

48th Edition

16th to 31st Oct, 2017

Dairy Pulse

Contents

**Suruchi Endeavor in Skill/
Entrepreneur Development Domain**

Indian News

- Animal Health/Protection
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Think Dairy



Dairy Pulse 48h Edition (16th to 31st, Oct 2017)

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Suruchi endeavor in Skill/ Entrepreneur Development Domain

➔ *Diploma in Dairy Technology (DDT) in alliance with IGNOU*

Study Center authorized by School of Agriculture
Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)
Details as below:

Academy of Dairy Skill Development (ADSkID)
Unit of Suruchi Consultants
C-49, Sector-65, Noida U.P – 201307
SC/PSC Code: 39018P
Prog. In-charge: Mr. Sanjay Singhal
Contact no. : +91-0120+4370845
Email: adskid39018p@gmail.com

New admissions are Closed for July, 2017

➔ Indian Dairy Map 2017 launched on 27th October, at Pune.

➔ Aspiring entrepreneurs might attend our introductory session (Free) on how to set up dairy farm and plant on every 2nd and 4th Saturday of month from 2 PM to 5 PM, Prior registration is must and for that contact our office.

For more information please email on info@suruchiconsultants.com or contact at +91 0120 4320845

➔ *52nd Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Program (DEDP) at Suruchi Consultants, C-49, Sec-65, Noida 21st, 22nd & 23rd Oct, 2017 with Guided Tour to a Dairy Farm plus a milk processing plant.*

For more information please follow the link:
http://www.suruchiconsultants.com/pageDownloads/downloads/training/3_49th%20DEDP%20BROCHURE%20.pdf

➔ Suruchi is launching 2nd Second Level Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Program (DEDP- Level II) 2017 one week intensive hand on Dairy Plant. Dates will be announced soon.

For more information please email on info@suruchiconsultants.com or contact at +91 0120 4320845

➔ Suruchi is launching 1st Second Level Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Program (DEDP- Level II) 2017 one week intensive hand on Dairy Farm. Dates will be announced soon.

For more information please email on info@suruchiconsultants.com or contact at +91 0120 4320845

➔ Suruchi is launching 1st Global Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Program (GDEDP) the dates will announce soon.

For more information please follow the link:

http://www.suruchiconsultants.com/pageDownloads/downloads/training/5_1st%20%20GDEDP%20BROCHURE.pdf

➔ Suruchi has launched 1st Online Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Program (ODEDP). It is 12 weeks program. Registrations are open. Watch Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5iS432VIGc8&t=42s>

For more information please visit on website <http://skilldairy.com/>

Indian News

Indian Dairy Map 2017 launched on 27th October, at Pune

Suruchi Consultants has several research publications and white papers to its credit with Dairy Industry Vision, 2020 (2011), Dairy industry vision 2030 (2014), Sustainable dairy farm structure (2015) and Global Dairy Developments and Perspective for Sustainable Dairy Farming in India (Jointly with IFC N in 2016).

In 2017, Suruchi Consultants scanned Indian Dairy industry data and created a potential map, highlighting the states with the highest potential in milk production, types of animals reared, the yield of milk per category of animals and growth attained over last 5 years. This was released on October, 27 at Dairy conference organized jointly by Suruchi Consultants and Benison Media along with DAIRY INDUSTRY EXPO (26-28 Oct,2017) at Pune.

INDIAN DAIRY MAP 2017 : Insights on the key factors driving the dairy industry in India

The analysis highlights the parameters based on National, State wise, year wise data in 2010-11 to 2015-16 and growth rate projected till 2020. The data has been collated for milk production, Availability of milk in gram per day, Animal type exotic/crossbred cattle, Indigenous Non-descript, cows, Buffaloes, Average yield of exotic crossbred cows, Indigenous non-descript cows, Buffaloes, Farm structure in India, availability of Fodder crops, and other relevant vectors. The main source of the analysis, information is drawn from Animal Husbandry website, State Federation and other internal sources. The information has been organized in the form of maps, graphs, tables, and ranking of parameters has been made on the basis of top 10 states in

India under different categories of dairy elements.



This map was launched during the conference on Roadmap for Indian Dairy industry, at Pune. The conference on Roadmap for Indian dairy industry was begun by sharing these key insights to the participants. The conference has further covered topics of interest for budding startups on government schemes, how to enter dairy farming and dairy processing business. Apart from that, critical success factors for the dairy sector like feed and fodder, innovative dairy products, regulatory requirements etc. have also been covered in the conference. A white paper on scenario planning for Indian dairy industry would soon be published in the next few months based on this map.

This event was attended by major stakeholders from the dairy industry in Maharashtra and various farmers' groups. A special analysis on Maharashtra Dairy scenario snapshot was also discussed during the event. It was received well and participants left the venue with lots of insights.

Animal Health/Protection

Want to keep dogs, cows? Then pay tax, says Punjab govt to owners

Published Oct 24, 2017, 4:58 pm IST

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/241017/want-to-keep-dogs-cows-then-pay-tax-says-punjab-govt-to-owners.html>

The Punjab government in a new notification on Tuesday announced that people in Punjab will now have to pay taxes for keeping domestic animals.

Headed by state minister Navjot Singh Siddhu, the Department of Local Administration issued a notice stating that people living in Punjab and having a dog, cat, pig, sheep, deer etc. as domestic animals, will have to pay a tax of Rs 250 per year.

For those who own a buffalo, bull, camel, horse, cow, and elephant; the amount further goes up to Rs 500 per year.

The notice also stated that a "branding code"; identification mark or number would be allocated to each animal.

The animal would also be installed with a microchip, the government notice issued added.

Further, the owner in Punjab will have to take a licence from the authorities to keep a pet. The licence will be renewed every year.

The government, however, will extend its support to NGOs and other social religious organizations.

"The corporation committee shall extend all possible assistance and support to NGOs and other social-religious organizations interested in setting up of non-profit cattle pounds for old and infirm animals as per availability of funds," added the notification.

Haryana to earmark land for PG hostels — for cattle

Published: October 23, 2017 5:44 am

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/cow-haryana-to-earmark-land-for-pg-hostels-for-cattle-4902090/>

The Haryana government has decided to introduce a new concept to facilitate those who live in urban areas but want to rear cattle to produce milk. Haryana's Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Om Prakash Dhankar said as part of this ambitious project, 50-100 acres would be earmarked in major towns to set up 'PG hostels for cattle' thus providing a "central place" for milch cattle. "Cows, buffaloes and other animals for milk purposes can be housed in these hostels," Dhankar told The Indian Express on Sunday.

He said the government was also in the process of establishing dairy industry in urban areas to further boost the white revolution in the state.

"The government is providing interest-free loan for up to seven years to set up dairy units of up to 50 milch animals," he added.

Dhankar said Haryana Governor Prof Kaptan Singh would inaugurate a three-day Haryana Swarna Jayanti Cattle Fair to be organised at Jhajjar from October 27 whereas Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar would be the Chief Guest on concluding day function on October 29. A walk of indigenous cattle will also be organised in the fair. Nearly 15,000 farmers would be invited every day in the mela so as to motivate them towards cattle rearing. He said for the first time, a fair of quality cattle would be organised

with the objective to make Haryana the best state in milk production.

In this mega event, around 2,500 best cattle will participate. Prizes worth Rs 9 crore would be given to the owners of best cattle including best performer buffaloes in the field of milk. People

will be able to sell and purchase cattle in this mega event whereas earlier the cattle used to be only displayed in such fairs. Latest technology of milking would also be displayed in the mela and one such machine on all three days would be given as prize.

Dairies take to tech to monitor milk supplies & animal productivity

October 21, 2017, 08:55 IST

<https://tech.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/technology/dairies-take-to-tech-to-monitor-milk-supplies-animal-productivity/61159675>

Private and cooperative sector dairies in India are increasingly adopting the latest tagging and tracking technologies to supervise the productivity of individual milching animals and dairy farmers to monitor milk supplies and take corrective steps quickly to suit market demands.

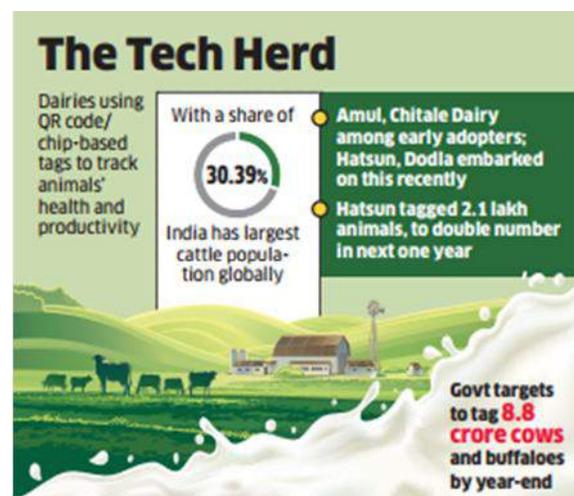
Through the latest technologies of tagging with smart chips of unique identity, these dairies are constantly registering the productivity and health records of individual animals. This helps them predict productivity fluctuations using data analytics and initiate corrective measures wherever intervention is needed, either directly or by advising the dairy farmers.

