Characteristic	Requirements per 100 g	Requirements per 100 kcal	Method of Test, Ref to
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
i)	Moisture, percent by mass, <i>Mfr</i>	4.50	–	IS 11623 for reference purpose IS 16072 for routine purpose
ii)	a) Total protein (N × 6.25), percent by mass b) Milk protein (N × 6.38), percent by mass, <i>Mfr</i> (only for Type I)	10.00 - 16.00 12.00	2.10 - 3.40 2.50	IS 11917
iii)	Fat <sup>o</sup> , percent by mass a) Total fat, including milk fat (for Type II) b) Milk fat <sup>o</sup> , <i>Mfr</i>	18.00 - 25.00 18.00 (Type I) 12.00 (Type II)	3.80 - 5.30 3.80 (Type I) 2.50 (Type II)	IS 11721
iv)	a) Linoleic acid, mg b) $\alpha$ -Linolenic acid, mg, <i>Mfr</i> c) Ratio of linoleic acid and $\alpha$ -linolenic acid, <i>Mfr</i> (only for Type II)	1500.00 - 7000.00 250.00 6 : 1	300.00 - 1500.00 50.00 6 : 1	Annex B or ISO 10958*
v)	Carbohydrates, percent by weight	45.00 - 70.00	9.60 - 14.90	Annex C of IS 1656
vi)	Total ash, percent by mass, <i>Mfr</i>	8.50	–	Annex C
vii)	Acid insoluble ash, percent by mass, <i>Mfr</i>	0.10	–	Annex D
viii)	Solubility index, ml/100 g, <i>Mfr</i>	2.0	–	IS 12790
ix)	Vitamin A (as retinol equivalent, RE), $\mu$ g	150.00 - 823.00	75.00 - 175.00	IS 16630
x)	Vitamin D, $\mu$ g	5.00 - 14.00	1.00 - 3.00	IS 17177
xi)	Vitamin E (as $\alpha$ -tocopherol equivalent), mg (only for Type-II)	2.50 - 6.00	0.50 - 1.30	IS 16630
xii)	Vitamin K, $\mu$ g	7.50 - 19.00	1.60 - 4.00	IS 21446
xiii)	Vitamin C, mg	25.00 - 75.00	5.30 - 16.00	IS 5838 or IS 17176*
xiv)	Thiamine, $\mu$ g	200.00 - 517.00	42.50 - 110.00	IS 17660
xv)	Riboflavin, $\mu$ g	400.00 - 2000.00	85.10 - 425.50	IS 17660
xvi)	Niacin equivalent, mg	3.80 - 9.90	0.80 - 2.10	IS 17680
xvii)	Vitamin B <sub>6</sub> (pyridoxine), $\mu$ g	100.00 - 400.00	21.30 - 85.10	IS 17680
xviii)	Dietary folate equivalent (DFE) <sup>o</sup> , $\mu$ g	15.00 - 56.90	3.20 - 12.10	AOAC 2013.13
xix)	Pantothenic acid, mg	2.00 - 10.00	0.42 - 2.12	IS 16642
xx)	Vitamin B <sub>12</sub> , $\mu$ g	0.25 - 4.50	0.05 - 0.90	IS 16640* or AOAC 2014.02
xxi)	Biotin, $\mu$ g	7.50 - 50.0	1.60 - 10.60	IS 17670
xxii)	Choline, mg, <i>Mfr</i>	32.00	6.80	IS 17668
xxiii)	Iron, mg	3.00 - 7.00	0.60 - 1.50	AOAC 985.35 or ISO 15151 or ISO 21424*
xxiv)	Sodium, mg	90.00 - 300.00	19.15 - 63.80	IS 12760 or ISO 15151 or ISO 21424*
xxv)	Potassium, mg	300.00 - 900.00	63.82 - 191.48	IS 12760 or ISO 15151 or ISO 21424*
xxvi)	Chloride, mg	250.00 - 800.00	53.20 - 170.20	IS 11763 or AOAC 2016.03*
xxvii)	Calcium, mg	250.00 - 700.00	53.20 - 148.90	IS 12760 or ISO 15151 or ISO 21424*

**Table 2 (Concluded)**

Sl No.	Characteristic	Requirements per 100 g	Requirements per 100 kcal	Method of Test, Ref to
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
xxviii)	Phosphorus, mg	125.00 - 500.00	26.60 - 106.40	IS 12756 or ISO 15151 or ISO 21424*
xxix)	Calcium: phosphorus ratio	1:1 - 2:1	1:1 - 2:1	Sl. No. xxvii divided by Sl. No. xxviii
xxx)	Magnesium, mg	30.00 - 75.20	6.40 - 16.00	IS 12760 or ISO 15151 or ISO 21424*
xxxi)	Iodine, µg	90.00 - 225.60	19.15 - 48.00	IS 17379
xxxii)	Copper, µg	160.00 - 470.00	34.00 - 100.00	15 of IS 1699 or ISO 15151 or ISO 21424*
xxxiii)	Zinc, mg	2.50 - 5.90	0.50 - 1.25	15 of IS 1699 or ISO 15151 or ISO 21424*
xxxiv)	Manganese, µg	5.00 - 500.00	1.00 - 106.40	ISO 15151 or ISO 21424*
xxxv)	Selenium, µg	5.00 - 40.00	1.00 - 9.00	IS 15303 or ISO 15151 or ISO 20640*

**NOTES**

1 In case of dispute, the method indicated by "\*" shall be the referee method.

2 For the purpose of Type tests, all tests mentioned above are to be carried out and for the purpose of Routine tests, the tests given at Sl. No. (i) to (iii) (except fatty acid profile), (v) to (ix) and (xxiii) are to be carried out.

3 A variation of minus 10.0 per cent from the declared value of the nutrients or nutritional ingredients on the label shall be allowed. The nutrient levels shall not exceed maximum limits as specified in Table 2.

<sup>1)</sup> Lactic acid and myristic acids are constituents of fats, but combined shall not exceed 20 per cent of total fatty acids. The erucic acid content when determined as per ISO 16958 shall not exceed 1 per cent of total fatty acids. The total content of phospholipids shall not exceed 300 mg/100 kcal. The method given in ISO 16958 shall be used for this purpose. The contents of trans fatty acids when determined as per the method given in Annex F of IS 10533 shall not exceed 3 per cent of total fatty acids (except in Type I infant milk substitutes).

<sup>2)</sup> In case of Type II infant milk substitutes, since there is no reliable methods at present for the estimation of separate contents of milk fat (12 percent min) and vegetable fat in the total fat, records of their addition shall be maintained by the manufacturer. However, the product shall not have less than 18 percent total fat when tested as per IS 11721.

<sup>3)</sup> 1 microgram DFE = 0.5 microgram folic acid.

This product must match the following microbial criteria which is probably most stringent in the world from SPC perspective :

IS 14433 : 2022

**Table 3 Microbiological Requirements for Infant Milk Substitutes (Type I and Type II)**  
( Clause 5.10 )

Sl No.	Characteristic	Requirement				Method of Test, Ref to
		Sampling Plan		Limit (cfu)		
		n	c	m	M	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
i)	Aerobic plate count	5	2	$5 \times 10^2$ /g	$5 \times 10^3$ /g	IS 5402 (Part 1)
ii)	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (Coagulase positive)	5	0	<10/g	—	IS 5887 (Part 8/Sec 1* or 2)
iii)	Yeast and mould count	5	0	<10/g	—	IS 5403 or IS 16069-1* for liquid product or IS 16069-2* for powdered product
iv)	<i>Salmonella</i> sp.	60	0	Absent/25 g	—	IS 5887 (Part 3/Sec 1)
v)	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	10	0	Absent/25 g	—	IS 14988 (Part 1)
vi)	<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	5	2	$1 \times 10^3$ /g	$5 \times 10^3$ /g	IS 5887 (Part 6)
vii)	Sulphate reducing <i>Clostridia</i>	5	2	10/g	$1 \times 10^3$ /g	ISO 15213
viii)	Enterobacteriaceae	10	0	Absent/10 g	—	IS 17112 Part 1
ix)	<i>Enterobacter sakazakii</i> ( <i>Cronobacter</i> sp.)	30	0	Absent/10 g	—	ISO 22964

**NOTES**

1 For sampling plan, see Annex E.

2 In case of dispute, the method indicated by "\*" shall be the referee method.

3 The requirement for *Salmonella* shall be tested in a laboratory situated away from the production area.

You might be wondering that why I am sharing all these details here while everyone know about it. In order to make things more simpler for you, let me share the excerpts from Skimmed milk powder also under BIS

IS 13334 (Part 1) : 2014.Skimmed Milk Powder

**Skimmed Milk Powder, Standard Grade** —The product obtained from skimmed milk of cow or buffalo or a combination thereof by the removal of water through spray drying or by roller drying.

We can clearly see that the process by which the milk is to be dried is clearly defined. Skimmed milk powder is a commoditised product but for that very clear instruction on its method of manufacturing is provided. Even BIS certification may not be given to an entity which does not have their captive milk pasteurising, condensing and drying facilities.

In contrast, the processing methodology for the most delicate dairy product, specifically designed for the vulnerable demographic of infants and toddlers, lacks a defined procedure. The sole requirement is to ensure that the product aligns with the previously mentioned standards and maintains a microbial count of SPC 500/gm. Manufacturers are only obligated to have a microbiological testing laboratory,

which can be established at a relatively modest cost, typically a few lakhs. Notably, there is no applicable standard, such as ISO 17025, governing the established laboratory in this context.

**How can we develop a product with a microbial count of less than 500/gm when the ingredients have a significantly higher microbial load, and all of this without employing any thermal processing methods?**

The ingredients in infant formula possess varying densities. When these are dry-blended and pillow-pouched with nitrogen flushing for transportation, heavier ingredients such as sugar tend to settle down. This results in the product becoming a multilayered formula instead of a uniformly blended composite formula. Consequently, when served to infants, the scoops at the top will be lower in sweetness, while the last scoops will be excessively sweet. Infants are unable to communicate their discomfort, and the intended purpose of each serving with similar nutritional composition is undermined.

**The remedy**

The only remedy is to make wet blending of ingredients mandatory for infant milk products because only wet blending and drying could ensure SPC count of 100-500 cfu/gm . Wet blending followed by drying also ensure high solubility and no chance of segregation of ingredients and thus ensure a homogeneous product in every scoop.

I urge the FSSAI and BIS authorities to thoroughly examine and establish clear standards for Infant milk formula processing. The presence of numerous small-scale operators in this sector poses a significant threat to the health of infants in the country. Policymakers and authorities should conduct surveillance at hospitals to assess the prevalence of medical cases involving vomiting and diarrhea in infants who have been fed with such infant formulas. This step is crucial for ensuring the well-being and safety of the vulnerable infant population.

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## INDIAN NEWS

## HONORARY DOCTORATE TO RCDF ADMINISTRATORS &amp; MD SUSHMA ARORA

FEB 13, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/honorary-doctorate-to-rcdf-administrators-md-sushma-arora/>

**S**ushma Arora, Administrators & Managing Director of Rajasthan Co-operative Dairy Federation was given an honorary doctorate degree by America's Prestigious Cambridge Digital University in a grand convocation ceremony held at Hotel Sarovar Portico, New Delhi.

Arora was honoured by award of honorary PhD for her significant contribution in the field of dairy development in the State of Rajasthan.

She has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Management of State Dairy Cooperatives. Sushma Arora was also invited as chief guest in the convocation ceremony. Dignitaries from across the country and abroad were present at the ceremony including President of America's Global University of Boston, Sanjeeb Kumar Bank.



## AMUL LAUNCH CATTLE FEED TO INCREASE SNF IN MILK

FEB 12, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/amul-launch-cattle-feed-to-increase-snf-in-milk/>



**A**mul Dairy has launched a new feed variety that will improve solid-non-fat (SNF) in milk of cows and buffaloes.

Problem of low fat and SNF in milk is common in the country's domestic dairy industry. The milk union's study revealed that low SNF content was due to less protein and energy in the diet provided to the dairy animals.

"We had initiated a project through which 3,000 machines were installed in all the villages in our milk shed area.

Through a special software, we started providing details of fat and SNF content to our dairy

farmers," said Amul Dairy's MD Amit Vyas.

"We also started evaluating the reasons behind low SNF content in dairy animals. Usually, there are three main reasons behind low SNF content including mixing water with milk, sub-clinical mastitis (which lowers milk production) or lack of vitamin and minerals-rich feed," he said.

Ahead of the summer season, Amul Dairy's chairman Vipul Patel along with other board members have launched Amul SNF Vridhhi as a feed supplement that will improve milk yield, fat and SNF content of dairy farmers.

## MILK PRICE INCREASED BY RS 6 PER LITER IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

FEB 12, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/milk-price-increased-by-rs-6-per-liter-in-himachal-pradesh/>



**H**imachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Sunday said the State government was all set to introduce innovative schemes and increase farmers' incomes in the upcoming annual Budget since agriculture and milk production played a pivotal role in the rural economy.

He was speaking in Shimla during a first of its kind interaction with the State's milk producers.

Mr. Sukhu said the government was encouraging agriculture as an industry to make farmers self-reliant. "There is a direct relationship between agriculture and milk production, and it becomes necessary to go for natural and organic farming in a big way, thereby linking traditional farming techniques with modern technologies. We intend to bring a revolutionary change in the agriculture sector with a special

focus on promoting animal husbandry," he said.

He said the recent increase of six rupees per litre in the purchase price of milk was indicative of his government's future course of action in strengthening the dairy sector and ensuring a fixed income for farmers. "Fundamental changes are being made in the policies and rules to ensure that money goes directly to the farmers," he added.

Pointing out that the government would also consider providing tax concessions to milk producers, he said the quality of milk in the Himalayan region was superior, and efforts were underway to market it, which would increase farmers' income and generate employment.

To strengthen the State's milk-based economy, the 'Him Ganga Yojana' had been launched with a budgetary provision of ₹500 crore, Mr. Sukhu said.



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## ALL MILK DAIRIES IN INDORE ASKED TO INSTALL FAT-CHECKING MACHINES

FEB 12, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/all-milk-dairies-in-indore-asked-to-install-fat-checking-machines/>



**A**lready declared India's cleanest city for seven straight years, Indore is now gearing up to ensure that its residents get unadulterated/uncontaminated and quality milk.

The Indore district administration on Friday decided to make the installation of Fat Checking Machines compulsory at all dairies across the district – to ensure that the residents get the best quality milk from each dairy anywhere in the city.

“It has been decided that all dairies in Indore, which are selling milk to customers, will have to compulsorily install Fat Checking Machines. Soon a prohibitory order in this regard will be issued by the district administration under Section 144 CrPc,” Indore district collector Ashish Singh told this newspaper on Saturday.

“All consumers/customers buying milk directly from dairies have the right to know about the actual quality/fat content of the milk they are buying. The use of Fat Checking Machine or Milk Fat Analyzer machines at all dairies directly selling milk to consumers will help the consumers to make informed decisions on whether to buy milk from a particular dairy or not, based on the results shown by the machines,” Singh added.

However, the Indore district administration has yet to fix a deadline for the installation of the Milk Fat Check Machines at all dairies.

According to informed sources, Indore houses around 1,500 milk dairies, which will have to compulsorily display the results of the Milk Fat Check on the dedicated machines.

Importantly, the dairies source the milk from villages of Indore and neighbouring districts. The milk sourced from farmers is collected at Collection Centers and only after the Fat Check of the collected milk samples, is the milk transported to the dairies to prevent adulteration of milk. But despite the existing practice, the food department has been receiving complaints from consumers about adulteration.

On Friday, the Indore district administration also decided to draw a detailed database of all the shops operating in the city's famous food lane – the Sarafa Night Food Market.

“The detailed database will cover all possible details of each shop, particularly since how long those shops have been operating and what is being dished out by them. The database will be developed through a comprehensive survey which will go a long way to ensure safe food,” Singh maintained.

## Quality matters

Indore district collector Ashish Singh says all customers buying milk directly from dairies have the right to know about the actual quality/fat content of the milk they are buying. The

use of Fat Checking Machine or Milk Fat Analyzer machines at all dairies directly selling milk to consumers will help the consumers to make informed decisions on whether to buy milk from a particular dairy or not, based on the results.

## HYDERABAD MAN FINDS WORM 'CRAWLING' IN CADBURY DAIRY MILK

FEB 12, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/hyderabad-man-finds-worm-crawling-in-cadbury-dairy-milk-chocolate-company-apologises/>



A resident of Hyderabad found a worm “crawling” in a Cadbury Dairy Milk Chocolate bar that he bought from a store at a metro station in the city. Taking to social media platform X, Robin Zaccheus posted a video, which has gone viral.

Zaccheus posted the video along with the receipt of the Rs 45 chocolate he purchased from Ratnadeep Retail store at Ameerpet metro station in the city. Expressing concern about “quality checks” on products nearing expiration, Zaccheus questioned the responsibility for potential public health hazards in his tweet. The incident, which occurred two days ago, garnered attention and comments from various users, prompting a response from Cadbury.

“Found a worm crawling in Cadbury chocolate purchased at Ratnadeep Metro Ameerpet today.. Is there a quality check for these near to

expiry products? Who is responsible for public health hazards?” Zaccheus wrote on X.

Cadbury, in a standard reply in the comments section, apologised for the “unpleasant experience” and emphasised their commitment to maintaining the highest quality standards. The company requested Zaccheus to share his contact information to address the matter.

The post by Zaccheus quickly went viral, with netizens urging him to initiate action against the authorities. One user suggested legal action, stating, “Sue them and claim compensation.” Another user highlighted the importance of checking for double-wrapping on chocolates, suggesting that the absence of double-wrapping might have allowed the worm to infiltrate. The user also advised others to inspect products and verify expiry details before consumption.

## MILMA LAUNCHES INSTANT PULISSERY MIX, PLANNING MORE PRODUCTS

FEB 11, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/milma-launches-instant-pulissery-mix-planning-more-products/>



**A**fter dark chocolates, Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (Milma) has now introduced “instant Pulissery mix” containing 100 per cent natural ingredients.

K.S. Mani, Chairman, Milma handed over the product’s first packet to Kishore M. Jwala, Advisor, National Dairy Development Board.

The mix, which is free of chemicals harmful to the human body, is priced at ₹80 for a packet weighing 100 grams.

The Pulissery mix carries the classical taste of the Kerala curry even as it caters to the interests of the new generation. Through its ‘Repositioning Milma 2023’ project, the federation is introducing new products, which have been receiving encouraging response from the market, Milma chairman said. “It is boosting our market expansion and product diversification,” he said.

Milma’s Ernakulam Regional Cooperative Milk Producers’ Union Chairman M.T. Jayan said the face of Milma has been changed now. “We are now capable of competing with the products of multinational companies”.

In November last year, Milma had launched the Deliza brand dark chocolates and Chocofull snack bar as part of its efforts to tap the new trends and demands for tasty as well as healthy snacks.