While Amul and Chitale Dairy are among the early adopters of tagging/RFID (radio frequency identification) technologies — they have been using these for nearly a decade — Hatsun Agro and Dodla Dairy are among newer ones that have adopted these steps.

Chitale Dairy had partnered with VMware Technology for tagging and automation of processes in what it calls a 'Cows to Cloud' initiative. The company claims the technology helped it increase per capita production several folds. Amul has been using RFID tags on cattle in its Gujarat farms.

India, the world's largest producer of milk, has

the highest cattle population globally with a share of 30.39%, according to the US Department of Agriculture.



With more animals coming under the organised dairy industry, it becomes imperative to know about their productivity, said industry leaders.

RG Chandramogan, chairman of Chennai-headquartered Hatsun Agro, India's largest private dairy, said: "We believe it's essential to track the productivity and health of animals in the dairy system as milk production changes with seasons. With better control over our network, we will be able to reduce the volatility and increase milk productivity."

Hatsun started this tagging exercise a year ago and has so far tagged 2.1 lakh animals and

expects to double the number over the next 12 months, covering almost all animals within its network.

Explaining the process, John Neizen, head of dairy herd development at Hatsun, said: “We are starting off by tagging animals and giving them a unique number with a QR code. When our inseminators visit these farms, they scan the code and enter details about the cow’s weight,

health, etc., which are stored on a cloud platform. Accordingly, we advise farmers to check for specific symptoms and suggest remedies like change of fodder through text messages.”

TPG Growth-backed Dodla Dairy has been conducting a small pilot with 2,500 farmers by roping in a genetic improvement company.

Marketing

Railways charms Amul with its 'utterly butterly' tweet

UPDATED: OCTOBER 25, 2017 08:21 IST

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/amul-tweets-business-offer-to-railways/article19913270.ece>

Dairy giant Amul on Tuesday reached out to the Railways on its official Twitter handle with a business proposition to use its refrigerated parcel vans to transport Amul butter across India. The Railways promptly responded on the micro-blogging site, using a popular tag line of the company for the brand.

“IR will be utterly butterly delighted to get the taste of India to every Indian,” the Ministry’s handle @RailMinIndia tweeted.

The Railways extensively uses Twitter to address passenger woes. But this could perhaps be the first time that the national transporter has received a business proposition on the micro-blogging site.

“@RailMinIndia, Amul is interested in using refrigerated parcel vans to transport Amul butter across India. Request to please advise,” the dairy major had tweeted to the Railways.

‘Lying defunct’

The Railways had introduced the refrigerated van service a few years ago with an aim to facilitate the transportation of perishable commodities such as fruits, vegetables, frozen meats/poultry and chocolates but most of the vans were lying defunct, according to a Ministry official.

However, this service exists only on some specific routes.

“We would certainly like to capture this traffic. Let us see what can be done,” the official added.

Asia leading the world for new probiotic product launches.

To Read the news please follow the link below:

https://www.nutraingredients-asia.com/Article/2017/10/13/Asia-leading-the-world-for-new-probiotic-product-launches?utm_source=newsletter_daily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=17-Oct-2017&c=0QRuKkPguba8E95BQLmH123b7jnmNpn6&p2

With 20% of agriculture output value, milk overtakes foodgrains

Updated: October 23, 2017 8:46 Am

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/with-20-of-agriculture-output-value-milk-overtakes-foodgrains-4901882/lite/>

Today, not only does the White Revolution's contribution to farm incomes surpass that of the Green Revolution, but every fifth rupee generated in the farm sector — which includes the total output value of crops livestock produce and fisheries — comes from milk.

Which is India's No. 1 farm crop by value? Rice (paddy) or wheat? Wrong. The answer is milk.

According to the Central Statistics Office's (CSO) detailed crop-wise estimates of the value of output from agriculture and allied sectors, the country's farmers produced milk worth Rs 4,95,841 crore in 2014-15.

For the first time, the value of milk produced exceeded the total value of foodgrains (cereals plus pulses), which stood at Rs 4,86,846 crore, and was way above paddy at Rs 2,26,481 crore or wheat at Rs 1,28,998 crore, according to latest figures released this month.

It wasn't like this even 15 years ago. In 1999-2000, the value of milk production, at Rs 88,092 crore, was not even two-thirds of cereals at Rs 1,34,096 crore, although it was more than that of paddy at Rs 70,416 crore and wheat at Rs 46,224 crore.

Today, not only does the White Revolution's contribution to farm incomes surpass that of the

Green Revolution, but every fifth rupee generated in the farm sector — which includes the total output value of crops livestock produce and fisheries — comes from milk.

The value of any crop is arrived at by multiplying its output with corresponding prices received by producers at the farmgate or the nearest primary market during the peak arrival period.

There are three broad reasons why milk's place in Indian agriculture, and the fact that it is the biggest crop by value, has gone relatively unrecognised or unnoticed.

The first is the inability to see milk as a "crop", since it is harvested not from the fields, but from animals. This, despite the dairy farmer in reality growing fodder and aggregates agricultural residues, with the cow or buffalo simply converting these into milk.

Second, milk — unlike paddy, wheat or sugarcane — is harvested and marketed not in quintals, but litres. Also, farmers sell milk round the year, which isn't the case with normal field crops. Their harvesting and marketing is a conspicuous one-time annual event, even commemorated through festivals such as Makar Sankranti, Thai Pongal and Baisakhi.

IN 15 YRS, BIG CHANGE IN VALUE OF OUTPUT

	2014-15	'99-2000		2014-15	'99-2000
Milk	4,95,840.52	88,092.23	Sugarcane		
Fruits & Vegetables	4,51,902.9	86,334.96	& Gur	96,671.82	24,493.68
Cereals	4,13,903.11	1,34,096.44	Spices & Condiments	73,256.49	15,446.86
Meat	1,54,148.02	21,938.87	Pulses	72,942.76	18,153.27
Fish	1,36,253.29	22,292.85	Cotton	70,713.63	11,752.06
Oilseeds	1,26,752.66	28,625.44	TOTAL*	24,62,459.31	5,34,689.2

*Includes all crops, livestock produce and fisheries. All figures in Rs crore

Third, policymakers have always viewed dairying as an activity “subsidiary” to regular agriculture. This may partly have to do with the animals mostly being fed on the by-products of crop agriculture: wheat and paddy straw, sugarcane tops, and the protein-rich cake left after extraction of oil from mustard, groundnut or cottonseed. But the fact that milk has overtaken even foodgrains in terms of production value — and there is a trend towards farmers taking to full-time dairying and devoting their land exclusively for fodder cultivation — clearly is at odds with the official view.

But the 21st century transformation of Indian agriculture isn’t confined just to milk.

The CSO data reveals the value of fruits and vegetables production, too, crossing that of cereals; this again happened for the first time in 2014-15. Between 1999-2000 and 2014-15, the value of horticultural produce has gone up more than five times. It has risen even more — by six times and seven times, respectively — for fish (nearly 60 per cent of which is now coming from inland, as opposed to marine waters) and meat (from poultry, goat and sheep, buffalo and cattle, and pig). Fifteen years ago, the individual output values of meat and fish were lower than that of sugarcane and gur. But that has since reversed (see chart).

All these trends are ultimately a reflection of dietary diversification. If farmers are producing more of milk, fruits and vegetables, egg, fish and meat, they are only responding to signals from consumers who are increasingly demanding food richer in proteins and nutrients. It is another matter that government policy is still stuck in the 20th century, not progressing much beyond cereals and calories.

Down to Earth

To see the comment please follow the link below:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1702732443091891&id=149347585097059

Health/Awareness

Bihar: Singh lauds Sudha's role in helping farmers

Posted in [Co-op News Snippets](#) on October 30, 2017 by [Ajay Jha](#)

<http://www.indiancooperative.com/co-op-news-snippets/bihar-singh-lauds-sudhas-role-in-helping-farmers/>



Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh- a true Bihari to the hilt- was in his home district of Motihari in Bihar this weekend inaugurating the Pashu Arogya Mela. He also lauded the role being played by state dairy cooperative COMFED known under the brand name Sudha on this occasion.

Addressing the people Singh said that India is emerging as a leader among the milk-producing nations and added that in 2016-17, 163.7 million tonne milk was produced in the country, which is worth over Rs 4 lakh crore.

Lauding Bihar's brand Sudha Minister said that it is playing important roles in collection,

processing, and marketing of milk in Bihar. Shri Singh said dairy farming has been a traditional source of livelihood and it has a deep connection with the agricultural economy.

“In Bihar, Comfed/Sudha are providing an appropriate value of the milk to the farmers through cooperative agencies. In comparison to 15 million men, 75 million women are engaged in this field”, Minister underlined.