The launch, which marked KCCMMF’s entry into this premium segment, was also part of the ‘Repositioning Milma’ initiative, earning the federation increasing popularity.

Milma is planning to launch more instant mix products to promote the State’s vintage culinary tastes among the youngsters, he said.

## INDIA'S DAIRY PRODUCTION MODEL: NARENDRA MODI

FEB 10, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/indias-dairy-production-model-national-digital-livestock-mission-e-gopala-rashtriya-gokul-mission-and-more/>



**M**uch like India's own dream run towards growth and development since 2014, the country's dairy sector serves as a unique example of resilience and rise. Due credit belongs to PM Modi's government which has worked matchlessly to achieve a rare transformation of the sector.

Cattle wealth and dairy business have been integral to our socio-economic life for thousands of years. As the Prime Minister himself has noted, the dairy sector in India has unique characteristics leading to its vibrance and strength.

However, the post-Independence era was one of hardship and impoverishment for the dairy farmers. They struggled to generate any significant incomes due to a supply chain dominated by middlemen. This was set to change post the 1970s with Operation Flood. Designed by Dr. Verghese Kurien, Operation Flood led to the organisation of dairy farmers into village-level cooperatives, responsible for production, procurement, and supply of milk and milk products across India. It effectively created a 'national milk grid' linking producers with consumers all across, also ensuring that modern technology and management practices were made available to all members. The White Revolution, as it is called, freed the farmers from

the excesses of middlemen, effectively assisting them in directing their own development with control over the resources they created.

Building on this unique movement and taking it ahead with its vision of 'Sahkar se Samridhi', the Modi government assists dairy cooperatives and FPOs engaged in dairy activities with soft working capital loans, creating a network of over 1.5 lakh dairy cooperatives. This has made India's dairy sector a unique business model for the world—a model led mostly by small farmers and women. As the PM has said, "It is not about mass production, but production by masses."

Achieving newer milestones since 2014, the dairy sector today contributes 5% to India's GDP, employing over 8 crore farmers directly. In fact, India has become the world's largest producer of milk, representing 23% of global milk production. Worth mentioning is the tremendous growth experienced in milk production in the last 8 years, from 146.3 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 221.06 million tonnes in 2021-22—a remarkable increase of over 51%. This stands in stark contrast with global growth in milk production moving at 1.2% annually as against India's rate of 6.4%.

These phenomenal numbers are an outcome of exceptional initiatives of the Modi government in the last nine years. To begin with,

the National Programme for Dairy Development was launched in 2014. It aims at strengthening infrastructure for milk production and processing, encouraging value-addition in milk and milk products apart from increasing farmers' access to organised markets. The central government contributes Rs. 2297.25 crore towards 185 projects in 28 states and 2 UTs within the total cost of Rs. 3015.35 crore under this scheme.

Further, 37 projects worth Rs. 5544.53 crore have been approved under the Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund initiated in 2017. Via the Fund, we have achieved milk processing capacity of 63.70 lakh liter per day (LLPD), chilling capacity of 3.4 LLPD, milk drying capacity of 265 metric tonner per day, while the manufacturing capacity of value-added products has reached 10.46 LLPD.

Another asset of the dairy sector in India is its livestock population. Growing at a compound annual growth rate of 7.93% during 2014-15 to 2020-21, the livestock sector contributed nearly 6.2% to the total GVA in 2020-21. Its contribution in the agriculture and allied GVA has increased from 24.38% in 2014-15 to 30.87% in 2020-21.

Transforming this asset is the government's focus on indigenous breeds and overall livestock health. In this direction, the government has launched the Rashtriya Gokul Mission towards development and conservation of indigenous bovine breeds. With a budget of Rs. 2400 crore, the Mission has multiple achievements to its credit like coverage of 5.71 crore animals under artificial insemination, DNA-based genomic selection for indigenous breeds, identification and registration of 53.5 crore animals, establishment of Gokul Grams as integrated indigenous cattle development centers, and successful adoption of e-Gopala app, among others. Its sub-component National Digital Livestock Mission is working towards improving productivity of animals, control diseases and ensure quality livestock for domestic and

global markets. The government provides a direct 50% subsidy to individuals, SHGs, and FPOs, among others to establish breed multiplication farms like poultry farms with hatcheries and brooder mother units, piggery farm and feed-fodder units, among others.

The government is also building a large database of dairy animals through Pashu Aadhaar—a unique biometric identity for better animal husbandry practices.

This emphasis on conserving indigenous bovine breeds holds significance for Indian economy since climate comfortable cattle are another unique aspect of the Indian dairy sector. Highlighting the same, PM Modi said, "I would like to give you the example of the Banni breed of buffaloes of Gujarat. Because the climate in the Kutch region is tough and days are very hot, these cattle graze at night. They need less water. They don't need to be watched, and they find their way back home on their own next morning." Local breeds like Sahiwal, Rathi, and Tharparker are well known for their adaptability to harsh climatic conditions, and add resilience to the dairy sector.

Disease control is another area where the government is at the forefront with its One Health approach. The Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme focusses on vaccination of animals of economic and zoonotic importance. So far, 2.19 crore animals have received vaccination against Brucellosis and 24.18 crore animals against Foot and Mouth Disease (in the second round). Hence, we are well on the path of vaccinating 100% of the animals against both these diseases by 2025. It is also worth noting that India successfully developed its own indigenous vaccine for lumpy skin disease—a mark of our rising prowess in the field of scientific research and innovation.

The dairy sector has emerged as a crucial source of rural employment, absorbing a significant portion of the country's workforce. Women, in particular, comprise 70% of the dairy workforce. In addition, over one-third of members in milk cooperatives are women.



PM Modi has said, “Women are the real leaders of India’s dairy sector. Nari Shakti is the driving force.”

With such motivation in place, PM Modi’s government has revolutionised the wider contours of the dairy sector in India. Such strategic focus has not only bolstered the income of millions of small and marginal farmers but has also

played a pivotal role in strengthening the agricultural and allied sectors, contributing to the overall growth of the Indian economy.

In fact, dairy cooperatives model in India is a peerless inspiration for the whole world and can serve as a lucrative business model for poor countries.

## THE COW’S STATUS DOESN’T PROTECT HER,’ SAYS YAMINI NARAYANAN

FEB 9, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/the-cows-status-doesnt-protect-her-says-yamini-narayanan/>



A senior lecturer at Deakin University in Australia, Yamini Narayanan exposes how the cow has been exploited to promote casteism and communalism. In an interview, she responds to questions that emerge from her ground-breaking book *Mother Cow, Mother India*. Edited excerpts.



**Its political connotation notwithstanding, does cow vigilantism hold the ‘cow’ as a cultural symbol to promote vegetarianism? Why is she vulnerable to being a dairy or milch cow?**

India is overwhelmingly and emphatically a non-vegetarian country, and cow vigilantes are not to be confused with animal activism whose overarching priority is usually veganism, a rejection of the consumption of all animal-derived products, including dairy and eggs, which are part of a vegetarian diet. Cow vigilantism is a mode of remaking the cow as a ‘Hindu’ body, and more specifically, as representing a Hindu state. And it is precisely the sacrality imposed on the cow that makes her vulnerable to being a ‘dairy’ or a ‘milch’ cow.

Yamini Narayanan picture below–

The need is to understand the politics of cow protectionism differently when we place the lived realities of cows and their infants at the centre. Cows are bred for dairying in India, but the extreme and unfathomable violence inherent in dairying is linked with slaughter. Cows who are infertile, diseased, male etc. must be necessarily sent to slaughter.

The public meta-narrative is that cows are either abandoned on the road or sent to gaushalas, but the cold reality of dairy economics is animals bred and exploited for dairy must be eventually slaughtered when no longer producing lactate. This happens underground in India. However, framing the cow as ‘mother’ or ‘goddess’ is basically a gaslighting tactic that blurs the cold reality that the cow is a milk-producing resource and economics demands that the unproductive resources be treated — and disposed of — as such. In masking this reality, the cow’s sacred status intensifies her vulnerability to being used for dairy — it does not protect her or her calf.



**Hasn't the 'cow' been consciously used as a political tool to promote identity? Is the idea of a nation-state (around 'cow') aimed at political control over the population at the cost of perpetuating social and economic inequality?**

In India, cows have been made a ‘Hindu animal’ — and as ostensibly representing a Hindu state. Cows are of course, not naturally Hindu (or of any other religion), which are anthropocentric identifiers of the human self and human others. However, making cows Hindu and banning their slaughter as protection for ‘Hindu animals’, serves a divisive purpose in an aspirational Hindu state. My book, however, exposes

the inherent contradiction — and impossibility — of banning cow slaughter in a state that heavily promotes and subsidises dairying. Dairy is a slaughter industry so a cow slaughter ban is a plain economic impossibility.

Animal slaughter in any country is usually undertaken by some of the poorest, and most socially vulnerable communities. In India, it is some of the poorest engaging in slaughter, usually of the Dalit and Muslim communities, and who are at enormous risk of getting lynched, raped and killed, for essentially supporting the dairy industry which is both state-supported, and indeed, constitutive of the Hindu identity itself. No Hindu ritual is conducted without milk, ghee and butter, which all require cow slaughter.

**Could a parallel be drawn between how we treat the Ganges and a cow?**

Absolutely this parallel can and must be drawn. What both the Ganga and the cow demonstrate, is the harm that has been done to both, in the name of their sacralisation. Sacralisation is a form of objectification, and any objectification that is non-consensual, is profoundly harmful to the one being sacralised. The Ganga and the cow have both been harmed — precisely in the name of being sacred — quite literally to their deaths.

**Why is it that protectionism pertains to just one of the dairy animals (i.e. cow), and neither to its progeny nor its male cogenitor?**

Vegetarianism is as violent as carnivorousism, as vegetarianism involves the consumption of dairy and eggs, which are both deeply violent, extractive industries, that ultimately require slaughter of the animals. The fact that vegetarianism is also violent is universally blurred.



**How does a society accommodate in daily life the binary of the ‘cow as a sacred animal’ and the ‘cow roaming the streets’ as a symbol of neglect?**

In Indian society, we have come to normalise a huge spectrum of violence against animals. Cows, and indeed pigs, dogs, cats, pigeons, donkeys and so many others, eking out a bare existence by foraging in toxic rubbish dumps, is just one of them. What animals on the street embody, is a chronic state of raving hunger and disease, and also often a fear of human cruelty and violence, especially mothers seeking to feed and protect their newborns and infants.

The scale of global animal hunger is scarcely understood and cannot be underestimated. Animals overwhelmingly live, exist and are born into states of chronic hunger — and hunger is something we consider to be one of the most elemental states of suffering when it comes to the members of our own species.

We need to broaden the conversation from fetishising the cow as the exclusive concern. We need a clear-sighted animal politics that goes beyond cow politics — and radically expands our concern for animals beyond fascist, religious, or cultural politics around one species.

**Can cow protectionism stand the test of its contribution to global warming through methane gas emission?**

Cow protectionism’s sole objective is to perpetuate the idea of India as a Hindu state. It has never claimed to do anything else. It certainly has no role in mitigating climate change — it can intensify it however, if it allows the reckless breeding of cows to support dairy consumption, while pretending that dairy has nothing to do with cow slaughter.

## GOVT GRANTS INCOME TAX EXEMPTION TO BOOST DAIRY COOPERATIVES

FEB 9, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/central-govt-grants-income-tax-exemption-to-boost-dairy-cooperative-societies/>



TAX EXEMPTION

**C**entral Government has granted certain exemptions under Income Tax Act to Dairy Cooperative Societies to Boost the Sector

In a significant move aimed at supporting the dairy sector, the Government has introduced a series of measures granting income tax exemptions and reductions for Cooperative Societies under the Income Tax Act. The announcement was made by the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala, in a written reply in Lok Sabha.

Key Highlights of the announcement include: — Deduction under Section 80P: Primary cooperative societies involved in the supply of milk to the Federal Cooperative Society can now claim deductions for their entire profit related to milk supply to Union societies under Section 80P of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Surcharge Reduction: The surcharge on cooperative societies has been reduced from 12% to 7% for incomes exceeding ₹1 crore and up to ₹10 crores.

Alternate Minimum Tax Reduction: The rate of Alternate Minimum Tax for cooperative societies has been lowered from 18.5% to 15%, aligning it with the rate applicable to companies.

Amendment to Section 269T: Amendment to Section 269T now ensures that no penal consequences arise for cash repayments by Primary

Agricultural Credit Societies ( PACS ) or Agricultural and Rural Development Banks ( PCARDB ) if the amount is less than ₹2 lakh, up from the previous ₹20,000 limit.

Enhanced TDS Limit: Co-operative societies now enjoy a higher threshold of ₹3 crore for TDS on cash withdrawal, compared to the ₹1 crore limit applicable to other recipients under section 194N.

Interest Subvention for Farmers: The government is offering interest subvention on short-term crop loans up to ₹3 lakh for farmers, at an attractive rate of 7% per annum. Prompt repayments attract an additional 3% interest subvention, bringing the effective rate of interest down to 4%.

Kisan Credit Card ( KCC ) Scheme: Since 2018-19, the government has introduced the Kisan Credit Card ( KCC ) scheme for Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, providing short-term working capital loans up to ₹2 lakh per beneficiary, aligning them with short-term crop loans.

Minister Rupala emphasized that these measures aim to provide a substantial boost to the dairy sector and promote the financial well-being of cooperative societies involved in dairy activities

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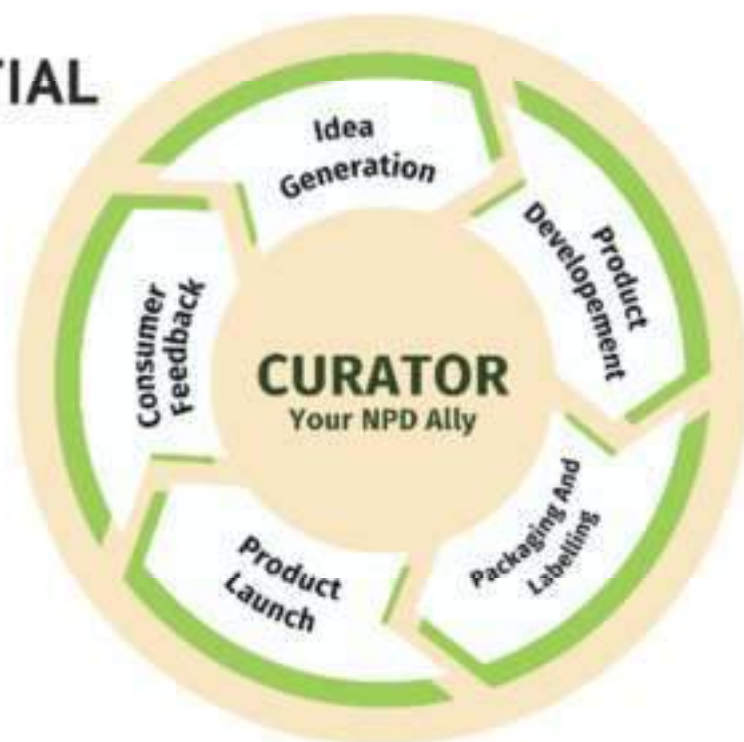
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## PARAG MILK FOODS CONSOLIDATED REVENUE UP 8.8% AT ₹800.84CR IN Q3

FEB 9, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/parag-milk-foods-consolidated-revenue-up-8-8-at-%e2%82%b9800-84-crore-in-third-quarter/>



**P**arag Milk Foods Ltd (PMFL) has reported a 268.8 per cent increase in profit after tax at ₹34.16 crore in the third quarter of fiscal year 2024.

The consolidated Q3 FY24 revenue stood at ₹800.84 crore, an 8.8 per cent YoY growth, while gross profit stood at ₹210.75 crore, with a gross profit margin of 26.3 per cent.

EBITDA stood at ₹68.65 crore, with an EBITDA margin of 8.6 per cent.

In the nine-month period ending December 31, 2023, revenue stood at ₹2,348.59 crore, up

12.3 per cent YoY. Gross profit stood at ₹554.54 crore, a gross profit margin of 23.6 per cent. EBITDA stood at ₹178.21 crore, with an EBITDA margin of 7.6 per cent.

Chairman, Devendra Shah, said, “Our consolidated revenues for the quarter have grown by 8.8% yoy; whilst our margins and profitability have witnessed strong improvement. The Gross and EBITDA margins have expanded by 520 basis points and 340 basis points to 26.3 per cent and 8.6 per cent, respectively”.

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## SUSTHIRA OFFERS A SUSTAINABLE OPTION FOR DAIRY FARMERS

FEB 7, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/susthira-offers-a-sustainable-option-for-dairy-farmers-hit-hard-by-rising-cattle-feed-prices/>



The hybrid napier grass developed by Kerala Agricultural University is climate resilient and requires minimum maintenance; fat percentage in milk of cross-bred jersey cows fed with the grass increased to 6.

While Kerala has been facing a scarcity of fodder grass, Susthira, a hybrid napier grass, is gaining popularity among dairy farmers in Kollam.

Developed by Kerala Agricultural University, the grass is climate resilient and requires minimum maintenance, making it an ideal option for many, especially when cattle feed prices are spiralling. After the on-farm trials carried out by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) proved successful, around 50 farmers in the district have started cultivating the variety.

“I didn’t water the crop for one month after planting, but there was no dip in yield or feed palatability. It’s a hassle-free process. You can reduce the amount of cattle feed by half,” says S. Sujeesh, a dairy farmer from Pattazhy.

### Increase in production

The first animal husbandry trials in the State were carried out by the KVK, Kollam, where

cross-bred jersey cows were fed the grass for a month. “As per the readings, there was an average increase of 1.5 litres of milk a day. While the normal fat percentage in cross-bred jerseys varies between 3.5 and 4.2, it crossed 6 in cows that were given Susthira. Trials were carried out in both summer and southwest monsoon seasons and the results are district specific,” says S. Parvathy, Assistant Professor (Animal Husbandry), KVK.

An adult cow requires around 30 kg of green fodder a day, which is an impossible task during summer months. In order to ensure maximum productivity, cows are often fed extra concentrate by the farmers. “If we have enough quality green fodder, we can bring down the quantity of concentrate, but we have to standardise the per cent,” she adds.

Farmers usually depend on a couple of known varieties such as Co1 and Co2 for green fodder, but the results of farm trials show that Susthira is a much better option. Another highlight of the crop is its heat resilience as thermal stress will not affect its growth to a great extent. “While other grass varieties will wilt without moisture, Susthira can survive without regular



watering or rain,” says C.R. Neeraja, assistant professor (Agronomy), KVK.

Around 100 grass slips can be planted on 1% of land and the crop will be ready for harvest within 75 days. After the first harvest, the farmers can cut the grass every 45 days and the production potential of a hectare of land is around 300 tonnes per annum. Cow dung

slurry, which is easily available at dairy farms, is used as manure for succulent regrowth after each harvest.

“Apart from the grass, the farmers can also sell Susthira slips. Just 2.5 cents of land will be sufficient to generate green fodder for two cows,” says Ms. Neeraja.

## WORLD’S LARGEST GRAIN STORAGE PLAN BY MINISTRY OF COOPERATION

FEB 7, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/worlds-largest-grain-storage-plan-by-ministry-of-cooperation/>



The United Nations system values the important role of cooperatives in social development. In 1995, the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen recognized the importance of cooperatives in the people-centered approach to development and agreed to “utilize and develop fully the potential and contribution of cooperatives for the attainment of social development goals, in particular the eradication of poverty, the generation of full and productive employment, and the enhancement of social integration.” (Commitment 9h).

The General Conference of the International Labour Organization (ILO), in its 90th Session

on 3 June 2002, inter-alia, adopted that the promotion and strengthening of the identity of cooperatives should be encouraged on the basis of:

(i) cooperative values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity; as well as ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others; and

(ii) cooperative principles as developed by the international cooperative movement. These principles are: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; member economic participation; autonomy and inde-

pendence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community.

India fares well on above international parameters in the cooperative sector. The cooperative principles are already enshrined in the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002. In order to promote and strengthen the cooperatives in India, the Ministry of Cooperation, since its inception on 6th July 2021, has undertaken several initiatives to realize the vision of “Sahakar-se-Samridhhi” and to strengthen and deepen the cooperative movement from Primary to Apex level Cooperatives in the country. A list of initiatives taken and progress made so far is in Annexure I.

As per the World Cooperative Monitor (WCM) 2022, Cooperative organizations in India like IFFCO and GCMMF are ranked among the top two in the agriculture sector, ULCCS is ranked second in the Industry and utility sector and 12 cooperative banks (seven StCB and four UCB and one credit society) are among top 300 ranked cooperatives in the world.

Illustrious examples of a few Indian Cooperative models, which have proved their significant role in improving the socio-economic condition of their members, who are mainly from rural areas, are as under:

India’s Cooperative Sugar Mills (CSMs) together constitute the largest sugar cooperative sector in the world. The CSMs contribute 4-9% in global sugar exports and 284 CSMs altogether support 56.80 lakh shareholder cane-growing farmers pan India.

The contribution of IFFCO model in fertilizer sector is at Annexure II.

### **The contribution of Amul model in dairy sector is at Annexure III.**

In order to address the shortage of food grain storage capacity in the country, the Government on 31.05.2023, has approved the “World’s Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector”, which has been rolled out as a

Pilot Project in different States/UTs of the country.

The Plan entails creation of various agri infrastructure at PACS level, including setting up decentralized godowns, custom hiring center, processing units, Fair Price Shops, etc. through convergence of various existing schemes of the Government of India (GoI), such as, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Scheme (AMI), Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME), etc., under which PACS can avail subsidies and interest subvention benefits for construction of godowns/storage facilities and setting up of other agri infrastructure. Further, NABARD is also extending financial support to PACS by refinancing them at highly subsidized rates of around 1 percent, after incorporating the benefits of 3% interest subvention under AIF scheme for projects up to Rs. 2 Crore. Therefore, the plan aims to strengthen the economic condition of PACS by diversifying their business activities and giving them additional sources of revenue, thus improving their financial sustainability.

The Pilot Project is being implemented by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) with the support of NABARD, Food Corporation of India (FCI), Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), NABARD Consultancy Services (NABCONS), National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC), etc. in different States/ UTs. Consultancy support is also being extended to PACS through these agencies under the project.

Further, an MoU has been signed between Ministry of Cooperation (GoI), Department of Food and Public Distribution (GoI), Food Corporation of India (FCI) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) to ensure full capacity utilization of the storage capacity being created at PACS level under the Project. This will facilitate hiring of godowns constructed at PACS level by FCI, integration of

these godowns with the supply chain of food-grains, thereby providing requisite forward and backward market linkages to PACS. Also, an MoU has been signed between Ministry of Cooperation (GoI), Department of Consumer Affairs (GOI), NABARD, NCDRC and NCCF for facilitating NCCF in carrying out construction and hiring of warehouses to be constructed at PACS level under this project.

States/ UTs and National level Cooperative Federations, like National Cooperative Consumers Federation (NCCF) and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), have identified more than 2,000 PACS for creation of storage capacity under the Pilot Project. Presently, construction of godown is in various stages in 13 PACS of 13 States/ UTs.

Establishment of decentralized storage capacity at PACS level would reduce post harvest losses by creating sufficient storage capacity in the country and strengthen food security of the country up to Panchayat/village level. It will also prevent distress sale of crops by farmers and enable them to realise better prices for their crops. Since PACS would be operating as procurement centre as well as Fair Price Shops (FPS), the cost incurred in transportation of food grains to procurement centres and again transporting the stocks back from warehouses to FPS would also be saved.

**The project will also provide various benefits to farmers and consumers, including the following:**

Farmers will be able to store their produce in the godown constructed at PACS and avail bridge finance for the next cycle of crop and sell the produce at a time of their choice, or sell their whole crop to the PACS at Minimum Support Price (MSP), which would enable them to avoid distress sale of crops.

They will be able to get various agri inputs and services at the Panchayat/ village level itself.

Through diversification of business, farmers will be able to get additional sources of income.

Through integration with the food supply management chain, farmers will be able to expand their market size and realize better value for their produce.

Creation of adequate food grain storage capacity at PACS level will help in reduction of post-harvest loss, thus enabling farmers to earn better prices.

In addition to the above, this Plan would help in ensuring food security at Panchayat/ village level across the country, thereby benefitting the consumers.

**Annexure-I**

Brief of 54 initiatives taken by Ministry of Cooperation

Ministry of Cooperation, since its inception on 6th July, 2021, has undertaken several initiatives to realize the vision of “Sahakar-se-Samridhi” and to strengthen & deepen the cooperative movement from Primary to Apex level Cooperatives in the country. List of initiatives taken and progress made so far are as follows:

Making Primary Cooperatives economically vibrant and transparent

Model Bye-Laws for PACS making them multi-purpose, multidimensional and transparent entities: Government, in consultation with all the stakeholders, including States/ UTs, National Level Federations, State Cooperative Banks (StCBs), District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs), etc., has prepared and circulated Model Byelaws for PACS to all the States/ UTs, which enable PACS to undertake more than 25 business activities, improve governance, transparency and accountability in their operations. Provisions have also been made to make the membership of PACS more inclusive and broad-based, giving adequate representa-

tion to women and Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. So far, 32 States/ UTs have adopted Model Byelaws or their existing byelaws are in line with Model Byelaws.

**Strengthening of PACS through Computerization:** In order to strengthen PACS, project for Computerization of 63,000 functional PACS with a total financial outlay of ₹2,516 Crore has been approved by the Government of India, which entails bringing all functional PACS in the Country onto a common ERP based national software, linking them with NABARD through StCBs and DCCBs. A total of 62,318 PACS from 28 States/ UTs have been sanctioned under the project. Software is ready and ERP onboarding has already started in 15,783 PACS in 27 States/ UTs so far.

**Establishing New Multipurpose PACS/ Dairy/ Fishery Cooperatives in uncovered Panchayats:** The plan for establishing new multipurpose PACS or primary dairy/ fisheries cooperatives covering all the Panchayats/ villages in the next five years, with support of NABARD, NDDB, NFDB, NCDC and other National level Federations has been approved by the Government. As reported by the States/ UTs, the process for registering more than 9,000 new PACS/ Dairy/ Fishery cooperative societies is in various stages.

**World's Largest Decentralized Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative sector:** Government has approved a plan to create warehouses, custom hiring centers, primary processing units and other agri infrastructure for grain storage at PACS level, through convergence of various GOI schemes, including AIF, AMI, SMAM, PMFME, etc. This will reduce wastage of food grains and transportation costs, enable farmers to realize better prices for their produce and meet various agricultural needs at the PACS level itself. 27 States/ UTs and National level Cooperative Federations such as National Cooperative Consumers Federation (NCCF) and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing

Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), have identified more than 2,000 PACS for creation of storage capacity under the Pilot Project.

**PACS as Common Service Centers (CSCs) for better access to e-services:** An MoU has been signed between Ministry of Cooperation, MeitY, NABARD and CSC e-Governance Services India Limited for providing more than 300 e-services such as banking, insurance, Aadhar enrolment/ updation, health services, PAN card and IRCTC/ Bus/ Air ticket, etc. through PACS. So far, 30,647 PACS have started providing CSC services to rural citizens which will also result in increase in income of these PACS.

**Formation of new Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) by PACS:** Government has allowed 1,100 additional FPOs to be formed by PACS with the support of NCDC, in those blocks where FPOs have not yet been formed or the blocks are not covered by any other implementing agency. Apart from this, 672 FPOs have been formed in the cooperative sector by NCDC. This will be helpful in providing farmers with necessary market linkages and get fair and remunerative prices for their produce.

**PACS given priority for Retail Petrol/ Diesel outlets:** Government has allowed PACS to be included in the Combined Category 2 (CC2) for allotment of retail petrol/ diesel outlets. As per information received from Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), a total of 240 PACS from 26 States/UTs have applied online for retail petrol/ diesel outlets. As informed by OMCs, 39 PACS have been selected so far.

**PACS given permission to convert bulk consumer petrol pumps into retail outlets:** Based on the discussions with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, guidelines have been issued to convert the existing bulk consumer licensee PACS into retail outlets for increasing the profit of PACS and generate employment opportunities in rural areas. 109 PACS from 4 States having wholesale consumer pumps have given consent for conversion into Retail Outlets, out of which 43 PACS have received Letter of Intent (LOI) from the OMCs.

PACS eligible for LPG Distributorship for diversifying its activities: Government has now allowed PACS to apply for LPG Distributorships. This will give PACS an option to increase their economic activities and create new employment opportunities in rural areas. From three States/ Union Territories, a total of 9 PACS have submitted online applications.

PACS as PM Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra for improving access to generic medicines at rural level: Government is promoting PACS to operate Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras which will provide additional income source to them and ease the access to generic medicines for rural citizens. So far, 4,629 PACS/ cooperative societies have applied online for PM Janaushadhi Kendras, out of which 2,475 PACS have been given initial approval. Out of these 2,475 PACS, 617 have received drug licences from State Drug Controllers which are ready to function as Jan Aushadhi Kendras.

PACS as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhhi Kendras (PMKSK): Government is promoting PACS to operate PMKSK for ensuring easy accessibility of fertilizer & related services to farmers in the country. As per the information shared by States/ UTs, 35,293 PACS are functioning as PMKSK.

Convergence of PM-KUSUM at PACS level: Farmers associated with PACS can adopt solar agricultural water pumps and install photovoltaic modules in their farms.

PACS to carry out O&M of rural piped water supply schemes (PWS): In order to utilize the deep reach of PACS in rural areas, on the initiative of the Ministry of Cooperation, Ministry of Jal Shakti has made PACS as eligible agencies to carry out the Operations & Maintenance (O&M) of PWS in rural areas. As per information received from States/ UTs, 1,630 PACS have been identified/ selected by 14 States/ UTs to provide O&M services at Panchayat/ Village level.

Micro-ATMs to Bank Mitra Cooperative Societies for providing doorstep financial services:

Dairy and Fisheries cooperative societies can be made Bank Mitras of DCCBs and StCBs. To ensure their ease of doing business, transparency and financial inclusion, Micro-ATMs are also being given to these Bank Mitra Co-operative Societies with support from NABARD to provide 'Door-step Financial Services'. As a pilot project, 1,723 Micro-ATMs have been distributed to Bank Mitra cooperative societies in Panchmahal and Banaskantha Districts of Gujarat. This initiative is now being implemented in all the Districts of the State of Gujarat.

Rupay Kisan Credit Card to Members of Milk Cooperatives: In order to expand the reach of DCCBs/ StCBs and to provide necessary liquidity to the members of Dairy Cooperative societies, Rupay Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) are being distributed to the members of cooperatives for providing credit at comparatively lower interest rates and to enable them to carry out other financial transactions. So far, 1,23,685 Rupay KCC have been distributed in Panchmahal and Banaskantha Districts of Gujarat. This initiative is now being implemented in all the Districts of the State of Gujarat.

Formation of Fish Farmer Producer Organization (FFPO): In order to provide market linkage and processing facilities to fishermen, NCDC has registered 69 FFPOs in the initial phase. In addition, Department of Fisheries, Government of India has allocated the work of converting 1000 existing fisheries cooperative societies into FFPOs to NCDC, with an approved outlay of Rs. 225.50 crore.

Strengthening the Urban and Rural Cooperative Banks

UCBs have been allowed to open new branches to expand their business: UCBs can now open new branches up to 10% (maximum 5 branches) of the existing number of branches in the previous financial year without prior approval of RBI.

UCBs have been allowed by RBI to offer doorstep services to their customers: Door step banking facility can now be provided by UCBs.

Account holders of these banks can now avail various banking facilities at home such as cash withdrawal, cash deposit, KYC, demand draft and life certificate for pensioners, etc.

Cooperative banks have been allowed to make one-time settlement of outstanding loans, like Commercial Banks: Co-operative banks, through board-approved policies, can now provide the process for settlement with borrowers, along with technical write-off.

Time limit increased to achieve Priority Sector Lending (PSL) targets given to UCBs: RBI has extended the timeline for UCBs to achieve Priority Sector Lending (PSL) targets by two years i.e., up to March 31, 2026.

A Nodal Officer designated in RBI for regular interaction with UCBs: In order to meet the long pending demand of the cooperative sector for closer coordination and focused interaction, RBI has notified a nodal officer.

**Individual housing loan limit more than doubled by RBI for Rural and Urban Cooperative Banks:**

Housing loan limit of Urban Cooperative Banks has now been doubled from Rs. 30 lakh to Rs. 60 lakh.

Housing loan limit of Rural Cooperative Banks has been increased to two and a half times to Rs. 75 lakh.

Rural Cooperative Banks will now be able to lend to commercial real estate/ residential housing sector, thereby diversifying their business: This will not only help Rural Cooperative Banks to diversify their business, but will benefit Housing cooperative societies also.

License fee reduced for Cooperative Banks: License fee for onboarding Cooperative Banks to 'Aadhaar Enabled Payment System' (AePS) has been reduced by linking it to the number of transactions. Cooperative financial institutions will also be able to get the facility free of cost for the first three months of the pre-production phase. With this, farmers will now be able

to get the facility of banking at their home with through biometrics.

Non-scheduled UCBs, StCBs and DCCBs notified as Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) in CGTMSE Scheme to increase the share of cooperatives in lending: Cooperative banks will now be able to take advantage of risk coverage up to 85 percent on the loans given. Also, cooperative sector enterprises will also be able to get collateral free loans from cooperative banks now.

Notification of Scheduling norms for including Urban Cooperative Banks: UCBs that meet the 'Financially Sound and Well Managed' (FSWM) criteria and have maintained the minimum deposits required for classification as Tier 3 for the last two years are now eligible to be included in Schedule II of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and get 'Scheduled' status.

Monetary ceiling doubled by RBI for Gold Loan: RBI has doubled monetary ceiling from Rs. 2 lakh to Rs.4 lakh, for those UCBs that meet the PSL targets.

Umbrella Organization for Urban Cooperative Banks: RBI has accorded approval to the National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies Ltd. (NAFCUB) for the formation of an Umbrella Organization (UO) for the UCB sector, which will provide necessary IT infrastructure and operational support to around 1,500 UCBs.

Relief to Cooperative Societies in the Income Tax Act

Surcharge reduced from 12 % to 7% for co-operative societies having income between Rs. 1 to 10 Cr.: This will reduce the burden of Income Tax on Cooperative Societies and more capital will be available with them to work for the benefit of their members.

MAT reduced for cooperatives from 18.5% to 15%: With this provision, now there is parity between Cooperative Societies and Companies in this regard.

Relief in cash transactions under section 269ST of the Income Tax Act: In order to remove difficulties in cash transactions by cooperatives under Section 269ST of IT Act, Government has issued a clarification that cash transaction of less than Rs. 2 lakhs done by a cooperative society with its distributor in a day will be considered separately, and will not be charged with income tax penalty.

Tax cut for new manufacturing Cooperative societies: Government has decided that a flat lower tax rate of 15% will be charged, compared to an earlier rate of up to 30% plus surcharge, for new cooperatives commencing manufacturing activities by March 31, 2024. This will encourage the formation of new cooperative societies in the manufacturing sector.

Increase in limit of Cash Deposits and Cash Loans by PACS and PCARDBs: Government has enhanced the limit for Cash Deposits and Cash Loans by PACS and Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (PCARDBs) from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 2 lakh per member. This provision will facilitate their activities, increase their business and benefit members of their societies.

Increase in the limit of Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) in Cash Withdrawal: Government has increased the cash withdrawal limit of cooperative societies without deduction of tax at source from Rs.1 crore to Rs.3 crore per year. This provision will save Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) for cooperative societies, which will enhance their liquidity.

#### Revival of Cooperative Sugar Mills

Relief from Income Tax to Sugar Cooperative Mills: Government has issued a clarification that cooperative sugar mills would not be subjected to additional income tax for paying higher sugarcane prices to farmers up to Fair and Remunerative or State Advised Price, from April, 2016 onwards.

Resolution of decades old pending issues related to Income Tax of Sugar Cooperative Mills:

Government has made a provision in its Union Budget 2023-24, wherein Sugar cooperatives have been allowed to claim as expenditure their payments to sugarcane farmers for the period prior to assessment year 2016-17, giving them a relief of more than Rs.10,000 crore.

Rs. 10,000 crore loan scheme launched for strengthening of Sugar Cooperative Mills: Government has launched a scheme through NCDC for setting up ethanol plants or cogeneration plants or for working capital or for all three purposes. Loan amount of Rs. 3,310.57 cr. has been sanctioned by NCDC to 25 Cooperative Sugar Mills so far.

Preference to Cooperative Sugar Mills in purchase of ethanol: Cooperative Sugar Mills have now been put at par with private companies for ethanol procurement by Government of India under the Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP).

Reduction in GST on molasses from 28% to 5%: Government has decided to reduce the GST on molasses from 28% to 5% which will enable cooperative sugar mills to earn more profits for their members by selling molasses to distilleries with higher margins.

#### Three new National Level Multi-State Societies

New National Multi-State Cooperative Seed Society for certified seeds: Government has established a new apex multi-state cooperative seed society under the MSCS Act, 2002, namely Bharatiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited (BBSSL) as an umbrella organization for quality seed cultivation, production and distribution under a single brand. Wheat, mustard, and pulses (gram, pea) breeder seeds have been planted across 1,750 acres. Efforts are underway to cultivate foundation/ certified seeds for groundnut, paddy, maize, and millet. So far, 13,985 PACS/ Cooperative Societies from 33 States/ Union Territories have submitted membership applications.