Singh said, Rs.67 crore has been allocated to Bihar under Rashtriya Gokul Mission. And so far, Rs.22.5 crore has been sanctioned for the implementation of this scheme. This scheme will help in increasing milk production and milk productivity in the region.

CATTLE-OGUE exposes the reality of India's White Revolution

By [India CSR Network](#) -October 26, 2017

<http://indiacr.in/cattle-ogue-exposes-reality-indias-white-revolution/>

New data released today by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO) shows horrifying state of cattle in 451 milk producing centres from India's 10 leading milk producing states and demands immediate attention by the Centre and State Governments to regulate milk producing dairies.

FIAPO's investigative report CATTLE-OGUE reveals how most cows raised in these dairies are intensively confined, leaving them unable to fulfill their most basic natural needs, such as nursing their calves, and are treated like milk-producing machines – genetically manipulated, pumped with antibiotics and hormones in order to produce more milk.

While cows suffer in such set-ups, humans who drink their milk increase their chances of developing heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and many other ailments.

The unorganised and unregulated upkeep of dairy animals undoubtedly raises a question mark on the safety of the milk that these dairies produce as well as on the sustainability of India's global leadership of milk production.

Arpan Sharma, Director, FIAPO observed, "The conditions in which animals are kept are intrinsically linked to the quality and safety of the product, in this case milk. Poor conditions recorded in the investigation raise serious

questions on the safety and quality of milk in the market."

"We have urged state governments to outlaw the keeping of cattle within municipal limits and also enact conditions for keeping animals in other areas. Similarly, the FSSAI is silent on conditions that need to prevail at the point of milk production. Currently FSSAI regulations pertain only to milk processing, which is only half the story. The Centre needs to amend the Registration of Cattle Premises Rules 1978 to introduce conditions for the holding of cattle in commercial dairies.", further added.

Cattle are separated from calves (male calves die within the first week in 25% of dairies), receive little to no veterinary care and are injected with drugs procured illegally to induce sudden milk let-down in almost 50% of the dairies. Unproductive cattle are sold to economically weaker farmers for their personal use or the slaughterhouses by 62.9% dairies – both at low prices to earn meager sums of money from the final disposition.

The report calls for urgent and strict implementation of the existing laws of animal welfare as well as urban governance. It highlights the need for additional regulation in select areas where there are significant violations of acceptable conditions for dairy animals.

It is my duty to caution people about adulterated milk: Tamil Nadu dairy minister Bhalaji

By Express News Service | Published: 26th October 2017 02:16 AM |

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/2017/oct/26/it-is-my-duty-to-caution-people-about-adulterated-milk-tamil-nadu-dairy-minister-bhalaji-1683300.html>

“As a representative of the people, a duty is cast upon me to caution the people about the ill-effects of adulterated milk products,” State Milk and Dairy Development minister K T Rajenthra Bhalaji, told the Madras High Court on Wednesday.

In his appeal to set aside the orders dated October 20 of a single judge, the minister said the order was manifestly erroneous and contrary to the well-settled principles governing the grant of injunction. The order of injunction as against the minister for making a statement cautioning the public to be careful with the use of adulterated products by private dairies clearly discloses that the judge had failed to appreciate the scope, powers, duties and responsibilities of an elected representative of the public.

The judge should have known that the Supreme Court had in fact directed the State governments and the responsible officials to apprise the public of the effect of adulteration and apart from prosecuting them under the adulteration laws. Gagging a public servant from discharging his legal and political duties falls foul of Section 42 of Specific Relief Act. The judge has made no attempt to advert to the contentions raised before him. The material filed by him appears to have been completely glossed over with the result that the reasoning set out in the order is ex-facie grounded on surmises and conjectures. He should have known that a general statement warning the

public, asking them to be on guard against the adulterer will not attract tortious action.

The reasoning of the judge that a general statement naming none of the private dairies still affects the parties and therefore, a gag order should be issued is legally untenable and runs counter to settled judicial principles. The judge was totally unjustified in converting an action grounded on alleged innuendo into an action for libel based on identification. It follows that the judge had rendered a finding that runs contrary to the pleadings of the companies themselves, with the result that the impugned order must be set aside in toto. The judge was clearly in error in his attempt to cherry-pick the material placed before him. He has completely ignored the material secured from accredited testing labs viz.

Referral Food Lab, Ghaziabad, which had certified the product of Hatsun Agro Products and Dodla Dairy Products as sub-standard. It was also pointed out that not only the products of the plaintiffs, but of various other private dairies were subjected to scrutiny and some of them were found to be sub-standard the minister said.

Appeal against single judge order

In his appeal to set aside the orders dated October 20 of a single judge, the minister said the order was manifestly erroneous and contrary to the well-settled principles governing the grant of injunction

Cadbury fined Rs. 50,000 for bugs in Dairy Milk

26 Oct 2017 | By [Gogona Saikia](#)

<https://www.newsbytesapp.com/timeline/Business/12263/64317/cadbury-fined-rs-50-000-for-mould-infected-dairy-milk>

Mondelez India Foods Pvt Ltd, the parent company of Cadbury India, has been fined Rs. 50,000 over selling bacteria-infected chocolates.

The customer who made the complaint, Anupama of Brodipet (Andhra Pradesh), approached the Consumer Forum in August last year.

She bought two Dairy Milk chocolates from a local shop last July, but found them bitter. Upon closer inspection, she saw mould on one.

In context: Cadbury fined Rs. 50,000 for mould-infected Dairy Milk

26 Oct 2017 Cadbury fined Rs. 50,000 for bugs in Dairy Milk

What was the case about?

After Anupama came across the bitter chocolates, she raised the issue with Mondelez

in a mail and attached photos. A company representative got in touch, took samples and urged her not to publicize the issue. But she filed a complaint and sought Rs. 5L.

What did the court decide?

The forum summoned both manufacturer and retailer, but the latter submitted he had only sold a sealed product.

Mondelez's lawyer argued Anupama hadn't deposited samples. However, Cadbury didn't deny its representative had collected them.

The representative also skipped the hearings.

The forum then asked Mondelez to pay Rs. 50,000 for deficiency in service; Rs 5,000 towards Anupama's costs and Rs. 90 for the chocolates.

FIAPO wants govts to regulate dairy farms

Oct 26, 2017, 19:25 IST

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/fiapo-wants-govts-to-regulate-dairy-farms/articleshow/61247809.cms>

The Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO) is demanding that central and state governments regulate dairy farms in India after a study conducted by it has revealed the shocking state in which cattle is kept and the inhumane practices that are followed in these farms.

The results of FIAPO's investigative report 'CATTLE-OGUE' were made public on October 26. The study, which kicked off towards the end of 2016, was carried across 415 dairy farms in the country.

"We picked the major milk producing states in India to attempt to look at the White Revolution from the point of view of the welfare of the animals," says Arpan Sharma, director, FIAPO.

The states surveyed include Tamil Nadu, UP, Rajasthan, Telangana, Gujarat, Punjab, MP, Maharashtra, and Haryana.

"We also looked at farms in Delhi," says Sharma.

"In every place, the FIAPO team worked with local animal welfare organisations to conduct

the study."

In TN, the investigation covered 35 dairies with 1,293 cattle in four districts -- Chennai city periphery, Kancheepuram, Viluppuram and Madurai.

The White Revolution in India was brought by the launch of Operation Flood in 1970 - setting high milk production targets, under which the milk production in the country increased from 22 million tonne in 1970 to 104 million tonne in 2008.

"Due to the boom that came about due to the White Revolution, milk yield had greatly increased but the cost being borne --- by the animals as well as people - is extremely high," says Sharma, adding that the major red flags are in urban areas where the animals are kept in terrible condition, raising a very big question mark on the quality of milk being produced.

"Unfortunately, there is no regulation for running a dairy farm, so anyone can open one irrespective of whether he has the space to house the animals," says Sharma.

Also, no male calves were found in any of the farms. "They are sent for slaughter soon after birth or starved to death. In some cases it may be let loose outside where it will either die or become a stray bull," says Sharma, adding that since the mother will stop lactating, chemicals and hormones like oxytocin are used to let the milk down.

"Another terrible practice is when the dead calf is stuffed with hay to fool the mother into thinking the calf is alive so that she will continue lactating," he says.

Almost everywhere, the animals were tied up in one place all 24 hours. "The bovine is an animal that has biologically evolved to roam and graze around, but we have created conditions of industrial factory farming despite saying we worship the cow," says Sharma, adding that the cows also suffer as they are kept continuously and constantly pregnant.

Most animals in dairies are not provided veterinary care other than in dire need. In cases of infections, wounds, and behavioural stress, the condition of the animal is ignored and they are continuously milked. Injuries ranging from small bruises to tumours and fractures were found in dairies. 64% dairies were observed to have animals with untreated bruises, tumors and fractures.