New National Multi-State Cooperative Organic Society for organic farming: Government has

established a new apex multi-state cooperative organic society under the MSCS Act, 2002, namely National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL) as an umbrella organization to produce, distribute and market certified and authentic organic products. NCOL has received membership applications from 5,102 PACS/ cooperative societies from 26 States/ UTs so far. Six organic products have been launched by NCOL under “Bharat Organics” brand.

New National Multi-State Cooperative Export Society for promoting exports: Government has established a new apex multi-state cooperative export society under the MSCS Act, 2002, namely National Cooperative Export Limited (NCEL) as an umbrella organization to give thrust to exports from cooperative sector. NCEL has received membership applications from 6,499 PACS/ cooperative societies from 27 States/ UTs so far. Till date, NCEL has got permission to export 23.9 LMT rice to 20 countries and 50,000 MT sugar to 2 countries.

### **Capacity Building in Cooperatives**

Promotion of training and awareness through National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT): By increasing its reach, NCCT has conducted 3,287 training programs and provided training to 2,01,507 participants in FY 2022-23.

Establishment of the Cooperative University: Cabinet Note has been prepared by Ministry of Cooperation for setting up of a National Cooperative University for Cooperative education, training, consultancy, research and development and a sustainable and quality supply of trained manpower.

Use of Information Technology for ‘Ease of Doing Business’

Computerization of the Central Registrar’s Office: Central Registrar’s office has been computerized to create a digital ecosystem for Multi-State Cooperative Societies, which will assist in processing applications and service requests in a time bound manner.

Scheme for computerization of office of RCSs in States and Union Territories: To increase ‘Ease of doing business’ for Cooperative Societies and create a digital ecosystem for transparent paperless regulation in all the States/ Union Territories, a Centrally Sponsored Project for computerization of RCS Offices has been approved by the Government. Grants will be provided for purchase of hardware, development of software, etc. to the States/ UTs. So far, proposals from 33 States/ UTs have been received for the project, out of which 30 have been sanctioned.

Computerization of Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs): To strengthen the long-term cooperative credit structure, the project of computerization of 1,851 units of Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs) spread across 13 States/ Union Territories has been approved by the Government. NABARD is the implementing agency for the project and will develop a national level software for ARDBs. Hardware, support for digitization of legacy data, training to the employees, etc. will be provided under the project. So far, proposals received from 8 States have been sanctioned under the project.

### **Other Initiatives**

New National Cooperative Database for authentic and updated data repository: A database of cooperatives in the country has been prepared with the support of State Governments to facilitate stakeholders in policy making and implementation of programmes/ schemes related to cooperatives across the country. So far, data of around 8.02 lakh cooperatives has been captured in the database.

Formulation of New National Cooperative Policy: A National level committee comprising 49 experts and stakeholders drawn from all over the Country has been constituted to formulate the New National Cooperative Policy for enabling a vibrant ecosystem to realize the vision of ‘Sahakar-se-Samridhi’.



Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Act, 2023: Amendment has been brought in the MSCS Act, 2002 to strengthen governance, enhance transparency, increase accountability, reform electoral process and incorporate provisions of 97th Constitutional Amendment in the Multi State Cooperative Societies.

Inclusion of Cooperatives as 'buyers' on GeM portal: Government has permitted cooperatives to register as 'buyer' on GeM, enabling them to procure goods and services from over 67 lakh vendors to facilitate economical purchases and greater transparency. So far, 559 cooperative societies have been onboarded on GeM as buyers.

Expansion of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) to increase its range and depth: NCDC has launched new schemes in various sectors such as 'Swayamshakti Sahkar' for SHGs; 'Deerghavadhi Krishak Sahkar' for long term agricultural credit and 'Dairy Sahkar' for dairy. Total financial assistance of Rs. 41,031 Crores has been disbursed by NCDC in FY 2022-23, which is almost 20% higher than the disbursement of Rs.34,221 crore in 2021-22. Government of India has permitted NCDC to issue bonds worth ₹2000 crore with government guarantee, subject to the adherence of specified terms and conditions. Further, NCDC is setting up sub-offices in 6 North Eastern States – Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura with the objective of taking various national schemes to the cooperative societies at their doorstep.

Financial assistance by NCDC for Deep Sea Trawlers: NCDC is providing financial assistance for projects related to deep sea trawlers in coordination with the Department of Fisheries, Government of India. NCDC has already sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 20.30 crore for purchase of 14 deep sea trawlers for the Fisheries Cooperative Societies of Maharashtra.

Refund to Investors of Sahara Group of Societies: A portal has been launched for making

payments to the genuine depositors of the cooperative societies of Sahara Group in a transparent manner. Disbursements have already started after proper identification and submission of proof of their deposits and claims.

## **ANNEXURE-II**

### **IFFCO's Co-operative Model**

Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Society, known as IFFCO, is a Multi-State Cooperative Society. Today, IFFCO has been ranked as the No. 1 cooperative in the world in the line-up of 300 top cooperatives of the world in the 2022 edition of the Annual World Cooperative Monitor (WCM) report based on the ratio of turnover over GDP per capita income, designed by International Cooperative Alliance (ICA).

IFFCO being an agriculture cooperative its membership is open to all agricultural cooperative societies from the primary/ village level to state and national cooperatives of India. IFFCO has a member base of more than 35,500 societies out of which more than 80% of the members are Primary Level Societies. The main business of the member societies is to sell IFFCO's Quality Fertiliser to farmers. IFFCO has five state-of-the art plants located in Kalol, Kandla, Phulpur, Aonla & Paradeep. In order to meet the demand supply gap of Indian Fertiliser Industry, IFFCO has entered into Joint Venture Projects outside India in Oman, Jordan & Senegal etc. IFFCO also has a wholly owned subsidiary in Dubai which acts as an international trading arm of IFFCO and primarily helps to handle import, export and logistics support.

With time IFFCO has diversified into different areas such as Insurance, Agrochemicals, E-Commerce, Rural Finance, Special Economic Zone, Kisan Call Centre etc. for the benefit of farmers. IFFCO has promoted other cooperative Institution namely Indian Farm Forestry Development Cooperative Ltd. (IFFDC) which focuses on afforestation of wasteland and farm forestry, integrated watershed development, rural livelihood development, women empowerment, CSR etc.

IFFCO is paying 20% dividends to the members on their paid-up share. Further, IFFCO is sharing its expertise, knowledge and experience with various countries like Brazil, Argentina, Mauritius, Jordan, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Philippines etc, to strengthen cooperatives for mutual growth and business development.

In order to promote sustainable as well as environment-friendly agriculture, recently IFFCO has launched Nanotechnology based products i.e. Nano Urea and Nano DAP. At present paid up Share Capital of the Society stood at Rs. 6126.5 million (Rs. 612.65 Crore) as on March 31, 2023.

### **ANNEXURE-III**

#### **AMUL's Co-operative Model**

Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd. (Amul) is India's largest FMCG company with annual brand sales turnover of Rs. 72,000 Crores. GCMMF (Amul) is a cooperative federation comprising 36 Lakh milk producers in Gujarat (India), organized under 18,600 village dairy cooperative societies. It handles more than 3 Crore litres of milk per day.

Amul's three-tier structure has been a cornerstone of its success in India's cooperative landscape. At the grassroots level are the primary

milk producers, who give the milk to the village co-operative societies (VDCS). The District Co-operative Milk Producers' union, collects the milk from all VDCS of the district and process the milk to VDCS converts into the value-added products. The State level Milk Marketing Federation, overseeing sales and marketing of the products manufactured by all district unions of the state. This three-tier model ensures fair returns for farmers, efficient milk collection, and widespread availability of Amul products.

GCMMF (Amul) is Asia's largest, and the world's 8th largest dairy company in terms of volume of milk handled (by International Farm Comparison Network 2020). In the year 2023 Amul has been recognised as the Strongest Dairy Brand in the World and 2nd Strongest Food Brand in the World (by Brand Finance, UK). Amul ranks as 3rd largest brand globally being picked up from shelves 6 billion times (by Kantar).

The Amul Model is also being replicated in the neighbouring countries of India and the countries of Africa continent.

This was stated by the Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha.

## KERALA BUDGET 2024-25| ANIMAL HUSBANDRY EARMARKED ₹277.14 CRORE

FEB 7, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/kerala-budget-2024-25-animal-husbandry-earmarked-%e2%82%b9277-14-crore/>



The State Budget for 2024-25 has set aside ₹277.14 crore for the animal husbandry sector. Out of this ₹82.50 crore is for the public sector undertakings in the animal husbandry sector and ₹57 crore is for Kerala Veterinary and Animal Science University. A total of ₹109.25 crore is set aside for dairy development. Of this, ₹11.40 crore is for rural dairy extension and farm advisory service and ₹22.55 crore for dairy cooperatives.

The Budget of 2023-24 had seen animal husbandry and dairy development being provided ₹435.40 crore of which ₹320.64 crore was for the Animal Husbandry department and ₹114.76 crore for the Dairy Development department. The last Budget had also set aside ₹41 crore for strengthening veterinary services and had announced a dairy park under the Kerala Livestock Development Board at a cost of ₹20 crore. As the first step, an amount of ₹2 crore was allocated.

### Reducing cost

Sources said that work on the dairy park had not moved forward significantly even as land improvement work on the proposed site in

Idukki district was currently under way. At the same time, dairy experts in the State feel that Kerala farmers are unable to bring down the cost of milk production, which is a big impediment to the sector's growth. Raising the price of milk is an easy option. But it has its consequences because milk producers from other States will take advantage of the higher price to sell their products here.

### Increasing milk yield

A key factor that held the key to a better future was improving the genetic potential of the breed, said Jayadevan N., dairy consultant. He said that better genetic quality would improve milk yield. Increasing milk yield substantially was the pressing need now. For this, dairy entrepreneurs should be made aware of the breed quality as well as proper feeding of the animals, he added.

Kerala, when compared to other States, had great potential in terms of availability of resources to increase milk yield per animal. This advantage should be leveraged to give the dairy sector a new lease of life, he said.

## BJP WORKERS BRING CATTLE TO BENGALURU PROTEST, ASK MILK SUBSIDIES

FEB 7, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/bjp-workers-bring-cattle-to-bengaluru-protest-demand-milk-subsidies/>

**K**arnataka Bharatiya Janata Party workers bought their cattle along at a protest against the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah-led Congress government in the state for not providing subsidies on milk production.

The BJP workers staged the protest at the Freedom Park in Bengaluru and raised slogans alleging that the state government had not released dues to the subsidy of milk producers.

Protestors alleged that the Congress government was withholding Rs 716 crore in dues and due to it the milk production in the state had come down.

Meanwhile, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah gave a 'Chalo Delhi' call to protest against the alleged lack of tax devolution and grants-in-aid to the state by the Centre.

The demonstration is scheduled for Wednesday at the Jantar Mantar in the national capital.

The Karnataka Chief Minister said that the Congress government in the southern state will continue to raise its voice against discrimination in the fair tax share and grant distribution of Kannadigas.

"Chalo Delhi movement to condemn the financial tyranny of the central government. Tomorrow at 11 am at Jantar Mantar, Delhi, we will

raise our voice against discrimination in the fair tax share and grant distribution of Kannadigas. This movement is not against anyone, it is for the benefit of Karunadu and Kannadigas. We request everyone to participate in this Dharani Satyagraha regardless of party affiliation," Siddaramaiah wrote in a post on the social media platform, X.

State Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said that the planned protest is not against the Bharatiya Janata Party and that all MLAs should forget party lines and participate.

However, former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said on Monday that to cover up its mistakes, the Karnataka

government is holding a protest in New Delhi against the Central Government which is nothing but a political stunt.

Bommai said, "The anti-farmer government was ruling the state and not a single paise had been released for development works. The CM has said that the state had received less grants in the 15th Finance Commission than in the previous 14th Finance Commission. The Siddaramaiah-led government was in power when the 15th Commission Committee visited Karnataka but the committee was not apprised about the real financial condition of the state.



## FSSAI APPROVES AMENDMENTS TO DO AWAY WITH AGMARK, BIS

FEB 6, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/fssai-approves-amendments-in-regulations-to-do-away-with-agmark-bis-certification-for-food-products/>

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on Monday said that various amendments in food safety regulations have been approved to do away with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) or Agmark certifications for food products. In line with the concept of “One Nation, One Commodity, One Regulator”, the food safety authority said that once these amendments are finalised, food businesses will only require mandatory FSSAI certification and not need certifications from other authorities. This move will facilitate ease of doing business, it added. . reg



The food safety authority’s 43 rd meeting was held recently in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Health Secretary Apurva Chandra where several amendments to streamline food safety and standards regulations were approved.

### Amendments

“Various amendments across different Food Safety and Standards Regulations were approved in the meeting to do away with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) or AGMARK certification for food products. After the amendments are finalised, food businesses would not have

to go to different authorities for mandatory certification with only FSSAI certification being made mandatory for food products,” the official statement added.

A comprehensive manual of methods of analysis for ensuring regulatory compliance of the food products was also approved. ‘The amend-

ments across different Food Safety and Standards Regulations were approved in the meeting for draft notification to invite stakeholder comments before finalisation. These regulations included the revision of standards of Milk

Fat Products, as part of which the fatty acid requirements for Ghee will also be applicable for other milk fat products,” the official statement added.

FSSAI CEO G Kamala Vardhana Rao, CEO, FSSAI; officials from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Law and Justice, Ministry of Micro among others attended the meeting. Representatives from industry associations, consumer organisations, research institutes and farmers’ organisations were also present in the meeting.

## STERLING AGRO EARNS “DANONE PARTNER FOR EXCELLENCE” AWARD FOR 2023

FEB 6, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/fssai-approves-amendments-in-regulations-to-do-away-with-agmark-bis-certification-for-food-products/>

**S**terling Agro Industries Ltd.(Nova Dairy Products) producing high-quality dairy products has announced that it has been honored with the esteemed “Danone Partner for Excellence” (P4E) award for the year 2023. This recognition underscores Sterling Agro Industries Ltd.’s unwavering commitment to keeping advanced standards within the supply of ingredients, adherence to Danone specifications, and the continuous enhancement of site infrastructure, aligning with evolving Quality and Food Safety (QFS) standards to surpass consumer expectations.

The journey to this prestigious accolade started when Sterling Agro Industries Ltd. was nominated for the P4E program the previous year, following a thorough evaluation based on the criteria set forth by the Global Team, securing them the prominent award.

Recognizing the same, Mr. Ravin Saluja, Director of Sterling Agro Industries Ltd.(Nova Dairy Products) expressed his belief saying “At Sterling Agro Industries Ltd., we are proud to receive the ‘Danone Partner for Excellence’ award. This recognition is a testament to our dedicated team’s unmatched efforts to adhere

to Danone specifications and continuously meet the evolving QFS standards. Our business partners are the key collaborators in achieving our overarching mission of “Bringing health to as many people as possible through food,”

The P4E program by Danone has set an example of the dedication to fostering strong partnerships and recognizing top-notch contributions from its providers. Sterling Agro Industries Ltd.’s success highlights its excellent overall performance in ensuring a constant supply of quality ingredients, maintaining standards

of quality and protection, and adapting to the dynamic needs of the market.

Sterling Agro Industries Ltd.’s proactive infrastructure enhancements align seamlessly with evolving enterprise requirements, ensuring they not only meet but exceed customer expectations. This prestigious award solidifies their leadership and reliability as an accomplice, especially for companies like Danone. Celebrating this achievement, Sterling Agro Industries Ltd. stays steadfast in its dedication to improving the overall well-being of worldly consumers



enterprise requirements, ensuring they not only meet but exceed customer expectations. This prestigious award solidifies their leadership and reliability as an accomplice, especially for companies like Danone. Celebrating this achievement, Sterling Agro Industries Ltd. stays steadfast in its dedication to improving the overall well-being of worldly consumers

## FODDER CHALLENGES OFFER MUCH FOOD FOR THOUGHT

FEB 5, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/fodder-challenges-offer-much-food-for-thought/>

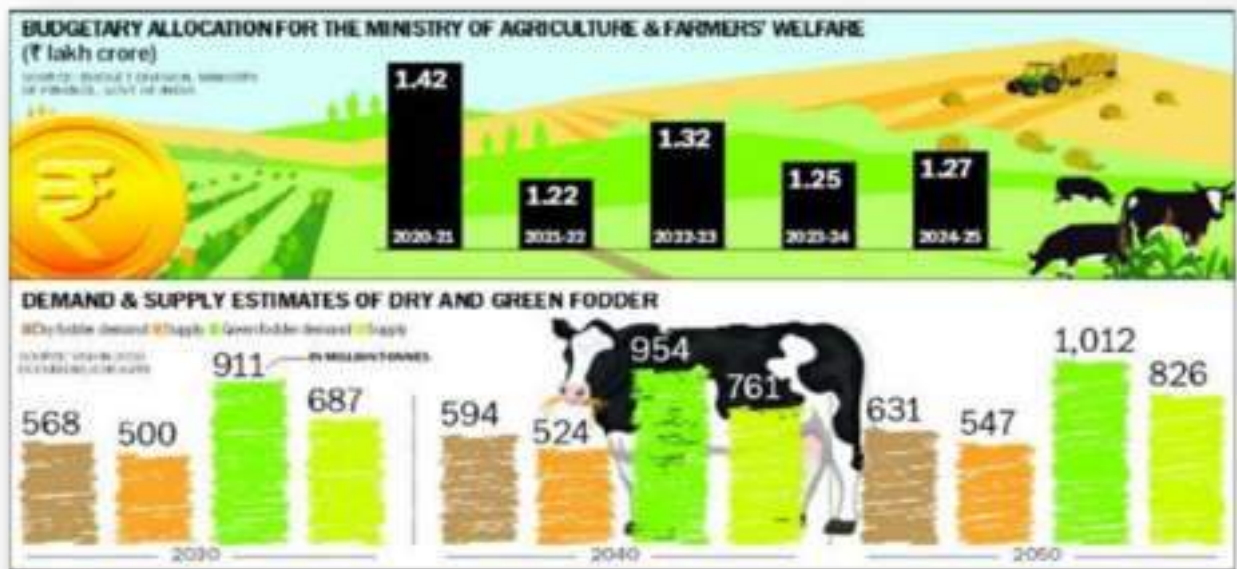
**T**HE interim Budget has made an allocation of Rs 1.27 lakh crore (about 2.6 per cent of the total) for the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. The Budget has outlined the government's intent to implement measures to increase the productivity of high-yield crops.

The government has announced a comprehensive programme aimed at supporting the dairy success of existing Rashtriya Gokul Mission, Mission and the National Livestock Development Fund processing and animal Mission, which focuses development of



announced a programme aimed at supporting the dairy success of existing Rashtriya Gokul Mission, Mission and the National Livestock Development Fund processing and animal Mission, which focuses development of

has been a success in promoting genetic improvement and enhancing milk productivity. The Livestock Mission, aimed at sustainable development of the livestock sector, has played a crucial role in augmenting the income of farmers. The focus of the infrastructure fund on dairy processing and animal husbandry underscores the government's commitment to modernising and strengthening the backbone of the dairy industry.



In the Budget speech, the Finance Minister highlighted India's status as the world's largest milk producer but hastened to add that the productivity of our milch animals remained low. This anomaly has a lot to do with the neglect of the critical fodder sector, which is a key component of the dairy ecosystem. The average yield of milk and meat of animals in India is 20-60 per cent lower than the global average. Unavailability of nutritionally rich feed and fodder adversely impacts the productivity of farm

animals. Moreover, feed and fodder expenses account for 60-70 per cent of the cost of milk production. The supply of feed and fodder has invariably fallen short of the aggregate demand in the country. As per recent reports, for every 100 kg required, India is short of 11.24 kg of green fodder. The scenario is more disturbing in about 15 states where the deficit is above 25 per cent. Considering the burgeoning livestock population and the government's focus on genetic upgrade of cattle through cross-breeding programmes, the demand-supply gap of green fodder will widen considerably in the absence of long-term policy planning and its grassroots-level implementation. The Budget, while encompassing various initiatives and allocations for the dairy sector, has failed to turn the spotlight on the indispensable role that a robust fodder sector plays in enhancing the productivity of dairy animals and ensuring sustained growth of the livestock industry. This calls for a comprehensive and strategic policy intervention to bridge the gap and fortify the foundation of India's dairy industry.

The government can support the fodder sector through multi-pronged strategies, right from production to marketing. At the outset, all state governments must be directed to earmark adequate funds for fodder resource development. Technical guidance can be taken from the Jhansi-based ICAR- Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI), which has developed fodder plans for various states and agro-climatic regions.

Investment is also required to ensure parallel development of supporting market environment for surplus fodder, encompassing backward and forward market linkages. The provision of a dedicated market space will facilitate transparency and remunerative prices for fodder traders. As there is regional and seasonal disparity in fodder production, channelling funds for establishing community fodder banks where surplus fodder can be stored as hay/silage/fodder blocks for use during scarcity would be crucial for safeguarding the interests of small dairy farmers. These initiatives are imperative for ensuring a consistent and reliable supply of fodder to dairy farmers throughout the year. The government's decision to allocate Rs 582 crore for the formation of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) is expected to empower agricultural communities and foster collective strength. However, it is crucial to advocate for a specific focus on the formation of FPOs in the fodder sector. While the broader support for FPOs is beneficial, a targeted initiative in the fodder domain can address the unique challenges faced by livestock farmers. FPOs dedicated to forage production can streamline procurement, processing and marketing of fodder, leading to a more organised and efficient supply chain.

### **Incentivise farmers**

Financial incentives play a pivotal role in promoting agricultural advancements and directing them towards the adoption of improved fodder varieties is crucial. By offering farmers monetary rewards for embracing high-yielding and climate-resilient fodder crops, widespread adoption of forage can be promoted. This approach not only acknowledges the intrinsic link between fodder quality and livestock productivity but also addresses the economic concerns of farmers. Incentivising the cultivation of improved fodder varieties ensures increased availability, positively impacting the nutritional well-being and productivity of livestock.

Making India a global hub of Shree Anna (millets) is an important thrust area of the Union Government. Research and promotion of dual-purpose millets varieties will help in improving food security and the wellbeing of farmers while reducing the fodder deficit to a large extent. Promoting start-ups with technical backstopping for preparing millet-based cattle feed will also enhance the production of these super crops in the long run.

Expectations are high among stakeholders that the full Budget, to be presented later in the year, will allocate adequate resources for feed and fodder development.





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## NDDB TO PROVIDE CONSULTANCY TO SET UP 225 CRORE PLANT IN HIMACHAL

FEB 5, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/nddb-to-provide-consultancy-services-to-set-up-225-crore-milk-processing-plant-dhagwar-cm/>



Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said here today that the State Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to provide consultancy services for the establishment of a state-of-the-art automated milk processing plant in Dhagwar, Kangra.

He said that the Dhagwar plant, with an initial capacity of 1.50 Lakh Litres Per Day (LLDP) and expandable up to 3 LLPD, would be a fully automatic facility. This ambitious project, set to be constructed with an investment of Rs. 225 crore in the first phase, aims to produce a diverse range of dairy products, including curd, lassi, butter, ghee, paneer, flavoured milk, khoya and mozzarella cheese.

Sh. Sukhu stated that as the project unfolds, it would bring prosperity to the dairy farming communities and contribute significantly to the overall growth of the State.

The plant would play a crucial role in bolstering the rural economy by directly purchasing milk from the farmers in Chamba, Hamirpur, Kangra and Una districts, remarked the Chief Minister. He further emphasized the importance of transparency in milk procurement to ensure that the farmers get good value for their hard work.

He added that an additional investment of Rs. 43 crore was earmarked for strengthening the milk procurement network with a target to purchase 2.74 LLPD for sustaining the plant's operations.

The initiative, aligned with the government's commitment to farmer welfare, also includes plans for the second phase, which would see the production of milk powder, ice cream and various types of cheese at the Dhagwar Plant.

Sh. Sukhu said that the government was committed to the welfare of the dairy farming community of the state and has recently announced an increase of Rs. 6 per litre in milk procurement rate, raising it from Rs. 32 to Rs. 38. He said that the state government was making earnest efforts to increase the income of farmers and new schemes would be introduced in the times to come.

Strengthening the rural economy was imperative for making Himachal Pradesh a self-reliant state, said the Chief Minister, adding that around 95 percent of the state's population resides in rural areas and therefore without achieving this goal, the vision of making Himachal the most progressive state remains unattainable.

## IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH, GROWING MARKET FOR YAK MILK PRODUCTS

FEB 4, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/in-arunachal-pradesh-growing-market-for-yak-milk-products-helps-sustain-pastoral-community/>

**T**he yak-rearing brokpas of the Eastern Himalayas are banking on an additional source of income with climate change threatening livelihoods.



The marketplaces in Arunachal Pradesh are brimming with an array of local delights, including seasonal kiwis, persimmons, nuts, etc. What's most captivating to the waves of tourists flocking into the state as winter unfolds are the garlands of light brown and white candies hanging in every store. Inquisitive buyers with adventurous palates desire to savour a piece and are often seen enquiring with the shopkeepers.

Despite the resemblance, they are not candies, but hardened cheese, known locally as chhurpi, crafted from milk. The white variant is special for it is made from yak milk.

On brisk winter days, visitors delight in sipping a steaming cup of Tibetan buttermilk tea, a quintessential beverage in the Himalayan region. But those in the know prefer this delectable concoction to be prepared not with

the regular market-bought butter, but with a generous dollop of yak ghee.



*Yak milk cheese or chhurpi seen hanging in front of shops at marketplaces in Arunachal Pradesh. Yak milk products are exclusive creations of Brokpa pastoralist herders. Credit: Surajit Sharma/Mongabay.*

These yak milk products are an exclusive creation of the Brokpa (Brok means pastures and Pa refers to man) pastoralist herders, a yak-rearing community of the Himalayan regions of India. In Arunachal Pradesh, the Brokpas are a sub-tribe of the larger Monpa tribe, residing in the West Kameng and Tawang districts in the eastern Himalayan region.

As climate change and shifting socio-cultural dynamics threaten the livelihoods of pastoralists, the need for an additional income in their otherwise sustainable yet economically-challenging lifestyle becomes more pressing. The rising demand for yak milk derivatives serves as a potential solution.

<https://youtu.be/djk5EZl1GQ0>

**Increasing need for currency**

The Brokpas are transhumance pastoral nomads, practising seasonal migration to high-altitude grazing grounds. They easily adapt to climate variability and grazing pressure from seasonal dips in pasture availability. Accessing food resources at the right time is crucial for yaks (*Peophagus grunniens*).

Currently, India has a yak population of around 58,000, with approximately 24,700 located in Arunachal Pradesh. Out of the roughly 2,500 Brokpas nationwide, about 1,200 reside in the state.



*Brokpa villagers take their yaks out for grazing. The Brokpas are transhumance pastoral nomads, practising seasonal migration to high-altitude grazing grounds. Credit: Surajit Sharma/Mongabay.*

Brokpa Ringchin Kesang from Lubrang, a pastoral village situated at an altitude of 10,000 feet, said, “My family owns a herd of 80 pure-breed yaks. Yaks are susceptible to high temperatures, and after surviving on limited feed in the winter, they starve for nutrition. So, in April-May when the temperature begins to rise, my wife, sister and I start the ascent with our herd, accompanied by other herders of the region.”

Kesang added that herders from Lubrang, Mandala-phudung, and other areas first reach Sela Pass via Vijay Gumpa in Bhutan. “It is a three-day journey. We halt there for a day or two to stock up on essentials and for other Brokpas to gather with their herds. From there, we ascend as a group to Luguthang in Tawang, which is at 14,500 feet. It takes us about 10 days to reach. The snow doesn’t melt in the high mountains and we have to cut paths

through it for the herds. There are transit shelters on the route to spend the nights.”

Other herders follow similar migratory routes to Rampu, Lungthang, Dongchepu and Churkhatang in West Kameng; and Thingbu, Broxer Tanglung, and Zithang in Tawang.



*An aerial view of a Brokpa village in Arunachal Pradesh. Credit: Surajit Sharma/Mongabay.*

These forays into grazing grounds come at a cost, as different rin (fee) are levied for accessing them. Meadows and forests are owned by either individuals, clans, communities or even monasteries and the fees are paid to them. The rin is calculated depending on the number of animals, season and nature of the grassland (new or already grazed), size of the pasture and duration.

While in transit, the herders are required to pay the Lamrin, which permits them to stay for approximately three nights along the transit route. Purin is charged for grazing in forest areas. Traditionally, butter, cheese and livestock were used as currency until the money economy became significant in herders’ lives. Kesang shared that he had to pay over Rs 10,000 in the last winter (for the entire season of six months) just as taxes in addition to ghee and chhurpi. Milk products are also included as tax.

The herders sell the leftover yak milk products after their consumption. Yak milk products help them survive the harsh winters in the high mountains and provide essential nutrition

throughout their migration period when alternative sources are scarce.

“We carry rations for four-five months,” Kesang said. The vegetables and perishables are consumed first. Being Buddhists, they do not kill animals and eat the meat only of the dead animal. “The milk is churned to chhurpi, churkam, ghee, curd, etc. Whatever remains after our consumption is sold to the local markets. We come down to the village once and sometimes even twice during the migration period to restock on our essentials, and sell our products,” he shared.

With changing times, the younger Brokpas are opting for formal education and are less inclined to pursue the semi-nomadic lifestyle of their ancestors primarily due to the hard work involved and the economic and social uncertainties associated with the traditional way of life. Like his fellow Brokpas, Kesang’s family has also bought a plot of land at a lower-elevation town area and built a second house. His three children stay there and attend school.



*A Brokpa woman in her kitchen. The herders sell the leftover yak milk products after their consumption. These products help them survive the harsh winters in the high mountains and provide essential nutrition. Photo by Surajit Sharma/Mongabay.*

**Earnings sustain community**

Traditionally, value-addition to yak milk is done using indigenous technology. The skimmed yak milk (called dhara) is fermented using curd inoculums. The soft wet cheese left after churning out the butter is the chhurpi which is for

immediate consumption. The dried chhurpi, called churtang with a longer shelf life, is stored in yak skin bags. The butter is clarified to make ghee and preserved similarly. Yak skin bags render a pungent smell to the cheese and ghee stored inside which needs to be removed before they are sold in the market.

Of all the yak milk products available in the market, chhurpi and ghee are the most popular and the demand consistently outstrips supply. Moreover, product availability is largely limited to the markets of West Kameng and Tawang districts, with marginal supply outside.

Brokpas sell chhurpi at Rs 600- Rs 650 per kilogram and ghee at Rs. 400 per kilogram. In retail, shopkeepers often add a profit margin of Rs 50 to chhurpi sales; bite size pieces are sold at Rs 10 a piece. Ghee is retailed at Rs 600 per kilogram.



*A yak and its calf at the NRC Yak Farm. Since the traditional milk derivative production is labour-intensive, the government-run farm has come up with various interventions to support the Brokpa community. Credit: Surajit Sharma/Mongabay.*

**Value addition**

The traditional production method is labour-intensive. The Yak Centre (National Research Centre-Yak) has come up with various interventions to support the community to tap into the demand for the milk and its derivatives.

“Processing and packaging yak milk products at high elevations where the milk is produced is not always hygienic and outsiders are often reluctant to consume it. To expand the market, we are addressing these issues, providing

hands-on training to the Brokpas in hygiene and quality control measures,” Vijay Paul, principal scientist at the NRC-Yak said.

To make yak farming more remunerative by popularising yak milk derivatives, the institute has opened a high-altitude yak milk dairy and parlour at Nyukmadung. The Arunachali Yak chhurpi has also recently [acquired a Geographical Indication](#) (GI) tag.

The milk yield of the medium-sized Arunachali yak is relatively low with short lactation periods compared to hill cattle and yak-cattle hybrids (Dzomo). On average, a female yak produces 0.98–1.04 kilogram of milk per day, totalling about 185 kilogram of milk in a 180-day lactation period. Despite the modest yield, yak milk is more nutritious than that of other bovines.



*Yaks at the NRC Yak Farm in Arunachal Pradesh. Credit: Surajit Sharma/Mongabay.*

An [assessment of the nutrient composition](#) and physicochemical properties of Arunachali yak milk, reared under farm conditions, by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-NRC-Yak in Dirang, revealed it is nutritionally superior to other bovine milk.

Dr Vijay Paul, principal scientist at the NRC-Yak said, “In general, yak milk is considered a naturally concentrated milk enriched with a higher nutrient density and loaded with omega-3, fatty acids, amino acids, and antioxidants; it also has vitamins and minerals.” Thick and sweet yak milk is richer in protein, fat, lactose, minerals, and total solids than cow’s milk.

In addition to the traditional products, the NRC-Yak has introduced innovative value-added items, such as dietary fibre-enhanced low-fat paneer, vegetable-extended paneer, kiwi-flavoured and Vitamin C-enriched whey beverages and even mozzarella and cheddar-style cheese.

### **Semi-sedentary**

The yak milk production is contingent on the availability of feed. There is fodder shortage in winters when the yaks lose 25-30% of their body weight. To ensure nutritional security of the bovines at all times, the NRC-Yak has developed Complete Feed Blocks (CFB) using locally available crop residue, and suitable biomass such as green maize fodder, napier, salix, etc. and distributed to the herders. Besides, herders are trained on fodder conservation techniques and cultivation of efficient varieties of maize.



*A house in a Brokpa village. Credit: Surajit Sharma/Mongabay.*

Additionally, the NRC-Yak has developed a semi-sedentary model of yak rearing in its Nyukmadung farm, located at an altitude of 9,000 feet. In this model, yak herds are permanently kept at a particular elevation and the rearing needs including breeding, feed development, etc. are scientifically managed to minimise the need to migrate.

It presently has 125 yaks and 17 dzomos. A low-cost silage-making technology has also been developed and is in use at the farm. “We

have been working on this successful model for the past 25 years, whereby we can sustain milk production even in the winter months,” Paul said.

The Brokpas are being educated on the semi-sedentary model and a viable bankable scheme has been introduced for profitable yak farming. “This is particularly directed at the younger generation who are reluctant to take

up herding. We are also advocating the introduction of tourism to such farms for added economic benefit,” he shared.

Nomadic yak herding relies on ecosystem awareness and inherited traditional knowledge and is crucial for the preservation of both. Yet, with changing times, its subsistence economy is causing its gradual decline. As such, value-addition to yak milk presents a distinctive opportunity for the economic rejuvenation of yak pastoralism.

### CONSUMERS DEPLORE HIKE IN PRICE OF MILK IN MANAPPARAI

FEB 3, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/consumers-deplore-hike-in-price-of-milk-in-manapparai/>



cooperative milk society in Manapparai, attached to Tiruchi Aavin, has increased the price of milk by ₹5 per litre to its regulars in the town.

According to sources, the R. 985 Manapparai Milk Producers Cooperative Society procures about 22,000 litres per day from 65 centres in and around Manapparai. Of this, it supplies about 15,000 litres to the Aavin plant in Tiruchi and sells the remaining 7,000 litres of milk directly to the society’s card holders without processing it.

Until December 17, the society paid ₹33.5 per litre to its members. After the State government’s announcement on increasing ₹3 per litre, the society began paying ₹36.50 per litre on December 18. The society had been selling unpacked milk to its regular consumers in Manapparai at ₹45 per litre until December 17. However, it is said to have been selling one litre

of milk at ₹50 from December 18. It is said that the upward price had been effected without a written order from the Aavin management.

The upward revision has evoked sharp reactions among the political parties, including the AIADMK the CPI and the consumers. They have taken it up with the society managers.

Demanding immediate withdrawal of the increase in the price of milk, the members of the Communist Party of India, held a demonstration at Manapparai on Thursday.

K. Mohamed Hussain, town secretary of the CPI, who spearheaded the protest, said that the rate had been increased without formal communication from the Aavin management. The society should have got approval from its general body. Moreover, the hike was not corresponding to the hike in procurement price.

## BIHAR'S SUDHA MILK COMPANY TO INCREASE MILK PRICES?

FEB 3, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/bihars-sudha-milk-company-to-increase-milk-prices-details-inside/>



**T**he Bihar State Milk Cooperative Federation Limited, which sells milk and dairy products under the Sudha brand, attributed the increase to higher producer prices.

The price of Sudha Shakti milk has been raised by Rs. 1. Earlier, Sudha Shakti milk was priced at Rs. 54 per litre but now it is priced at Rs. 55 per litre. The weight and price of Lassi have been lowered. Plain Lassi packs will now be 140 mL rather than 150 ml. The price has been reduced by two rupees. Sudha Plain Lassi will be sold for Rs 10 rather than Rs 12. Misty curd weighing 80 grams will now be offered for Rs. 10 rather than Rs. 12. The pricing change is effective February 1, 2024.

The directive to revise milk pricing was given by Vaishal Patliputra Milk Producers Cooperative Union Limited, the Managing Director of Patna

Dairy Project. Prior to this, the price of Sudha Shakti milk was hiked by Rs. 3. Sudha Shakti used to cost between Rs. 51 and Rs. 54 a litre.

According to reports, the margins for distributors and retailers have increased. Previously, selling one kg of ghee saved the retailer Rs. 30, but today the savings are Rs. 45. The price of the Sudha Ghee Poly Pack Sachet is Rs. 630 per litre. The price of 500 ml ghee is fixed at Rs. 315.