Most dairies had either brick or cement flooring. Hard floors cause injuries, lameness as well as joint problems to cattle -- 79% dairies did not have access to soft ground. No arrangement for shelter was found in dairies. They had housing in the form of thatch roof sheds and roadsides. About 33% dairies did not have proper lighting during night- as a result of which most of the dairies conduct the evening milking in dark enclosures.

Since the quality and quantity of fodder depends on the economic status of the dairy owners, 58 % farms feed less than half of the desired minimum quantity (20ks) their cattle per day.

"All of these conditions need to be regulated," says Sharma, adding that the report calls for urgent and strict implementation of the existing laws of animal welfare as well as urban governance. It also highlights the need for additional regulation in select areas where there are significant violations of acceptable conditions for dairy animals.

Eight-day model training course for small scale dairy development

26/10/2017 01:42pm

<http://knnindia.co.in/news/newsdetails/sectors/eight-day-model-training-course-for-small-scale-dairy-development>

Eight-day model training course on “small scale dairy development as a means of livelihood improvement in north-eastern region” for the veterinary officers and KVK officials commenced on October 24 at ICAR-National Research Centre on Mithun, Medziphema.

Over 20 veterinary officers and Subject Matter Specialist (SMS), KVK from Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland are participating in the training programme.

According to the press statement by ICAR-NRC the main objective of the training course is to promote small scale dairy enterprises which will improve the socio-economic status of the farmers.

Addressing the inaugural event, Dr. (Capt) Dhananjaya Rao, Dean College of Veterinary Science, Jalukie, appreciated ICAR-NRC for its

initiatives to promote small scale dairy sector and highlighted the need for integration of dairy enterprises with agriculture in the country.

Dr. Abhijit Mitra, Director, ICAR-NRC on Mithun emphasized the scope of dairy sector in North-eastern India. He said that Indian dairy has become a lucrative industry and is growing at a steady pace of 4.5% against the global trend of 2.2%.

To develop the dairy sector, the government of India has launched a Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) of Rs10,881 crore for the period 2017-18 to 2028-29 which is expected to generate 2.5 lakh jobs in 5000 villages. The fund will create and modernize the infrastructure in dairy sector by building efficient milk procurement system and installing electronic milk adulteration testing equipment. (KNN/AG)

भूखों को कमी नहीं, लेकिन भारत में होती है दूध, फल और सब्जियों को बेहिसाब बर्बादी

Updated: Wed, 25 Oct 2017 07:33 AM (IST)

<http://mnaidunia.jagran.com/national-milk-fruits-and-vegetables-are-wasted-in-india-1368357>

देश में कोल्ड स्टोरेज तकनीकों और उसके संचालन के लिए प्रशिक्षित स्टाफ को कमी इस बर्बादी को मुख्य वजह है।

नई दिल्ली। ऐसाचैम और एमआरएसएस इंडिया का रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, देश में सालाना पैदा होने वाले दूध, फल व सब्जियाँ में से तकराबन आधा बर्बाद हो जाता है। इस बर्बादी से हर साल देश को करीब साठे चार सौ अरब डॉलर का नुकसान होता है।

देश में कोल्ड स्टोरेज तकनीकों और उसके संचालन के लिए प्रशिक्षित स्टाफ को कमी इस बर्बादी को मुख्य वजह है।

देश में तकराबन 6,300 कोल्ड स्टोरेज इकाइयाँ हैं। इनको कुल क्षमता 3.01 करोड़ टन खाद्य पदार्थ रखने का है। यह आंकड़ा देश में उत्पादित होने वाले कुल खाद्य पदार्थों का महज 11 फीसद है।

इनके संचालन के लिए प्रशिक्षित कर्मियों को कमी, कोल्ड स्टोरेज को अप्रचलित तकनीक और अनियमित

बिजली सप्लाई के चलते ये देश में कारगर नहीं हो रहा है।

दक्षिण भारत में खराब स्थिति

देश में 2014 में किराना व्यापार 500 अरब डॉलर का था। 2020 तक इसके 847.9 अरब डॉलर होने का संभावना है। ऐसे में जरूरी है कि इस उद्योग में खाद्य पदार्थों को एकत्र करने, स्टोर करने और एक से दूसरे जगह भेजने के लिए नई तकनीकों का इस्तेमाल किया जाए। तभी यह विप्रेताओं और खरादररर के लिए किफायती होगा।

क्या है कोल्ड स्टोरेज यूनिट - ऐसे खाद्य पदार्थ जो सामान्य तापमान में अधिक दिनों तक ताजे नहीं रह पाते हैं, उन्हें कई दिनों-महानों तक ताजा रखने के लिए विशालकाय कमरा में कई डिग्री कम तापमान में स्टोर किया जाता है। इसे कोल्ड स्टोरेज कहते हैं।

Probiotic formula reduces duration of rotavirus diarrhea in young children Korean RCT.

To read the news please follows the link below:

https://www.nutraingredients-asia.com/Article/2017/10/25/Probiotic-formula-reduces-duration-of-rotavirus-diarrhoea-in-young-children-Korean-RCT?utm_source=newsletter_daily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=26-Oct-2017&c=0QRuKkPgubY6HaAlPClIm67vLQUWbPZ&p2=26/10/17

A fourth of dairies ill-equipped'

UPDATED: OCTOBER 24, 2017 21:39 IST

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/a-fourth-of-dairies-ill-equipped/article19913353.ece>

Even as milk production becomes a key contributor to agricultural income in India, an investigation has found that a fourth of India's dairies had no shelter for animals and half of these institutions housed sick and injured animals.

The findings were part of an assessment of conditions in 450 dairies, spanning 10 of the country's top milk-producing States and involved assessing the health and living conditions of about 25,000 cattle.

Hormones administered

Nearly 55% of [dairy](#) owners allowed their sick animals to be milked. To increase milk production, hormone Oxytocin was being wantonly administered, even though it is a restricted drug that can only be given after advise from a registered medical practitioner. "Illegal use of Oxytocin to increase the milk let down is a common occurrence in 46.9% dairies," says the report prepared by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO).

"Dairy owners use it in excessive quantities (3 to 4 ml.)"

Delhi the worst

The authors of the report alleged that Delhi had the "worst" cattle management problem in the country. None of the dairies had a male calf of more than two months of age and were flourishing in "illegal establishments". There was also minimal veterinary care and indiscriminate use of Oxytocin here.

The investigation was carried out in Punjab, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Tamil Nadu. The National Capital Territory of Delhi was picked because of its strategic significance and also because it was the "centre of media attention."

In Uttar Pradesh — India's largest milk producer with over 20 million tonnes of production — 92% of dairies didn't have a visiting veterinarian and 48% of them used sick animals for milking.

दुग्ध व्यवसाय को बढ़ावा देगी महाराष्ट्र सरकार

<https://www.mumbailive.com/hi/civic/government-of-maharashtra-will-encourage-milk-business-will-appointment-celebrity-to-brand-ambassador-16567>

अगर आपको बॉलिवुड के हॉट हॉट होरोइने या हड्सम होरो भस का दूध निकालते दिखाई दे तो आपको लगेगा कि यह उनका ही किसी फिल्म का कोई हिस्सा होगा। लेकिन अब सरकार को एक योजना के अंतगत अगर कोई फिल्म सुपर स्टार जैसे प्रियंका चोपड़ा, कैटरिना कैफ, दीपिका पादुकोण या फिर रणवीर कपूर, ऋतिक रोशन और वरुण धवन जैसे स्टार भस का दूध निकालते हुए नजर आए तो इसके कोई अचरज वाली बात नहीं होगी।

राज्य के दुग्ध विकास मंत्री ने घोषणा करते हुए बताया कि राज्य में आरे दुग्ध उत्पादन और सरकारों दुग्ध योजना में वृद्धि के लिए किसी सेलिब्रिटी को ब्रांड अम्बेसडर बना कर दुग्ध व्यवसाय से जुड़े किसानों को

अधिक से अधिक प्रोत्साहित किया जाएगा। इसके लिए सरकार को तरफ से कई सेलिब्रिटी से सम्पर्क भी किया जा रहा है। अब देखते हैं कि सरकार का यह ऑफर कौन स्वीकार करता है।

जानकर ने आगे बताया कि आरे दुग्ध का वितरण प्रणाली अब मार्केटिंग व्यवस्था के तहत और भी विकसित किया जायेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि दूधों को अब दुकानों और मॉल्स में भी उपलब्ध कराया जाएगा। जानकारों देते हुए मंत्री जी ने बताया कि किसानों को उचित दर में दूध उपलब्ध कराया जायेगा और इसके लिए आरे, पालघर में संयंत्र बनाया गया है साथ ही मुंबई सहित पुणे, नागपुर, सोलापुर, औरंगबाद में भी दुग्धशालाओं को स्थापित किया गया है।

Dairies take to tech to for supervising productivity

Updated: Oct 24, 2017, 01.07 PM IST

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/miscellaneous/dairies-take-to-tech-to-for-supervising-productivity/articleshow/61198319.cms>

Pivate and cooperative sector dairies in India are increasingly adopting the latest tagging and tracking technologies to supervise the productivity of individual milking animals and dairy farmers to monitor milk supplies and take corrective steps quickly to suit market demands.

Through the latest technologies of tagging with smart chips of unique identity, these dairies are constantly registering the productivity and health records of individual animals. This helps them predict productivity fluctuations using data analytics and initiate corrective measures wherever intervention is needed, either directly or by advising the dairy farmers. While Amul and Chitale Dairy are among the early adopters of taggingRFID (radio frequency identification)

technologies -they have been using these for nearly a decade -Hatsun Agro and Dodla Dairy are among newer ones that have adopted these steps. Chitale Dairy had partnered with VMware Technology for tagging and automation of processes in what it calls a 'Cows to Cloud' initiative. The company claims the technology helped it increase per capita production several folds.

Amul has been using RFID tags on cattle in its Gujarat farms. India, the world's largest producer of milk, has the highest cattle population globally with a share of 30.39%, according to the US Department of Agriculture.

With more animals coming under the organised dairy industry, it becomes imperative to know about their productivity, said industry leaders.

How This Entrepreneur is Winning Indian Consumers With His Yogurt Delight

October 23, 2017

<https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/302707>.

Rohan Mirchandani grew up in the US, went to New York University and then worked in finance around 2008-2009, before he started his own tech company.

But, a foodie by passion, it didn't take him much time to think of designing something well within his comfort zone. As destiny had it, he met Chef Ganesh and understood the idea of creating a desert lounge. He also met Shripad Nadkarni, former Chief Marketing Officer of Coca Cola, to talk about the next start-up opportunities in the packaged food business.

The Launch

That was the eureka moment for Drums Foods, when it was launched. Nadkarni advised him to come to India to expand his ice-cream brand Hokey-Pokey. In January 2013, Hokey-Pokey started with a small store with the idea of making it an FMCG product by 2014.

The innovative packaging won accolades for Mirchandani. Talking about his biggest challenge, he said, "We found that it's hard to scale businesses during the off season." Also the real estate costs played havoc when they were thinking of expanding with other exclusive stores. That's when his second brand Epigamia was born.

Sharing on the same, Mirchandani said, "We found that dairy and dairy products are something that is to be disrupted. So, Epigamia started as a learning step for us." Launched in June 2015, Epigamia became India's first all natural Greek yogurt brand, which rapidly gained

traction with the Indian consumer. Using all-natural ingredients and traditional Greek straining process, the yogurt is low in fat and calories with double the amount of protein as compared to regular flavoured yogurt. In July 2016, Rohan raised Rs 44.5 crore round of funding led by Verinvest and DSG Consumer Partners solely for Epigamia. Last month, he announced Series- B round of funding of Rs 90 crore from the same set of investors.

Talking about his vision with Epigamia, Rohan claims, "We want the dairy products to have their independent identity. Also, we have the required expertise, so want to make our own mark. We think there is a lot to be done. We want to compete with other snacks in fresh and healthy space." Chef Ganesh has been at the heart of all the products built under Drums Food. Talking about product building stage, Rohan says, "Once we feel comfortable with the production of our products, we push it further to the product manufacturing level from the chef's kitchen."

Going forward, the vision is to be a made in India product of a great quality. The range is present in 2500+ retail outlets across Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Pune, Chennai, Hyderabad, Surat, Ahmedabad, Baroda, Chandigarh, Srinagar and Jalandhar. When asked if he would ever consider selling his first brand Hokey-Pokey, Rohan reminisces, "We would be open to the proposal of course. We don't want to do a relaunch product but we would like to have some innovation."

HC restrains TN Minister from making allegations against private dairies

CHENNAI, OCTOBER 20, 2017 19:03 IST

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/hc-restrains-tn-minister-from-making-allegations-against-private-dairies/article19890587.ece>

The Madras High Court on Friday granted an interim injunction restraining K.T. Rajenthra Bhalaji, Minister for Milk and Dairy Development, from making “baseless accusations of adulteration against private dairies in the State as a whole” and from making any statement or remark disparaging either three private milk sellers, who had approached the court seeking damages to the tune of ₹ 1 crore each from the Minister, or their products.

Justice C.V. Karthikeyan passed the order after taking strong exception to the Minister having “encouraged his advocate” to make disparaging remarks against private milk sellers in the media, without any substantiating document, despite a restraint order passed by the court on July 10. “There is no indication whether the defendant would rest in his assertions or whether he would produce test analysis reports to justify his statements.

“The statements by themselves justify an order of injunction... The balance of convenience is also in favour of the plaintiffs since literally they are groping in darkness. No one knows whom the defendant had meant in his press statements. But the statements are sufficient to damage the reputation of all private milk producing companies since all their products would be viewed suspiciously,” the judge observed while allowing the plea for injunction.

Pointing out that Mr. Bhalaji had accused the private dairies of selling adulterated milk, the judge went on to state: “The statements extracted from the reports in the newspapers clearly reveal that the defendant had launched an all out attack on private milk and milk product

producers. He had made very shocking revelations and it is up to him to justify the same. But the tenor of the statements indicate that unless there is an order of injunction, the pitch would only increase.

“The defendant must realise that honest workmen employed by private milk companies like plaintiffs would be first sufferers of such a tirade of accusations. They would be direct victims if suddenly sales of privately manufactured milk and milk products fall and companies feel the pinch of such a vitriolic campaign.” Mr. Justice Karthikeyan also stated that the counsel for the Minister had made a vain attempt to justify the statements made to the media.

He said that the Minister had not produced any document to prove that he had concrete evidence of private milk dairies selling adulterated milk on the dates on which he made press statements against them. “Producing documents which had been procured subsequently would not advance the cause of the defendant... Documents which are more than five years old would again not advance the cause of the defendant,” the judge added.

If there are materials to justify the statements, they should be produced as legally admissible documents and the defendant must subject himself for cross examination, the judge said and directed Hatsun Agro Product, Dodla Dairy and Vijay Dairy and Farm Products to subject their milk and milk products for voluntary tests in accredited laboratories once in three months and file the reports in the court so that they could be used for final disposal of the civil suit.

7 apps to help revolutionise your farming

THURSDAY OCTOBER 19 2017

<http://www.nation.co.ke/lifestyle/7-apps-to-help-revolutionise-your-farming/1190-4147072-rdx67z/index.html>

In the “White Paper 2017: Trends from the Kenyan Smartphone and E-Commerce Industry” report by GSMA Mobile and Jumia Business Intelligence, Smartphone penetration across Kenya has risen to over 60 per cent in just five years. One region where the Smartphone revolution is having a significant impact is on farming in Kenya and across Africa.

The following seven are apps helping to revolutionise farming by offering farmers and would be farmers the content they need such as herd breeding management, identifying pests and diseases, finding ready buyers, veterinary information and tracking dairy cattle ROI.

M-Farm

One of the most familiar apps among farmers in Kenya, M-Farm matches farmers with local buyers across Kenya. It also offers important information using provided price trends to know the best time to plant your crops. Once the produce is ready M-Farm connects the farmer with thousands of ready buyers for the most ideal price. An app perpetually being improved, it will soon unveil a guide on what you need to do to plant a typical crop to hit peak production. Farmers in remote areas who might want to remain ahead of their competition will find the market updates a treasure and vital.

iCow

From their 2011 research data, iCow discovered their large trove of information was capable of enhancing yields and boosting incomes from crops, milk production, egg and poultry farming as well as lowering livestock mortality and improving soil fertility from as short as 90 days. The app offers permanent access to highly credible and verified agricultural information and data in a reliable, cost-effective and simple design accessible through an SMS alerts

subscription or access to specific farming content 24/7.

Agrobase

App made with agronomist and farmers in mind, it provides a database with agronomic information on weeds, diseases and pests, including diverse pesticides, herbicides and pesticides details from the selected country. Allows farmers to identify pests, insects and diseases early enough to guarantee crop production and protection. The app has been used widely by livestock, horticultural, nut, fruit, vegetable and crop farmers to protect their investment and accomplish higher returns. Constantly updated database offers links to a problem, including a detailed description of the issue and a photo.

VetAfrica

Chiefly made for Android and Windows smartphones, VetAfrica allows any farmer to record their livestock data in the process obtaining diagnostic guidance and advice on the most ideal treatment.

The app offers a support system not just for livestock farmers but veterinary experts and animal health professionals. Information on various diseases is provided, such as Schistosomiasis, anaplasmosis, theileriosis, parasiti gastroenteritis and trypanosomiasis among others.

Urban Farming App

Living in an urban setup and thinking about farming? This app shows you how to grow vegetables with ease through constant interactive reminders. Your smartphone will constantly remind you when your plants need some type of care such as fertilizer or water and

how to solve the issue of crop disease and common crop pests.