Last year, according to reports, milk prices rose from Rs. 1.75 to Rs. 1.95 per litre due to an increase in merchants' margins. Sudha full cream milk now costs Rs. 62 instead of Rs. 59, Shakti's is now Rs. 54 instead of Rs. 51, cow milk is now ₹52, and toned milk is now Rs. 49, which is Rs. 2– Rs. 3 more than the existing prices for all milk types. Meanwhile, consumers lamented the raise.



## NO MILK PAYMENT, JIND CO-OP SOCIETY OPERATORS ON STRIKE

FEB 2, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/no-milk-payment-jind-co-op-society-operators-on-strike/>



Operators of co-operative societies on Thursday went on an indefinite strike seeking release of payment of milk supplied to a milk plant, sitting on a dharna outside the main gate of Vita plant here.

Nearly 2.5 lakh litre of milk is supplied to the plant from villages of Jind, Hisar and Fatehabad on a daily basis, according to officials.

Cooperative societies chairman Sushil Kumar said around 7,000 societies supply milk to the plant but the payment has not been released for the last two months. "Payment is to be

made within 10 days but they are yet to do so of the last six cycles. The operators will be forced to shut down the plant if the money is not given at the earliest. Around Rs 80 crore is to be paid," he added. He said they would, however, continue to supply milk on humanitarian grounds.

Narender Singh, chief executive officer of the plant, told TOI, "We have not received our dues of Rs 143 crore from anganwadi and mid-day meal officials. We will release the payment of operators once we get the amount from the two."

## WHATS FOR DAIRYING IN BUDGET 24-25 BY FINANCE MINISTER

FEB 1, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/whats-for-dairying-in-budget-24-25-by-finance-minister/>

In today's budget the Finance minister reiterated their commitment towards the farmers and particularly women farmer. Lakhpati didi is the new name given for empowering weomen farmers through SHGs.

**For dairy sector there was a mention in the FM's speech as below:**

54. A comprehensive programme for supporting dairy farmers will be formulated. Efforts are already on to control foot and mouth disease. India is the world's largest milk producer but with low productivity of milch-animals. The programme will be built on the success of existing schemes such Rashtriya Gokul Mission, National Livestock Mission, and Infrastructure Development Funds for dairy processing and animal husbandry.

**Key highlights for the dairy sector in today's interim budget are as follows :**

The total budget allocation for FY 24 was first revised from 4327 Crores to 3913 crores as the total expenditure till December 2023 was 45% of the total budget as per a report.

The allocation for FY 25 has been increased slightly to 4521 Crores as against an increase of 20% assumed by some experts.



Government commitment towards making India FMD and brucellosis stands tall as the budget has been increased from 2349 Crores last year to 2465 Crores.

The infrastructure development fund got a slight increase from Rs 340 Crores to Rs 370 crores this year.

Budget for Rshtriya Gokul mission has been set at Rs 700 crores this year.

We shall be sharing a detailed analysis soon after recieving more information.

## DAIRY TECH STARTUP STELLAPPS IN TALKS TO RAISE \$20 MN TO FUEL EXPANSION

FEB 1, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/dairy-tech-startup-stellapps-in-talks-to-raise-20-mn-to-fuel-expansion/>



**B**engaluru-based dairy tech startup Stellapps is in advanced discussions to raise around \$20 Mn in its Series C funding round, Inc42 has learnt.

Almost 70% of the funding will be raised from existing investors, including Celesta Capital, Omnivore, Gates Foundation, IDH Farmfit Fund, Blume Ventures, and Qualcomm Ventures.

Confirming the development, Stellapps co-founder and CEO Ranjith Mukundan told Inc42 that a couple of new investors are also likely to participate in the funding round. However, he didn't disclose the name of the new investors and the valuation at which the startup is looking to raise the funding.

The startup intends to utilise the fresh capital for further expansion, with a special focus on value-added dairy products.

Founded by IIT alumni and ex-Wipro employees Mukundan, Ravi Shiroor, Ramakrishna Adukuri, Praveen Nale and Venkatesh Seshasayee in 2011, Stellapps provides a full-stack Internet of Things (IoT) platform to digitise and optimise the entire milk supply chain, right from production to procurement and storage. The platform also connects farmers with financial & insurance institutions, cattle nutrition providers, agro-input providers.

Around July last year, the startup also began processing milk to supply value-added dairy products to B2B companies.

The startup currently provides curd, ghee, paneer, buttermilk, double-toned milk, among others, to FMCG brands. It has two processing plants, one in Uttar Pradesh and another in Bengaluru, and is looking to add two more plants.

"We are also considering making ice-cream and selling it under a private label to other businesses," Mukundan added.

Responding to a question about choosing the B2B route for its dairy products, Mukundan said that B2C businesses require a lot of capital to create a brand and to acquire customers.

### Stellapps' IPO Dreams

The dairy tech startup is eyeing an initial public offering in the next 36-48 months, as per the CEO.

"...we're building our brand towards IPO and (want to) provide our investors a 5X return. We are working towards listing our company at around \$450 Mn-\$500 Mn valuation during the IPO," Mukundan added.

The startup is on track to close the ongoing financial year with revenue of INR 400 Cr and is eyeing a revenue of INR 2,000 Cr in the next three to four years.

Stellapps last raised an undisclosed amount of funding from IDH FarmFit in 2022, a few months after it raised \$18 Mn in its Pre-Series C funding round from global animal nutrition and aquaculture company Nutreco.

## FARMERS IN COIMBATORE SEEK RELEASE OF ELECTRICITY CONNECTIONS TO ALL

FEB 1, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/farmers-in-coimbatore-seek-release-of-electricity-connections-to-all-applicants/>



Coimbatore-based Farmers Association has appealed to Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) to release agri service connections to all applicants without further delay.

P. Kandasamy, secretary of the Association, said in a press release that farmers applied for agri electricity connection under different categories – tatkal, normal and self finance scheme. Though the Tamil Nadu government said last year that connections would be provided immediately to all applicants, irrespective of the scheme under which the applications were submitted, the local offices said there was no such direction from the government. The necessary directions should be issued to the local Tangedco offices so that power connections were given, he said.

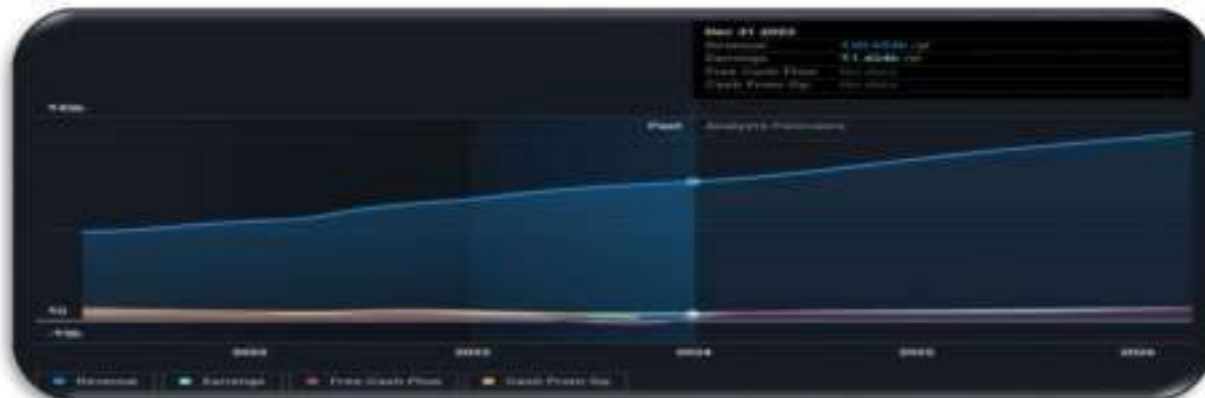
The Association also sought withdrawal of the hike in price of fodder for cattle sold by Aavin. The government recently increased the milk procurement price by ₹3 a litre depending the quality of the milk. However, this amount was given under the heading of incentive and not as a hike in price of milk. This resulted in farmers fearing that the hike could be withdrawn. Further, the government increased the cost of fodder for cattle by ₹200 a bag. It negated the hike in milk procurement price, he said.

Further, in village panchayats, funds were allocated to build check dams and maintain them. Similar allocations should be made by panchayats in urban areas too, he said.

## DODLA DAIRY LIMITED JUST MISSED EPS BY 15%: WHAT NEXT ?

FEB 1, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/dodla-dairy-limited-just-missed-eps-by-15-heres-what-analysts-think-will-happen-next/>



**D**odla Dairy Limited ([NSE:DODLA](#)) just released its latest third-quarter report and things are not looking great. Dodla Dairy missed earnings this time around, with ₹7.5b revenue coming in 3.1% below what the analysts had modelled. Statutory earnings per share (EPS) of ₹6.88 also fell short of expectations by 15%. Earnings are an important time for investors, as they can track a company's performance, look at what the analysts are forecasting for next year, and see if there's been a change in sentiment towards the company. We've gathered the most recent statutory forecasts to see whether the analysts have changed their earnings models, following these results.

Taking into account the latest results, the current consensus from Dodla Dairy's three analysts is for revenues of ₹36.9b in 2025. This would reflect a huge 20% increase on its revenue over the past 12 months. Statutory earnings per share are predicted to surge 48% to ₹34.95. In the lead-up to this report, the analysts had been modelling revenues of ₹37.1b and earnings per share (EPS) of ₹35.15 in 2025. The consensus analysts don't seem to have seen anything in these results that would have changed their view on the business, given there's been no major change to their estimates.

With the analysts reconfirming their revenue and earnings forecasts, it's surprising to see that the price target rose 12% to ₹868. It looks as though they previously had some doubts over whether the business would live up to their expectations. That's not the only conclusion we can draw from this data however, as some investors also like to consider the spread in estimates when evaluating analyst price targets. The most optimistic Dodla Dairy analyst has a price target of ₹920 per share, while the most pessimistic values it at ₹815. This is a very narrow spread of estimates, implying either that Dodla Dairy is an easy company to value, or – more likely – the analysts are relying heavily on some key assumptions.

One way to get more context on these forecasts is to look at how they compare to both past performance, and how other companies in the same industry are performing. It's clear from the latest estimates that Dodla Dairy's rate of growth is expected to accelerate meaningfully, with the forecast 16% annualised revenue growth to the end of 2025 noticeably faster than its historical growth of 12% p.a. over the past five years. Compare this with other companies in the same industry, which are forecast to grow their revenue 10% annually. Factoring in the forecast acceleration in

revenue, it's pretty clear that Dodla Dairy is expected to grow much faster than its industry.

**The Bottom Line**

The most important thing to take away is that there's been no major change in sentiment, with the analysts reconfirming that the business is performing in line with their previous earnings per share estimates. Fortunately, they also reconfirmed their revenue numbers,

suggesting that it's tracking in line with expectations. Additionally, our data suggests that revenue is expected to grow faster than the wider industry. We note an upgrade to the price target, suggesting that the analysts believes the intrinsic value of the business is likely to improve over time.

Keeping that in mind, we still think that the longer term trajectory of the business is much more important for investors to consider.

**ROCKWELL AUTOMATION AND ISAP INDIA TO MODERNIZE DAIRY FARMING**

FEB 1, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/rockwell-automation-and-isap-india-to-modernize-dairy-farming/>

**R**ockwell Automation, the world's largest company focused on industrial automation and digital transformation, is helping to modernize farming practices in rural India in partnership with ISAP India Foundation. The initiative, titled "Economic and Social Development of Indian Village Through Technology-Enabled Dairy Farming," aims to help modernize dairy farming practices in the water-scarce region of Antargaon (near Nagpur) in

The interventions of this project undertaken over the last six to seven months, beginning in May 2023, has already yielded promising results. The initiative provides a suite of services to dairy farmers, including supplying IoT (Internet of Things) enabled collar devices for tracking vital health parameters of dairy animals, providing mobile phone based alerts and advice to farmers from veterinary experts, use of muzzle-based biometric identification system



Wardha District, Maharashtra. This also involved collaboration with a technology implementation partner – eVerse.AI, to implement this corporate social responsibility (CSR) project. The on-ground implementation utilizes cutting-edge digital technologies and scientific veterinary practices to improve livestock development.

to provide digital identity to animals along with 12-digit Pashu Aadhar, use of eVerse.AI's newly launched CowGPT platform to provide accurate insights and advisory to dairy farmers about animal health, ration balancing advisory services, fodder development activities, supply of quality animal feed, village level animal health services, dairy farming extension programs (training, demos, expert visits), market

integration activities for milk sale and the creation of additional revenue sources for families of dairy farmers utilizing animal waste products.

Speaking about the project, Dilip Sawhney, managing director, Rockwell Automation India, said: “We are thrilled that our CSR project at Antargaon, Maharashtra, is already showing early signs of success and providing tangible benefits to local farmers, and augmenting their incomes. Rockwell Automation is committed to give back to the communities where we operate by engaging in tech-led initiatives to create impact at a societal level. We are confident that this project will continue to help the people of Antargaon to benefit from the technology-enabled scientific management of the health and reproductive cycles of their farm animals. Projects like this will eventually lead to improved incomes and better quality of life in rural communities throughout India.” In a recent field visit to Antargaon, progress of the project was shared with local dairy farmers through an interactive session. Farmers expressed positive feedback, citing a 15-20% increase in milk production within the last six months. Milk quality has also improved, helping them to achieve higher prices and increasing household income.

The session was facilitated by Prafull Kalokar, project coordinator – ISAP India Foundation and Nitesh Budhabaware, village coordinator, in presence of Sameer Subhash Khobe, deputy village head, Antargaon; Gaurav Vats, director-Agriculture Services, ISAP India Foundation; Dr Dhanvij, veterinary specialist, Wardha district; Ashish Sonkusare, founder, eVerse.AI; Dipanjan Banerjee, head of corporate affairs, Rockwell Automation India; and Ankit Singh, lead-EHS, Rockwell Automation India. India has the world’s largest bovine population and is a leader in milk production. However, it faces challenges such as low milk-yield per animal and insufficient quality of milk products. The decentralized structure of dairy farming in India and limited awareness about

scientific veterinary practices among rural farmers contributes to these issues. By partnering with ISAP India Foundation, Rockwell Automation aims to improve livelihoods of dairy farmers in one of the most water-scarce areas of the country, by using innovative products and services that leverage cutting-edge digital technologies for livestock development through scientifically proven veterinary practices.

Rockwell Automation’s CSR philosophy is based on the foundation of community centric investments that lead to the long-term improvement of their wellbeing. It strives to build positive, proactive connections in local communities through innovative projects with measurable outcomes. About Rockwell Automation Rockwell Automation, Inc. (NYSE: ROK), is a global leader in industrial automation and digital transformation. We connect the imaginations of people with the potential of technology to expand what is humanly possible, making the world more productive and more sustainable. Headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Rockwell Automation employs approximately 29,000 problem solvers dedicated to our customers in more than 100 countries.

About ISAP India Foundation ISAP India Foundation is a not-for-profit agency headquartered in New Delhi, engaged in leading national-level livelihood promotion and agriculture marketing consultancy. ISAP works for rural livelihood promotion with interventions in areas like agriculture-based livelihood promotion, including its allied activities like dairy, poultry, fishery, horticulture etc., sustainable agriculture, water resource management, women empowerment, and skill development. ISAP has worked extensively in projects wherein it has established more than 300 FPOs (Farmer Producer Organizations) across different states of India. ISAP’s work with FPOs involves organizing farmers’ crop-wise, foster technology penetration, improve productivity, improve access to input-output markets, and increase in farmers’ income levels.

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## Global News



## CAMEL MILK-DERIVED BIOACTIVE PEPTIDES AND DIABETES

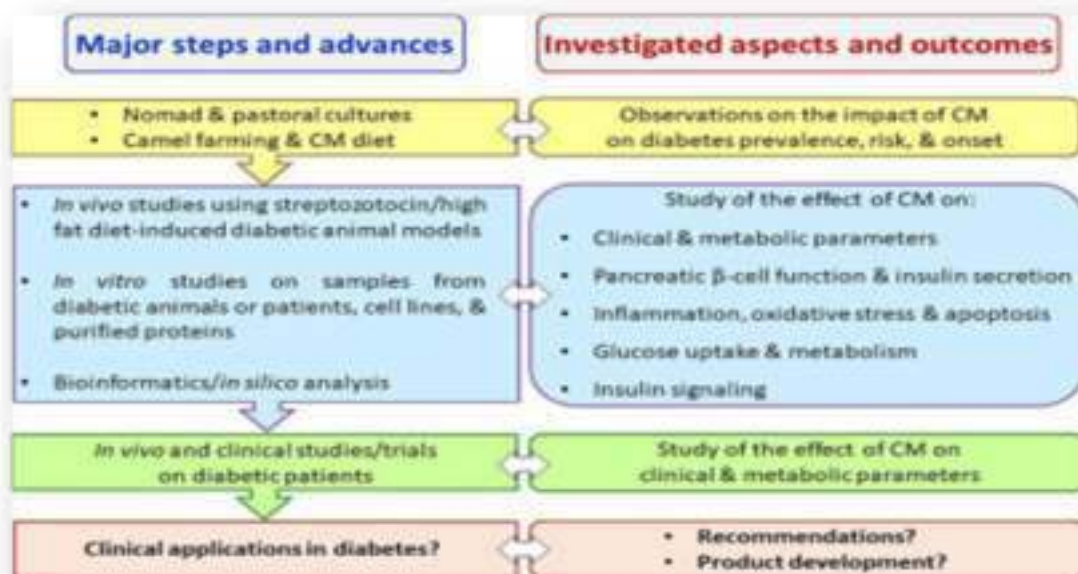
FEB 12, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/camel-milk-derived-bioactive-peptides-and-diabetes-molecular-view-and-perspectives/>

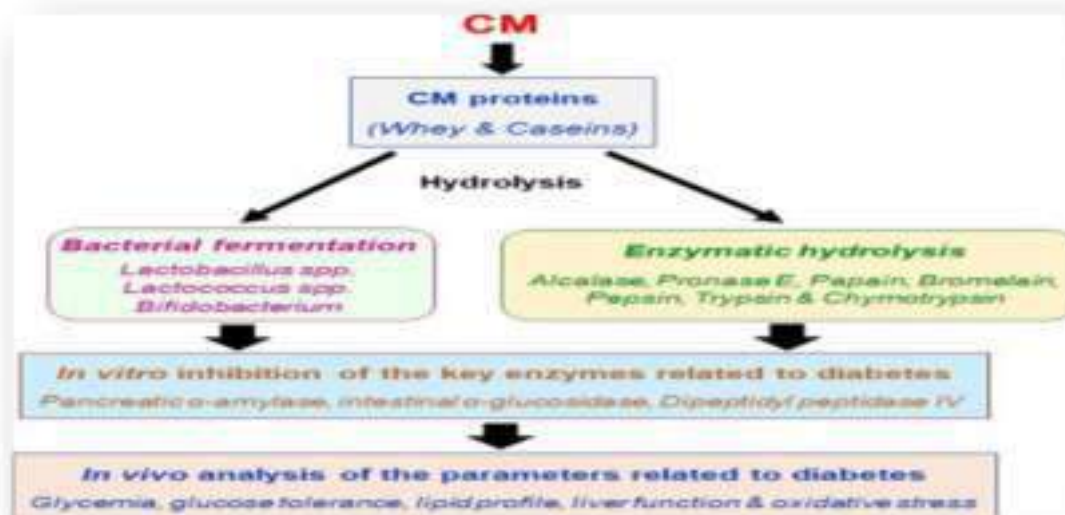


In dairy science, camel milk (CM) constitutes a center of interest for scientists due to its known beneficial effect on diabetes as demonstrated in many *in vitro*, *in vivo*, and clinical studies and trials. Overall, CM had positive effects on various parameters related to glucose transport and metabolism as well as the structural and functional properties of the pancreatic  $\beta$ -cells and insulin secretion.