Apart from information on growing organic and natural food from your urban home, delicious recipes are provided to prepare organic delicacies with ease.

Dairy Live

18-year-old software for dairy farmers and professionals in the dairy industry around the world with a Kenyan reseller, the management software app allows a herd farmer to work smart. Once you have fed information of all your livestock and events such as pregnancy check, vaccinations, semen inventories and breeding you will be able to instantly access your livestock information wherever you are on a computer or smartphone.

Creating an event protocol helps you track each animal's progress as you track herd costs and computing what you are making from each cow

and how each animal is doing financially and which one is failing. The app also comes with a server where you can back up the critical data. Standard charts will help you see how your herd compares with others regionally and nationally.

Breeding Wheel

One of the most critical details on a herd is identification of cattle with reproductive problems, service schedule, identifying animal with shorter lactation period, cow drying date management, and calves distribution, among others. The Breeding Wheel app allows you to access personalised animal data of your dairy herd in the form of a wheel.

File with a specific cow's data, including the image can be shared between devices for remote assistance from a technician. The kind of app for anyone who wants to manage animal breeding through a Smartphone app.

Dairy department officials given power to check adulteration of milk

Updated: Oct 19, 2017, 13:26 IST

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/thiruvananthapuram/dairy-dept-officials-given-power-to-check-adulteration-of-milk/articleshow/61141951.cms>

When Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 was implemented in the state nine years ago, it made the dairy development department (DDD), which is equipped with men and machinery to check quality of milk, toothless. Now, the state cabinet has accepted the request of the department to give powers to its officials under section 37 (2) of FSSA so that they could check issues of adulteration and use of chemicals in milk, which was reported during the recent drive.

In the special drive during Onam conducted by DDD along with food safety department to check transportation of adulterated and chemically contaminated milk from neighbouring states, three samples were found to be contaminated with chemicals and six substandard.

In the inspection conducted at Meenakshipuram checkpoint on August 29 and September 2 respectively, presence of hydrogen peroxide was found in Malabar Milk of AR Dairy Food Product Ltd and sodium carbonate in Amman Dairy products (P) Ltd. Also, Venad Milk and Life Milk, samples of which were taken from Kumily checkpoint, were found to lack the quality prescribed under FSSA.

The department, which was ripped off its powers post implementation of FSSA, had recommended food safety department to take necessary action. However, food safety department is still waiting to get results of the samples they collected from Palakkad and Idukki.

Recently, the DDD had sent a proposal to the secretary of animal husbandry department to give powers to quality control officers/ assistant directors and assistant directors of checkpoints on par with food safety officials as per section 37 (2) of FSSA, which enables state government to assign qualified officials to work as food safety officials in specific jurisdiction.

DDD has officials who have BTech in dairy technology and NABL accredited labs for the sole

purpose of checking quality of milk. With cabinet given powers to DDD officials, they will get their powers which they once enjoyed under Milk and Milk Products Order 1992.

"Under MMP, we used to conduct inspections in sources and take samples. For food safety department, milk is one of the 700 odd food items," said an official of DDD.

Fresh milk richer in vitamins

Oct 19, 2017, 08:20 IST

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/fresh-milk-richer-in-vitamins/articleshow/61139549.cms>

Recombined milk is the liquid milk obtained by adding water to skim milk powder and adding milk fat separately in such a quantity that the desired fat content is achieved.

Explaining the advantages and disadvantages to the consumers, the researcher said, "lower prices temporarily benefit the consumers. But in terms of health or quality, it will have a negative impact. Consumers have no way of knowing the age of processed skimmed milk powder and butterfat product used in the recombined milk. Fresh milk is richer in vitamins and minerals than skimmed milk powder."

They also warned of likely increase in price again, and volatility of the global dairy market.

In Marredpally locality, prior to the 2000s, there were plenty of families who reared buffaloes and sold their milk in the city. However, today, only a handful of these tribe of milk vendors remain.

The authors provide clear evidence that the only hope for the future lies in localised peoples' milk markets based on agro-ecological livestock cultures: cultures where livestock are reared, not as machines to produce single commodities, but as sentient beings playing a multifaceted role in food farming production systems.

Sale of spurious desi ghee goes unchecked in Jagraon

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/ludhiana/sale-of-spurious-desi-ghee-goes-unchecked-in-jagraon/485242.html>

Jagraon, October 21

In absence of effective vigil by the Health Department authorities, the sale of spurious desi ghee has been going unabated in the Jagraon area.

There are many wholesale shops in the town where spurious desi ghee is being sold. Many wholesale and retail shopkeepers in the Old Grain Market and Nehru Market areas are involved in the illegal sale of spurious desi ghee. Such shopkeepers have been playing with the health of the general public to earn some quick bucks.

According to sources, there are more than half a dozen shopkeepers, who are preparing and selling adulterated desi ghee. These shopkeepers are well connected and enjoy support of some local politicians. Therefore, no action is taken against them by the authorities concerned, claimed the sources.

Moreover, these shopkeepers do not store spurious ghee in their shops. Instead they keep it stocked in their godowns situated in the nearby areas to keep the authorities at bay. Whenever the need arises, they supply the required amount of adulterated ghee to customers.

While the price of genuine desi ghee is around Rs 400 per kg, the adulterated desi ghee costs shopkeepers Rs 200 per kg. Shopkeepers, who are involved in this illegal trade, have been making hefty profits by selling adulterated ghee.

“To prepare spurious desi ghee, we mix refined oil in dalda ghee and then add essence, which makes the odour of adulterated ghee almost similar to that of genuine and pure desi ghee. It is quite difficult to differentiate between spurious and pure desi ghee,” said an employee of a local shopkeeper, involved in making spurious desi ghee.

Once adulterated ghee is prepared, workers paste different labels, which shopkeepers get

printed, on containers. Generally, spurious desi ghee is supplied to shopkeepers of the rural areas.

It is also learnt that a majority of shopkeepers in the rural areas sell adulterated desi ghee to the people as pure ghee. Moreover, the use of spurious ghee is quite common among caterers arranged by the people for preparing dishes during wedding parties and other such functions.

Senior Medical Officer (SMO), Jagraon, Dr Sukhjiwan Kakkar, said, “Teams of the Health Department carry out checking on regular basis to detect sale of spurious ghee.” He said, “We conduct regular raids to check such practice. So far, no one has complained to us about sale of spurious ghee by shopkeepers. Nobody will be allowed to play with the health of the people. Strict action will be taken against shopkeepers, who are found involved in this illegal practice.”

The illegal trade of adulterated ghee

Many wholesale and retail shopkeepers in the Old Grain Market and Nehru Market areas are involved in the illegal sale of spurious desi ghee.

These shopkeepers are well connected and enjoy support of some local politicians. Therefore, no action is taken against them by the authorities concerned, claim sources.

n These shopkeepers do not store spurious ghee in their shops. Instead they stock it in their godowns situated in the nearby areas to keep the authorities at bay and avoid legal action.

While the price of genuine desi ghee is around Rs 400 per kg, the adulterated desi ghee costs shopkeepers Rs 200 per kg.

To prepare spurious desi ghee, refined oil is mixed in dalda ghee and then essence is added, which makes the odour of adulterated ghee similar to that of pure desi ghee.

Mother Dairy expands farmers' support

October 17, 2017 00:32 IST

http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/mother-dairy-expands-farmers-support-117101601017_1.html

Mother Dairy, a subsidiary of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) today said it has expanded its network of milk procurement operations in the areas of drought affected Marathwada & Vidarbha in Maharashtra.

Today, over 15,000 farmers from 970 villages, associated with over 600 milk producer institutions pour more than 1/lakh litres of milk/day. The districts covered under the initiative are Amravati, Wardha, Nagpur, Chandrapur, Buldana, Nanded and Osmanabad, a statement issued here said.

"Vidarbha and Marathwada have been the most drought affected regions, making it agriculturally distressed; therefore dairying in such adverse climatic conditions can create additional sources for livelihood of farmers.

"Taking the cause forward, NDDB through its subsidiary Mother Dairy intervened in setting up

of milk procurement infrastructure to facilitate the larger objective of rural prosperity by providing better remuneration to the farmers of the region," NDDB chairman Dilip Rath said.

With milk procurement touching 1 lakh litres per day, the benefit of this initiative have accrued to farmers in the tune of more than Rs 45 crore till date. Going ahead, we plan to further scale up the operations to more than 3,000 villages, spread across 11 districts and bringing more than 60,000 farmers in the ambit, Rath said.

The milk procured from the regions of Marathwada and Vidarbha is partially being processed in Nagpur Dairy for consumption in the city, thereby providing direct market access to the farmers of the region.

The additional milk stock is being directed to other regions with presence of Mother Dairy's operations, it said.

Regulatory/Legal

FSSAI to set up national reference laboratories for method development

Friday, 27 October, 2017, 08 : 00 AM [IST]

Ashwani Maindola, New Delhi

<http://www.fnbnews.com/Top-News/fssai-to-set-up-national-reference-laboratories-for-method-development-41295>

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has decided to set up national reference laboratories which will work towards method development, method validation, proficiency testing and training by national or international accreditation bodies that are signatories to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) or an equivalent accreditation body.

These labs will be notified by the country's apex food regulator after the regulations - which are called the Food Safety and Standards (Recognition and Notification of Laboratories) Regulations, 2017 - for the lab certification are adopted, for which it has issued a notice.

According to the norms, "The food laboratory shall have a valid accreditation certificate for the relevant scope against ISO/IEC 17025 by a national or international accreditation agency which is a signatory to either ILAC or APLAC."

Pawan Kumar Agarwal, chief executive officer, FSSAI, informed that these Regulations for labs are mostly procedural. He added, "For the first time, we have adopted the concept of national reference labs, where proficiency testing, work to develop methods, etc. will take place. Every country has national labs for such purpose. These regulations have provisions for the same as well."

The process for identifying the reference labs will begin soon. Although no new lab will be established for the purpose, reference labs will be identified amongst the existing premier labs

in the country.

The primary jobs of the reference lab will be:

- To develop countrywide standards for routine testing procedures and reliable testing methods
- To be the resource centres for the provision of information for certified reference materials (CRMs) or reference materials (RMs)
- To provide technical support in the area of competence
- To evaluate the performance of other notified laboratories
- To coordinate exchange of information amongst notified laboratories
- To collaborate for data generation among their network and collate the data related to their specific domain
- To perform such other functions, as may be specified by FSSAI from time to time

Agarwal said, "We shall start process of identifying the reference labs from the existing labs, which will perform these functions prescribed under the regulations, soon."

Besides, there would be notified labs for food testing and analysis, and referral labs for the purpose of investigation and act as to appellate laboratories in cases of disputes.

"These new notifications are extremely comprehensive," opined experts, who stated that they have provided steps and measures starting from functions of any food laboratory, recognition criteria and process, validity, suspension and its revocation, along with criteria for special laboratories.

Ashwin Bhadri, chief executive officer, Equinox Labs, said, "India has a very limited number of

testing labs for the number of food laboratories.”

“To follow the legal procedure of recognising a lab and its responsibilities, it is necessary to have a streamlined operational process standardised,” he added.

“This notification will benefit the current and the future analytical facilities cater better to the food businesses and the consumers,” Bhadri said.

On whether these regulations will have positive impact on the food industry, he added, “The major hurdle lies in understanding the process.”

“The labs need to follow certain rules and responsibilities to be on par with the laws set by FSSAI,” Bhadri said.

“India is on the verge of a paradigm shift. A decade later, the food industry, with such developments, will witness revolutionary changes,” he added.

“We always say that food businesses need to comply with the law. It is time we bring ourselves into the picture and work towards compliance and unified growth,” said Bhadri.

The evolution of FSSAI

How the regulator is upgrading regulations and collaborating with food companies to modernize testing standards for food safety

Last Published: Wed, Oct 18 2017. 04 39 AM IST
<http://www.livemint.com/Industry/NbljKgRzQhChgGZhtFPB0L/The-evolution-of-FSSAI.html>

It was an unexpected handshake. On 6 September, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) agreed with Nestle India Ltd to establish a food safety institute in India that will train officials of FSSAI as well as other companies in food safety. A little more

than two years ago, FSSAI had accused Nestle India of selling unsafe instant noodles.

The Manesar-based Nestle Food Safety Institute was inaugurated by FSSAI chief executive officer Pawan Kumar Agarwal. The institute, a replica of the Swiss company’s units in China, and Lausanne, Switzerland, will conduct training programmes on food safety management systems, testing methods and regulatory standards in India.

The idea for the partnership, which Agarwal termed a “well-thought strategy,” came in February, when top officials of Nestle India visited Agarwal’s office. The meeting ended with an agreement on the initiative that would help the company mend fences with India’s food regulator, a tribute to Agarwal’s open mind as he sought ways to engage with food multinationals, even while aiming to ensure marketed food was safe for every Indian.

In June 2015, the regulator had questioned the safety standards of Nestle’s flagship brand in India, Maggi, the popular instant noodle. This led to the product being withdrawn from the market for five months. Yet now the relationship has been turned on its head, and India will seek guidance from Nestle on food safety standards and testing methods.

From administrator to friend

Regulators are typically not friendly with corporate entities. A regulator’s job is to keep companies under its ambit in check. So what led to the change in FSSAI’s mindset?

“If you want to ensure food safety, you have to work with them (companies),” said Agarwal. “You can’t fight them. We can engage with them not only to improve their own practices, but to improve the entire ecosystem. That’s been our approach. Make them more responsive. A healthy, trustworthy relationship is required between the regulator and the companies and other stakeholders.”

When Agarwal took charge of FSSAI in December 2015, the food regulator was seen as a prosecutor, especially by multinational firms. Importers as well as foreign companies with manufacturing units in India suspected the administrator of being biased in favour of Indian companies. But consumers were happy the regulator had begun to take erring companies to task—something it hadn't really done since its inception in 2011 until Yudhvir Singh Malik, Agarwal's predecessor, banned manufacturing and sale of Nestle India's largest revenue-earner, Maggi instant noodles, on 5 June 2015, citing the alleged presence of monosodium glutamate and excess lead. Malik did not respond to queries from Mint for this story.

Until then most consumers were not aware of FSSAI. But once the Maggi controversy hit the national headlines, consumers started checking FSSAI labels on food packets before buying them. For the next six months, FSSAI stayed firmly in the news, courtesy the courtroom battles between Nestle India and the food regulator.

Mending fences

In August 2015, Nestle appointed Suresh Narayanan, then chairman and CEO of Nestle Philippines Inc., as the boss of its India business, in a bid to stem the crisis. His primary mandate was to bring Maggi noodles back to retail shelves. To do this, Nestle had to make the regulator understand that Maggi was safe.

This required an engaged discussion between Nestle and FSSAI, but the regulator was not keen to mend fences. Even as the court battles continued, Nestle reached out to the government in every possible way.

On 8 July 2015, food processing minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal slammed FSSAI at a conference organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry, accusing it of "creating an environment of fear" and hurting foreign investments in the food processing sector. At the time, Badal's father-in-law was chief

minister of Punjab, where Nestle has its oldest factory in India.

Malik and his team, on the other hand, continued their analyses of packaged food brands, especially the ones sold by multinationals. State food safety departments joined hands. Nestle started taking measures to tackle the mess. It communicated with every stakeholder—the regulator, government authorities, consumers and the media. FSSAI did not pay much heed.

Nestle reached out to Badal. "She was the only person who was open to discussion," said a person who was part of the team that met Badal. "She understood the company's seriousness about food safety and other things." The person didn't want to be named.

The narrative started to change for Maggi. In September 2015, a month after the Bombay high court overturned the ban, Malik was shifted to NITI Aayog as additional secretary. FSSAI got its next CEO only in December. In the intervening period, Nestle successfully re-launched Maggi noodles in the market, but only after a massive recall, in which 38,000 tonnes of packaged noodles were destroyed.

Narayanan needed to do one more thing: mend fences with FSSAI.

Building public confidence

After taking over as chief executive of FSSAI, Agarwal's priority was building public confidence that food available in the market was safe for consumption.

In the next few months, Agarwal, who says his views align well with FSSAI's chairperson Ashish Bahuguna, abolished product approval—a process that every company questioned. Instead, Agarwal started setting standards for each product category, emulating international regulators.

“Unlike his predecessors, FSSAI CEO Pawan Kumar Agarwal has stayed away from taking an adversarial approach.”

His agenda was simple: establish FSSAI as a trustworthy regulator for both citizens and food companies. He wanted to streamline regulations: reduce the regulatory burden on food companies, ensure single-window clearance for food importers, and make inspection risk-based, where “everything needs to be tested.” Agarwal believes that big businesses will maintain food safety in self-interest, as they will not risk damage to their reputation.

To build confidence in his agency among consumers, Agarwal expanded the regulator’s vision, focusing on various kinds of edibles and potables: the quality of street food, food at restaurants, prasadam available at shrines, tap water provided by the government, food served by Indian Railways. They examined the packaging and labelling of food products. The food items consumed by the citizens daily finally came under the FSSAI lens.

“My concern is that the overall culture of food hygiene in this country is not so good,” Agarwal said in an interview on 13 April 2016.

“We need to bring behavioural changes in society, and work with small and medium businesses to improve standards.”

Every day, for more than a year, FSSAI notified multiple standards of food products and regulations for food businesses. It then shifted the focus to ensuring nutritious food, by educating every citizen about safe food. Agarwal also started revamping the infrastructure of food testing laboratories. It was clear that a different FSSAI was coming into its own.

Not just Nestle

Agarwal was different from his predecessors in that he did not favour an adversarial approach.