Thus, CM consumption may help manage diabetes; however, such a recommendation will become rationale and clinically conceivable only if the exact molecular mechanisms and pathways involved at the cellular levels are well understood. Moreover, the application of CM as an alternative antidiabetic tool may first require the identification of the exact bioactive molecules behind such antidiabetic properties.



In this review, we describe the advances in our knowledge of the molecular mechanisms reported to be involved in the beneficial effects of CM in managing diabetes using different in vitro and in vivo models. This mainly includes the effects of CM on the different molecular pathways controlling (1) insulin receptor signaling and glucose uptake, (2) the pancreatic  $\beta$ -cell structure and function, and (3) the activity of key metabolic enzymes in glucose metabolism.



Moreover, we described the current status of the identification of CM-derived bioactive peptides and their structure-activity relationship study and characterization in the context of molecular markers related to diabetes. Such an overview will not only enrich our scientific knowledge of the plausible mode of action of CM in diabetes but should ultimately rationalize the claim of the potential application of CM against diabetes. This will pave the way toward new directions and ideas for developing a new generation of antidiabetic products taking benefits from the chemical composition of CM.

## CHINA IS POISED TO BECOME THE WORLD'S 3RD-LARGEST MILK PRODUCER

FEB 12, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/this-year-china-is-poised-to-become-the-worlds-third-largest-producer-of-cow-milk/>



Despite its high global ranking in milk production, the country remains the largest dairy importer due to its large population, which continues to grow its per capita dairy consumption, finds Rabobank. And there's a significant opportunity to grow domestic per capita consumption further, as it is currently only one-third of the global average, noted those analysts. Rabobank forecasts China's milk supply to expand from 41.5 million metric tons in 2023 to 47.4 million metric tons liquid milk equivalent (LME) in 2032, with an average compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 1.5% by volume. The country's annual demand is expected to grow 2.4% on average between 2023 and 2032, with dairy consumption reaching 62.2 million metric tons LME by 2032, they said. "China will continue to have a significant role in the global dairy industry, with a further widening of the import deficit expected. In 2032, imports are likely to reach 15 million metric tons LME," explains Michelle Huang, dairy analyst at Rabobank. According to a recent dairy report by the Dutch bank, China's self-sufficiency rate swings between 70% and 80% and is not likely to increase substantially, so domestic dairy production will not satisfy rising demand in the long run. "The most significant swing factors influencing domestic supply will be production costs, the availability

of land, water, heifers, and capital, and future government policy. "On the demand side, downside risks include weaker income growth, slow economic growth, and sluggish consumer demand," said Huang. China's milk production is highly concentrated, primarily based in the northern part of the country. Regions such as Inner Mongolia and Heilongjiang are within the dairy farming belt. The growth in the country's milk industry has been stimulated by a shift in food security awareness due to geopolitical issues faced by China over the last few years. In February 2022, the country's ministry of agriculture and rural affairs (MARA) implemented a five-year plan for the domestic dairy sector, which highlighted key actions that the government would facilitate including the promotion of large-scale modern dairy farms. From 2015 to 2020, the percentage of the Chinese dairy herd on farms with more than 1,000 head increased from 24 to 44%. Dairy farms of over 1,000 head are expected to expand and dominate the Chinese dairy landscape, accounting for 56% of the country's herd by the end of 2025. MARA is also looking to improve domestic breeding and genetics capabilities, to support the digital transformation of dairy farming, and to encourage the vertical integration of the dairy value chain. Another key target identified by the ag ministry is an increase in

the supply of high-quality forage. “Dairy cows in China are commonly fed three types of rations: forage grass/alfalfa, concentrated feed, and supplementary feed. Alfalfa plays a crucial role in increasing the milk yield and its protein content and China’s dairy farms rely on im-

ported alfalfa from the US,” reads the Rabobank report. To reduce reliance on imported alfalfa and bolster domestic supply the government has developed several high-yielding alfalfa farms in Inner Mongolia, Gansu, and Ningxia provinces, said the dairy market specialists.

## **AMUL EYES SRI LANKAN LIVESTOCK FARMS TEAM FOR INSPECTION IN SL**

FEB 10, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/indias-amul-eyes-sri-lankan-livestock-farms-team-in-country-for-inspection/>



**A** delegation from India’s Amul Company arrived in Sri Lanka to conduct inspections of farms owned by the National Livestock Development Board.

The inspections, which began yesterday, are part of a preliminary assessment before the farms are potentially leased to Amul.

The National Livestock Development Board owns 31 farms, spanning over 28,000 acres of land.

As part of the leasing process, the Board has initiated an appraisal of the farms’ value. Approximately 80% of these land value assessments have been completed to date.

In addition to the land, the Animal Production and Health Department has evaluated the

value of the animals residing on these farms. The National Livestock Development Board has confirmed that this report has been submitted to the President’s Office.

This development follows a recent agreement between India and Sri Lanka aimed at promoting the liquid milk industry in Sri Lanka. As per the agreement, the farms owned by the National Livestock Development Board are planned to be leased to Amul of India.

However, this move has not been without controversy.

Dairy farmers in Sri Lanka have staged several protests in recent months against the proposed lease of National Livestock Development Board-owned farms to India.

## DAIRY INGREDIENT INNOVATION CONTRIBUTING TO CONSUMPTION SHIFT

FEB 9, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/dairy-ingredient-innovation-contributing-to-consumption-shift/>



Consumers want healthy, indulgent, convenient and less expensive. Advocates for the dairy industry see dairy ingredients fulfilling those desires and much more.

“Dairy consumption is hot,” said Michael Dykes, president and chief executive officer, International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA), Washington, at Dairy Forum 2024 held Jan. 22 in Phoenix. “We’ve had a record year. We’re simply eating more of our dairy than we are drinking.”

Sometimes dairy ingredient usage is obvious, such as in a scoop of ice cream or a cup of yogurt. Other times it’s a characterizing component of a prepared food, such as melted cheese on pizza or a bowl of creamy mushroom soup. And then there are the foods and beverages where dairy plays behind the scenes as one of many ingredients.

Dairy ingredients range from basic dried forms to enzyme-modified concentrates. Select dairy ingredients add nutrition to formulations while others contribute functionality. Some provide dairy flavor and mouthfeel, with others delivering creamy dairy color.

“I look at dairy as an ingredient,” said Patricia Stroup, senior vice president and chief pro-

urement officer, Nestle SA, Vevey, Switzerland. “I rarely look at it as an end product. (I’m always asking), where can dairy fit?”

Dykes cited a comment he made six years ago at Dairy Forum and praised the industry for bringing it to fruition.

“(In 2018, I said,) ‘We will move beyond the jug,’ he said. “Innovation will take us to new places. Yes, we’ll continue to have the jug of milk. Yes, we’ll continue to make the historical traditional products, but we’ll find new opportunities in fractions of milk in the ingredients. We’ll find ingredients we didn’t know. They’ll have benefits we didn’t know about.’

“Today we are bypassing some of those intermediate steps and we’re going from the milk straight to the fractions.”

The American Dairy Products Institute (ADPI), Elmhurst, Ill., sets standards for such ingredients to ensure quality and integrity. For example, ADPI recently published standards for two new dairy ingredients in late 2023.

The edible acid casein standard supports the ongoing reemergence of domestic production for the ingredient, which until recently was dominated by international manufacturers, said Andy Powers, vice president of technical services at ADPI. The infant formula grade

they protein phospholipid concentrate standard sets a high bar for safe and effective ingredients for use in infant formula, one of the most critical applications for dairy ingredients.

Miles Hurrell, chief executive officer of Fonterra Cooperative Group Ltd., Auckland, New Zealand, agreed at Dairy Forum that the future of dairy is as ingredients. But to make that become reality, he said the industry needs to do a better job of telling the story of milk's macro and micronutrients.

"The increasing popularity of dairy protein demonstrates how consumers are making changes on the back of growing awareness of how certain ingredients can aid in managing diverse health concerns," said Rebecca Cuthbertson, head of marketing – advanced nutrition for Nutiani, a Fonterra nutrition brand.

Doing a better job of communicating dairy's healthful halo is a priority for IDFA, Dykes said. He believes dairy will have a prominent role in the food as medicine movement.

### **Innovating with dairy ingredients**

While nutritional foods, such as infant formula, are one of the largest outlets for dairy ingredients, familiar everyday foods benefit from them, too. In Good Hands, Visalia, Calif., for example, developed protein puffs in nacho and white cheddar varieties. The cheese powder that seasons the puffs is a characterizing dairy ingredient. But, it's the use of milk protein isolate combined with rice starch to make the puff that distinguishes the new snack food.

In Good Hands Protein Puffs feature 12 grams of milk protein, are gluten-free and have 1 gram of sugar and 130 calories per serving. The development team spent several years developing its process to create the high-protein puff with an optimal crunchy texture and cheese flavor.

The secret ingredient for Heavenly Waffles LLC, Omaha, Neb., a manufacturer of shelf-stable dry waffle mixes, is dried yogurt. The yogurt provides flavor and protein, with the latter contributing to a light and fluffy texture when prepared following on-pack instructions.

Several new concepts rely on dairy and plant proteins. Lenny & Larry's, Los Angeles, has The Boss! line of nutrition bars and cookies. The cookies rely on a protein blend of hydrolyzed milk protein isolate, milk protein isolate and wheat protein isolate, while The Boss! Immunity Bar includes a blend of milk protein isolate and wheat protein isolate in the bar with additional milk protein isolate delivered through the bar's chocolate coating.

Nestle launched Milk & Soya in Central and West Africa at the end of 2023 in efforts to improve diet quality in the region. It is an instant powder that may be hydrated and consumed as a beverage or used with cereal or in porridge. It was developed by Nestle researchers at the regional research and development center in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

"We continue to expand our offerings with nutritious, tasty, products that complement the everyday diet of children and their families," said Laurent Alsteens, global category head for early childhood nutrition at Nestle. "Through combining the goodness of dairy and plant ingredients, we can deliver a new flavor experience together with nutritional benefits."

Tesfalidet Haile, head of the center, said, "We used our local expertise in cereals and dairy innovation to combine milk powder with a plant-based ingredient, while ensuring that the product had a good taste, texture and solid nutritional credentials. This combined with the use of locally sourced soy enabled us to deliver a nutritious and affordable milk and plant-based beverage with sustainability benefits."

## HIGH PROTEIN DAIRY IS BOOMING BUT HOW HEALTHY IS IT ?

FEB 7, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/high-protein-dairy-is-booming-but-how-healthy-is-it/>

**D**anone has become the latest manufacturer to release a range of high-protein dairy products in the UK. But can high-protein yogurts - that typically contain thickeners, starches and sweeteners - really be considered 'healthy'? From cheese to yogurt, high-protein dairy products are highly sought-after among consumers – whether active consumers looking to build muscle, or health-conscious consumers looking for added nutritional value in everyday food staples. At the Anuga 2023 trade show in Cologne, Germany, we saw many examples of high-protein dairy products. These products often had a low-fat profile, too – one way to manufacture a high-protein dairy product is to reduce the fat content in milk during processing, rather than through fortification by adding whey protein concentrate, for example. Besides spoonable yogurts and milk drinks, we saw high-protein cheese bars from Dutch and British dairy companies, but also fresh cheese (ricotta and mozzarella) and processed cheese slices as emerging categories on the high-protein arena. High-protein yogurts, in particular, have regularly cropped up on British supermarket shelves in recent years, with Arla, Nestlé and recently Danone launching products in this category. But while these products are often marketed as 'healthy' due to being low in fat and sugar and high in protein, a glance at the ingredients list reveals additives such as artificial sweeteners, starches, gums and even plant oils. Can products touted as 'healthy' be truly healthy if they also come with these additional ingredients mixed in? Danone UK & Ireland

launched its high-protein dairy line, GetPRO, in the UK last September. Comprising a range of formats – from yogurts and puddings to chilled and ambient dairy beverages – the brand has since become an official partner for Team GB, Great Britain and Northern Ireland's Olympic team, while Danone is also a partner of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Asked why the company's GetPRO yogurts – which contain additives including artificial sweeteners, starches and thickeners – are marketed as 'healthy' while they technically fall into the ultra-processed foods category according to the NOVA food classification system, Danone



UK & Ireland's dairy category director, Tom Hickton, told us: "In the UK, there is no agreed definition of ultra processed foods and they are not referred to in government dietary recommendations. What's key is the nutritional quality of the product. The GetPRO range is all non-HFSS (high in sugar, salt or fat) and high-protein, with no added sugars, making it a healthy option that consumers can enjoy as part of a balanced diet and as a post-workout snack. "Many ingredients we add are to improve the safety and nutritional quality of our products, and we only use additives that are recognised as safe by the UK Food Standards Agency." A processed food is not necessarily 'unhealthy', he added, and most high-protein products offer nutritional benefits, for example by being a source of protein and calcium. "The safety and nutritional value of a food should not be reduced to whether it's processed or not," he added. "In fact, food processing enables our products to be high in important nutrients and is essential to ensure we

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deliver safe and nutritious foods to our consumers.” We asked if consumers who look for specific nutritional benefits – such as higher protein content in yogurt – are more willing to accept a long ingredient list. “A long ingredient list doesn’t necessarily mean the product is ‘unhealthy’ and there are other factors to consider such as the nutritional quality and safety of the food,” Hickton reiterated. “For example, in some cases we add extra vitamins and minerals into our recipes to increase the nutritional value of product, but this also results in a longer ingredient list. “Consumers looking for specific health benefits may have a better understanding of those ingredients added to deliver important health benefits.&nbsp;As a leading food and drink manufacturer with a health-focused portfolio, we recognise that we also have a role to play in educating consumers about the ingredients added to our products,” he said. Hickton told us that Danone UK & Ireland is actively striving to simplify recipes and reduce the number of additives and ingredients, but certain food additives – such as stabilizers, emulsifiers and phosphates – are needed for safety and stability reasons. “At Danone UK & Ireland, our portfolio is one of the healthiest in the industry, we have committed that at least 90% of our portfolio of products will not be high in sugar, salt or fat,” he said. “GetPRO is no exception, high in protein with no added sugars and low in or containing no fat. We are proud to be a health-focused food manufacturer that enables consumers to make, convenient, healthy and tasty choices.” According to IRI data, the dairy protein market has grown by 44.2% year on year in 2023 to a value of £117m – and the category is not set to slow down. High-protein is projected to be the fastest growing segment within dairy yogurt this year, with a growth rate of 17.2% according to Circana. This is driven by increasing consumer awareness about the importance of protein for a healthy, balanced diet. “The launch of GetPRO in the UK has further expanded the protein segment with 50% of the brand’s shoppers adding it on top of their usual protein bas-

ket,” Hickton told us, quoting Nectar data encompassing the 12 weeks to December 11, 2023. “The diversity of formats including yogurts, drinks and desserts as well as both fruity and indulgent flavours offers consumers something for every snacking occasion. This trend is seen globally, with mature markets like Brazil experiencing strong growth due to new entrants offering a wide diversity of flavours and formats attracting new shoppers.” So why did it take Danone UK&I until last September to launch GetPRO in the UK – provided the company’s high-protein products are already available in other markets such as the US, Europe, Australia, Japan and Brazil under brand names like Oikos Pro, YoPRO and HiPRO. “It was important to us that we launched with the best possible product, across a variety of formats to suit the needs of a wide range of shoppers,” Hickton explained. “We launched in 2023 when we knew we had a strong product, as well as the resources to make GetPRO a success and we continue to invest in R&D to bring future innovations to the category. Launching just before an Olympic year has also allowed us to maximise our partnership with Team GB, with a great opportunity to build credibility as a new brand in the market. “GetPRO is a range that delivers on taste that we know can be a barrier for some shoppers entering the protein segment. Consumer research across Europe and specifically in the UK consistently places our products at the top of consumer rankings on taste, for example ‘91% of consumers love the authentic blueberry taste of GetPRO blueberry yoghurt,” he said, quoting IPSOS research from June 2023 among 100 respondents. “Our star ratings online also reflect this with an average 4.4 stars out 55.” On consumer preferences for flavors and colors, “initial data shows fruity flavours such as strawberry or blueberry remain the top preference for consumers,” he added.&nbsp;“However, indulgent flavours within the protein segment are in huge growth, with chocolate growing at +111% in 2023 and being one of our flavours with the highest repeat rate,” he said, quoting IRI value growth data collected in the

52 weeks to December 30, 2023. “Spoonable yoghurt and yoghurt drinks are the most purchased formats and are suited to the widest range of snacking occasions.” Despite launching on the UK market later than some of its major competitors, Danone’s partnership with Team GB in a year when the Olympic Games are taking place presents a significant opportunity for its GetPRO brand. “It is indeed a very big opportunity for GetPRO and we are thrilled to be the Official Yoghurt Partner of Team GB,” Hickton told us. “Danone was been designated globally as the official partner of the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympics Games. So we were really proud that GetPRO followed suit by becoming an official sponsor locally of Team GB. “From a commercial perspective, locally in the UK, this is a huge statement to the investment we are willing to put into the brand. It also served as a great conversation-starter for retailers we are working with. We hope to get our partnership as widely known as possible to the public and maximise this incredible Olympic year for our brand.” As established earlier, there is no formal definition of ultra-processed foods in the UK, where regulators have focused on restricting the promotion of foods and drinks that are high in fat, salt or sugar, while the link between higher consumption of ultra-processed foods and adverse health outcomes is still being investigated. When evaluating the classification and suitability of the NOVA system in the UK, the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition suggested it was ‘not always possible’ to correctly classify foods to the NOVA categories based on current data from the National Diet and Nutrition Survey – the program that collects data on the nutrient intake and nutritional status of UK residents. The Committee’s concerns were about inconsistencies between the classifications of some foods in the NOVA system with existing UK dietary advice. With no formal definition in place and no consensus from regulators, we reached out

to the British Nutrition Foundation in a bid to settle the debate on the health credentials of high-protein dairy yogurts. The Foundation, however, declined to comment directly, instead referring us to its *There*, the Foundation states that consumers ‘need to be supported to choose healthier versions of processed foods, and this can include some nutrient-dense, affordable ultra-processed foods’. “In countries such as the UK, ultra-processed foods are currently reported to make a significant contribution to total dietary intake,” the statement reads. “Whilst support to reduce intakes of less healthy processed foods is important, blanket advice to avoid all foods that would be classified as UPF may have unintended consequences that have not been fully investigated for different groups within the population.” The Foundation also notes “the limitations in the NOVA classification system, the potential for confounding, and the possibility that the observed adverse associations with ultra-processed foods are covered by existing UK dietary recommendations...mean that the evidence to date needs to be treated with caution. “At present, the British Nutrition Foundation believes that due to the lack of agreed definition, the need for better understanding of mechanisms involved and concern about its usefulness as a tool to identify healthier products, the concept of UPF does not warrant inclusion within policy (e.g. national dietary guidelines). “Strong and comprehensive action to improve the food environment is critical to reduce the high prevalence of obesity and non-communicable diseases. In addition, research to improve our understanding of the mechanisms linking ‘ultra-processing’ with adverse health outcomes is warranted to provide translatable advice to manufacturers and retailers in relation to any other aspects of foods/drinks, beyond their nutritional composition, that may influence healthier dietary choices.”

## ANIMAL-FREE” MILK BRAND REMILK GETS GREEN LIGHT IN CANADA

FEB 7, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/animal-free-milk-brand-remilk-gets-green-light-in-canada/>

A company that makes “animal-free” milk and milk products has got the green light from Health Canada.

In a news release today, Israeli startup Remilk, which uses the tagline “Real Dairy. No Milk,” announced it had received a ‘No Objection Letter’ from

Health Canada. This will “open the door for use of Remilk’s protein in a variety of

products with the same taste and texture as milk, ice cream, yogurt, cream cheese, and more,” the company said.

According to Remilk’s website, its products are developed using copies of the gene responsible for production of milk protein in cows. The gene is inserted into yeast, and fermented “where it multiplies rapidly and produces real milk proteins, identical to those that cows produce.”

The proteins are combined with vitamins, minerals, and “non-animal” fats and sugars, which produces products free from cholesterol or lactose, the company said.

This lets “consumers to enjoy the taste of the dairy they love, without dairy’s environmental and health-related drawbacks,” said Remilk co-founder and CEO Aviv Wolff in today’s news release.

Canada joins the U.S., Israel and Singapore in giving Remilk the go-ahead.

“Canada is an important market for us,” Wolff said. “We are proud to be the first to enter with an opportunity to deliver an unparalleled dairy experience for Canadians.”

While Remilk claims to be the first of its kind to get Health Canada’s approval, it’s one of several

around the world.

For instance the Perfect Day company, which sells to the

American market, was founded in 2014 and got U.S. regulatory clearance in 2019. Its products are made via an enzyme-producing fungus developed to produce specific proteins, Perfect Day’s website says.

However, “the synthetic milk industry must grow exponentially before it becomes a sizable threat to animal-based dairy,” wrote researcher Milena Bojovic in a 2022 article published in The Conversation.

Significant capital and investment in research and development, along with new manufacturing infrastructure like fermentation tanks, will be needed, she wrote.

Conventional dairy production isn’t going away any time soon, Bojovic wrote, however she suggested the sector should realize it’s “on the cusp of pivotal change” and should maximize its social benefits while minimizing its environmental drawbacks.



## 13 DAIRY BRANDS RECALL PRODUCTS- POSSIBLE LISTERIA CONTAMINATION

FEB 7, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/13-dairy-brands-recall-products-due-to-possible-listeria-contamination/>

**R**izo-López Foods, Inc. (RLF) has just announced an voluntary recall on select dairy products. This recall is due to potential Listeria monocytogenes contamination.

The affected products include select cheeses like queso, cotija and ricotta, as well as yogurt and crema from the following brands: Tio Francisco, Don Francisco, Rizo Bros, Rio Grande, Food City, El Huache, La Ordena, San Carlos, Campesino, Santa Maria, Dos Ranchitos, Casa Cardenas and 365 Whole Foods Market.

The recalled food items were sold at stores nationwide, including, but not limited to, Whole Foods Market, El Super, Cardenas Market, Northgate Gonzalez, Superior Groceries, El Rancho, Vallarta, Food City, La Michoacana and Numero Uno Markets. Best-by dates, sizes and UPCs for each item are available on the Food & Drug Administration's (FDA) Expanded Recall List, but RLF recommends throwing away the products, regardless of sell-by date.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) believes this recall may be linked to an ongoing Listeria outbreak, affecting people in 11 states so far.

The investigation is still active, and RLF is urging all customers to check their refrigerators and freezers, and dispose of any dairy products implicated in this recall.

Common symptoms of listeria infection (AKA listeriosis) include fever, muscle aches and tiredness, while headaches, stiff neck, confusion, loss of balance and seizures can occur in more severe cases.

While listeriosis is not usually life-threatening, it can be especially dangerous if you are age 65 or older, immunocompromised or currently pregnant. Listeriosis can cause pregnancy complications, including pregnancy loss or premature birth. It can also cause severe illness or death in infected newborns.

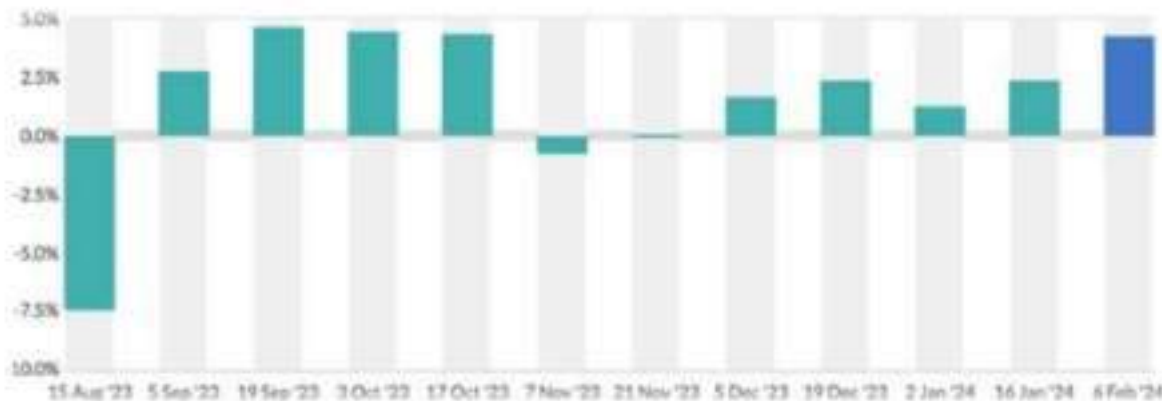
Call your health care provider immediately if you are experiencing any of the above symptoms after consuming any affected products. Listeria can easily spread to other food and surfaces and can survive at refrigerated temperatures, so after disposing of any impacted foods, carefully follow the FDA's safe handling and cleaning procedures.



## GDT: INCREASE IN SMP AND BUTTER GLOBAL PRICES RAISE HOPES IN INDIA

FEB 7, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/gdt-prices-rise-4-2-per-cent-as-upward-trend-continues/>



**G**ood news for farmers in the latest Global Dairy Trade auction, held overnight, with a 4.2 per cent increase across the board.

This is the third positive event of the 2024 calendar year, with the index kicking off the new year with a 1.2 per cent bump on January 3 and 2.3 per cent at the last event on January 17.

Whole milk powder rose a sizeable 3.4 per cent to an average of US\$3463/MT (NZ\$5696), while skim milk powder – Fonterra’s second-biggest reference product – increased by 4.6 per cent, to an average of US\$2758/MT.

Anhydrous milk fat was up 3.3 per cent with an average of US\$6033/MT and butter milk powder – which wasn’t offered at the previous event – had a modest increase of 1.2 per cent to an average of US\$2412/MT.

Lactose continued the upward trend with 2.6 per cent bump to an average of US\$785/MT.

However, it was cheddar and butter that stole the show at this event.

Cheddar rose 6.3 per cent to an average of US\$4469MT, building on a 1 per cent gain at the previous event.

Butter jumped an impressive 10.3 per cent to an average of US\$6516MT, building on its 5.8 per cent increase at the previous event.

The only product to dip at this event was mozzarella, which dropped 1.8 per cent to an average of US\$3760MT.

This is the fourth time the product has been included in the auction, having been introduced in the December 6 event where it debuted at an average of US\$4005/MT.

A total of 24,836 MT of product was purchased by 104 successful bidders, compared to 24,909MT and 100 winning bidders last time.

On December 7, Fonterra raised its forecast farmgate milk price for 2023/24 – to a range of \$7.00–\$8.00 per kgMS, with a midpoint of \$7.50.

This is 25 cents up on Fonterra’s previous \$7.25 midpoint, announced on October 9, with a range of \$6.50–\$8.00 per kgMS.

This followed downgrades on August 18 to between \$6.00 and \$7.50 per kgMS, with a midpoint of \$6.75, and August 4 of between \$6.25 to \$7.75 per kgMS.

## SUNAK IS 'SAD' PARENTS ARE FORCED TO WATER DOWN BABY FORMULA

FEB 7, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/sunak-is-sad-parents-are-forced-to-water-down-baby-formula-due-to-costs/>



The prime minister has said it is “sad” that parents are watering down baby formula because they cannot afford to feed their children.

Sky News reported last year on measures parents have turned to after inflation spiked the cost of the powdered milk product.

This included watering down and even stealing products in order to make ends meet amid the cost of living crisis.

Asked about the situation parents have found themselves in, Rishi Sunak told the BBC: “My job is to make sure everyone has the financial security that they want for them and their families.

“And of course, I’m sad to hear that someone’s in that situation.”

He added: “Of course it’s sad if someone’s got a little one in their lives and they’re having to do that. That’s an incredibly sad thing.

“But my job is to make sure that we can ease those pressures, and actually, if you look at what was causing those pressures, it was inflation: inflation being at 11%, prices going up by that much every year, it was a real struggle for people.

“That’s why it was important that we prioritised bringing inflation down. It is now coming down. That is real, that will have an impact on people because it will start to ease some of those pressures.”

Inflation was still at 4% at the end of 2023, meaning prices were still rising above the Bank of England’s 2% target.

In order to reduce price growth, the Bank – which is independent of the government – has raised interest rates, putting up the cost of borrowing for consumers on loans and mortgages – also leading to increased rents.

At the time of Sky’s reporting in summer 2023, the price of the cheapest brand of baby formula had increased by 45% in the previous two years.

Other brands have risen between 17% and 31% in that time period.

Regulations state that all baby formulas must meet the same standards – so the cheapest brand will provide all the same necessary nutrition as the most expensive.

As well as watering down their products, Sky News also spoke to parents who had stolen formula, bought it on the black market or substituted it with condensed milk.

World Health Organisation technical officer Laurence Grummer-Strawn previously told Sky News that companies were “exploiting” people in a “very vulnerable situation” in order to “increase the profits of these companies, and they have huge profit margins”.

He called for the government to intervene “either on the price end or in ways to help those families directly”.

“Lowering the prices can help these families, but it needs to be in a sustainable way,” he added.

## ‘DISRUPTIVE’ DAIRY BRAND PLEDGES 1% OF ALL REVENUES TO RABI

FEB 6, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/disruptive-dairy-brand-pledges-1-of-all-revenues-to-rabi/>



**A** ‘disruptive’ dairy brand has pledged 1 percent of all revenues to farming charity RABI to help the sector with financial, emotional and practical help.

Organic dairy brand All Things Butter, which produces butter from a Somerset farm, have chosen RABI as its charity partner for this year.

Created to ‘disrupt the dairy industry’, the farm will be donating 1% of all its revenues to aid farming families in times of need.

All Things Butter offers a chef-led approach for its flavours, with Salted, Unsalted, Garlic & Herb, and Chilli varieties.

On the partnership, Toby Hopkinson, co-founder, said: “All Things Butter relies upon the farming community to create its products, and is proud to have developed a range that is

made from a British farm, using organic British cream.

“We believe in the power of giving back to the communities that sustain us, and are proud to partner with RABI, contributing to its mission to support farming families at a time when they are facing monumental challenges.”

All Things Butter, launched in November 2023 by Toby Hopkinson and chef Thomas Straker, is manufactured by Brue Valley Farm in Somerset.

The farm’s production process still uses traditional batching and hand-salting methods, including twice churning the butter to achieve the perfect texture and creaminess.

More than just purchasing their produce, All Things Butter says it wants to form deeper relationships with the community, especially during hard times.

Thomas Straker, chef and the brand's other co-founder said: "Growing up on a smallholding in Herefordshire, I have always valued being in touch with where food comes from and developed a passion for hunting and foraging.

"I am delighted to announce that All Things Butter and RABI are joining forces, with the aim to make a meaningful difference to the lives of farming people, creating a better future for the community."

Paul Pirie, head of fundraising at RABI added: "We are thrilled to be partnering with All Things Butter and applaud the value they place on farming people as vital to the success of their venture.

"As RABI rolls out more programmes and initiatives to support farming communities, this exciting collaboration will allow us to sustain our efforts in empowering the worth and wellbeing of farming people."

The All Things Butter product range is available on Ocado and other stockists including Planet Organic, Milk & More and The Modern Milkman.

## A COW PRODUCES ABOUT 220 POUNDS OF METHANE EACH YEAR.

FEB 4, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/a-cow-produces-about-220-pounds-of-methane-each-year/>

I was alarmed recently when I read that world leaders were gathering to discuss global warming. I don't have the credentials to discuss the merits of the global warming argument ... but I can certainly question what's going on.

Cows produce methane gas as part of their natural digestive process. According to a UC Davis study, a cow produces about 220 pounds of methane each year. If the cows are



grazed on open pasture, as Joel Salatin promotes, the grass grows more quickly after being grazed upon. The chemicals in the cow's saliva stimulate grass growth after grazing. This growth is exponential, once grazed. During the

new growth, the grass takes in more carbon dioxide, sequesters it into the soil and grows faster.

Researchers from Ohio State have found that an average homeowner's yard sequesters between 46-127.1g of carbon per square meter

per year. Considering that there are around 4,046 square meters in an acre, it follows that 1 acre of pasture would sequester between 181-542 kg of carbon per year. If you

consider that my two cows and small flock of sheep are grazed on a few acres, it seems that my homestead sequesters more carbon than our four-legged friends produce. The manure and urine contribute additional fertilizer for the soil and increase overall fertility.



Armed with this information, one might think that leaders at the World Economic Forum were discussing pasture management strategies while dining on fine lamb and beef. Instead, it seems all this information is being dismissed. Instead of supporting perennial pastures and using regenerative agriculture to sequester carbon and provide sustenance for a wide variety of animals, they are trying to cull livestock around the world and promote insect proteins.

How did my cows become a threat to our environment?

More than half of all carbon emissions are created by less than 1% of the population that travels via private aircraft. Jeff Bezos recently spent 500 million dollars on a boat that produces over 7,000 tons of greenhouse gases annually. That's more than 500 average American families produce in a year. That doesn't include the support ship that travels around with his main yacht or the carbon emissions of his private fleet of aircraft.

Instead, the world leaders celebrate his new boat as "green" because it can use sails. My cow recycles grass into milk and beef. I bet that

fancy boat can't do that. I bet that he isn't eating insects on his new boat.

I can't argue the merits of global warming. Taking care of the environment is why I try to implement regenerative agricultural practices. Somewhere, someone who flew on a private jet determined that my livestock is a threat to the environment.

Couldn't they at least see the value in my cows' hides for a private aircraft interior design company? Maybe then, I could get an exemption for my cows. How does a yacht get certified "green" while the animals that graze my property are deemed a threat to humanity?

Something doesn't seem right. If the WEF is trying to reduce carbon emissions, couldn't they have their meetings remotely? Or fly commercially? I bet we, the people, could manage just fine if the entire group of self-anointed leaders disbanded.

I'm not sure how we came under the authority of people that we didn't elect or why they're influencing policy on farms around the world. I don't question authority ... but I sure question where they got their authority!

## MILK PRODUCTION IN EUROPE CONTINUES TO FALL: TWO BIG REASONS WHY

FEB 4, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/milk-production-in-europe-continues-to-fall-here-are-two-big-reasons-why/>

The ongoing implementation of environmental regulations, called the European Green Deal, and low agricultural commodity prices have sparked numerous farmer protests across Europe. Dairy has not been immune as new regulations weigh on milk production. November EU milk collections fell to levels not seen in years, according to Betty Berning, analyst with the Daily Dairy Report.

Approved in 2020, the European Green Deal is a set of policy initiatives designed to help the trading bloc reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. The initiatives extend to many different sectors of the economy, including construction, biodiversity, energy, transportation, and food and agriculture.

“The protests occurring across the continent underscore farmers’ frustration with low revenues and increased restrictions,” Berning said. “While governments seem to be listening, it’s unclear whether meaningful action will be taken. Moreover, with environmental limits already in place in Ireland and the Netherlands, change could come too late to cause a significant shift in the trajectory of the EU dairy sector.”

November milk production in the European Union and the United Kingdom fell 2.5%, compared to a year earlier, to 26.6 billion pounds, based on preliminary data and estimates from Eurostat, CLAL, and the UK’s Agriculture and

Horticulture Development Board (AHDB). November milk production was the lowest for any November since 2018 and the fourth month in a row that volumes declined on a year-over-year basis. Ireland’s November milk collections plunged 20%, or 218.3 million pounds, to 882.4 million pounds vs. November 2022, as the country headed into its seasonal low.

“Ongoing environmental restrictions have been pushing production lower across Europe, and November’s production loss highlights the continent’s ongoing reduction in milk flows,” Berning said.

Through November 2023, annual year-over-year milk production was up a marginal 0.1%, with losses beginning in August. According to USDA’s October estimates, Europe’s trend toward declining output will continue into this year, with 2024 milk volumes forecast to drop 0.14% from 2023 levels to 320 billion pounds.

“German farmers took to the streets of Berlin in late January to protest rising taxes and a lack of subsidies,” Berning noted. “The demonstrations were part of ongoing farmer protests as Germany rolls out austerity measures to cover holes in its budget.”

Reuters and other news outlets reported that similar demonstrations have been occurring in other countries since late last year. Farmers in France, for example, have blocked roads around Paris as they call for “urgent action on low farmgate prices, green regulation, and free-trade policies,” according to Reuters.



Some headway could be occurring in France, where Prime Minister Gabriel Attal said he will not reduce tax breaks for diesel fuel destined for agricultural use, one of the farmers' chief grievances. He also said the government will distribute emergency funds more quickly and levy substantial fines on corporations that do not follow price negotiation rules.

"Farmers in Poland have voiced concerns over agricultural imports from Ukraine as well as over the European Green Deal," Berning said. "Agricultural products from Ukraine have reportedly been flooding Poland's market as demand remains low in the war-torn nation, causing Polish farm revenue to drop."

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