Soon after he took over as CEO he began to share public forums with corporate leaders. At first, these discussions were focused on how the FSSAI can extend food safety to every Indian.

Agarwal started announcing partnerships with multinational companies that he believed would ultimately ensure food safety. On the 10th anniversary of the Food Safety and Standards Act, Agarwal announced a 10-point agenda to ensure safe food in all places, including homes, schools, offices, eateries, even religious places.

On 28 March this year, FSSAI formally signed a memorandum of understanding with American beverage maker Coca-Cola Co. Under the agreement, the local entity of the beverage-maker will train 50,000 street food vendors, over a period of three years, on how to prepare safe food, ensure hygiene and manage waste.

“Under Agarwal, FSSAI wants to develop a system that encourages food businesses to innovate and bring new food products into the market. It also wants to do away with unnecessary processes.”

In addition, FSSAI inked a deal with Nestle India to train 700 street food vendors in Goa. “We are also working with companies like ITC Ltd, Mondelez India, Tetra Pak, Jubilant FoodWorks, Yum! Brands, among others, for different projects related to nutrition and food safety,” Agarwal said.

Kolkata-based ITC has been working with FSSAI to ensure nutritious food in about 10,000 schools. Mondelez India Foods Pvt. Ltd does the same at 40 underprivileged schools in north Delhi, as well as looking at points of sale in the retail market. Then came the Nestle Food Safety Institute.

“Nestle Food Safety Institute will conduct training programmes on food safety management systems, testing methods and regulatory standards,” Agarwal said after he inaugurated the institute, the first of its kind in

India. “Partnerships with private parties on food safety and standards are imperative for FSSAI. This is our effort to implement a first world regulatory ecosystem in India.”

Narayanan believes that creating the institute is a milestone. “Nestle can also help with its global expertise in areas of food science,” he said, “which will help FSSAI in taking informed decisions while formulating regulations.”

Reactive corporations

A lot of FSSAI’s actions are in line with how corporations think. In an interview in February this year, Narayanan said: “The relationship with FSSAI is professional. Things are better, in general. The regulator has been putting practical views. The hope is that these get translated into momentum.”

Most spokespersons of food firms refrained from criticizing FSSAI, but a few, on condition of anonymity, said it favoured some Indian companies, such as yoga-guru-turned-businessman Baba Ramdev’s Patanjali Ayurved Ltd. Agarwal insisted that most Patanjali products do not fall under the ambit of FSSAI. A Patanjali spokesperson echoed this view, saying that most of its products fall under the ambit of the ministry of Ayush, and that FSSAI does not have set standards for the ones that could fall under its purview.

T. Krishnakumar, president (India and south-west Asia), Coca-Cola, said life is easier when companies and the sector regulator work in a “collaborative manner”.

“FSSAI’s aim is to operationalize standards without compromising public health and public safety.”

“The dynamic leadership of FSSAI has been focusing on ensuring the highest standards of foods safety for over a billion Indians,” said Hemant Malik, divisional chief executive, foods division, ITC Ltd. “It has also proactively engaged in consultations with all stakeholders, including

the industry, in several issues related to food safety, nutrition, fortification, hygiene and others. We are encouraged to see FSSAI play a pioneering role in taking all industry participants on board in its common mission of ensuring a healthier India.”

But not everyone is happy with FSSAI’s willingness to collaborate with companies. “There’s no doubt that the current CEO is better than all the previous ones,” said a top executive of a food company, asking not to be named. “But lately the regulator is asking companies to invest more and more in things which the regulator should do on its own. There’s a limit to how much a company can invest in social initiatives.”

Towards a larger goal

Agarwal has big ambitions. “Every morning when I get up, I say, my responsibility, and the responsibility of the authority where I work, is to ensure safe and nutritious food for 130 crore citizens,” he said. “You start with the bigger vision and translate that into small implementable activities and you’ll automatically reach there. Our vision is to ensure safe food for citizens, not to make lives difficult for food businesses”.

Under Agarwal, FSSAI wants to develop a system that encourages food businesses to innovate and bring new food products into the market. It also wants to do away with unnecessary processes. “We have changed a few things and are working towards creating an FSSAI interface that every citizen can understand.”

Agarwal wants to set comprehensive standards. He has accelerated the process of setting standards with the help of scientific panels and international references, creating standards where they did not exist. “Standard setting is a dynamic, ongoing process,” he said. “Something is always better than nothing. Setting fresh standards take a lot of time. Codex references

are helpful and can be used as standards until we come up with our own.”

Codex references are standards, codes of practice, guidelines on food, food production and food safety that are recommended by The Codex Alimentarius Commission, a joint intergovernmental body of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and World Health Organization.

FSSAI’s aim is to operationalize standards without compromising public health and public safety. Of course, there are problems in the formative stages. In the first five years, systems were just being established. “There were issues with product approval, which was taking too much time and effort of the authority. We found that product approval processes can be simplified and even done away with in many cases. They are only to be used in cases where there is a concern with safety.”

Strengthening surveillance

The biggest challenges for Agarwal were to ensure proper inspection and stop the misuse of power. At the time of his appointment, FSSAI’s inspection capacity was very limited, he says. There are about 18,000 food safety officers in the US and about 6,000 officers engaged in food inspection in Canada. These are all federal staff. In contrast, FSSAI did not have a single food inspector in its employ. “In India, we depend on food safety officers in the field,” Agarwal said. “There are wide variations from state to state. This is a challenge that we are trying to address as we move forward. We are working with state governments, persuading them to have adequate number of food safety officers. We’ve made some progress.”

“FSSAI’s priority is to slowly inculcate self-regulation. Towards this, the agency recently finalized regulations on third-part audit of food businesses, and has asked the units to have at least one food safety expert trained.”

FSSAI is also building its own team of food inspectors. “A small number initially, we can’t ask for 16,000-18,000 people.” Agarwal said. “We have to be reasonable and look for a staff of a few hundred. We are building numbers at FSSAI headquarters and at regional offices.”

But FSSAI’s priority is to slowly inculcate self-regulation. Towards this, the agency recently finalized regulations on third-part audit of food businesses, and has asked the units to have at least one food safety expert trained. Educational institutes and the National Skill Development Authority will finalize short courses and conduct training.

FSSAI has decided to standardize the procedures around inspection. State-level food safety inspectors will have to follow centrally set standards. Agarwal has also restricted state-level food inspectors from divulging details to the media. Only FSSAI can do so. “Misinformation can cause real reputation damage to brands,” he added.

Making tests flawless

Agarwal is also overseeing the modernization of food testing laboratories across the country. The regulator, which owns and operates two laboratories and has approved 82 others in various states, recently allocated Rs482 crore to strengthen the food testing infrastructure, including upgrading and modernizing laboratories. Under this scheme, 45 food testing laboratories across the country and 14 referral food testing laboratories will be upgraded, enabling them to obtain accreditation from National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL). Besides, FSSAI will also set up 62 mobile testing labs. There are currently four mobile food testing labs in Punjab, Gujarat, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

CAG scanner

Over the past 19 months, Agarwal has established standards and won the trust of corporations. FSSAI has begun working closely

with several ministries, especially towards skill development. It is also ensuring that fortified staples are served in the national government's midday meals scheme. The food regulator was also instrumental in ensuring that a bill proposing much-needed amendments to the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, was placed before Parliament.

Despite all this, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) began looking at FSSAI. Late in 2016, CAG decided to conduct a comprehensive performance audit, a process that continued for months. CAG's audit examined how FSSAI fixes standards, finalizes regulations, approves products, ensures compliance and conducts surveillance. The audit results are awaited.

"It was a routine exercise," said Agarwal. "It wasn't just FSSAI. The audit includes the food safety offices of the states. This is not a matter of concern. Rather, what comes out of the report will help us improve our work."

Look beyond the US

To set standards and regulations, FSSAI primarily follows the example of the US Food and Drug Administration. Experts say this is not enough.

Earlier this year, FSSAI requested the Global Food Safety Partnership (GFSP), a public-private initiative of the World Bank Group, to advise it on international engagements. Donald Macrae, senior consultant on regulatory reform, World Bank Group, submitted a report in July arguing that FSSAI needs to look beyond food regulations in the US and learn from middle-income countries such as Vietnam and China. Only this will ensure food safety across the country.

"FSSAI needs to look beyond food regulations in the US and learn from middle-income countries such as Vietnam and China, said a report released by an initiative of the World Bank."

"Most of its (FSSAI's) partnerships have been with developed countries but it has much to learn from other middle income countries that are facing similar issues at present or have faced them recently and moved through them," Macrae said in the report.

The report lists the areas India can benefit from others' examples. FSSAI can learn about the impact of slow urbanization, and how to help significant rural populations, from countries like Vietnam. It could learn how to scale up from China. FSSAI should emulate the UK in matters like regulatory delivery, third-party certification, risk-based inspection and planning, consumer focus and trust. It should look at the Netherlands and New Zealand for risk communication and compliance support.

"For FSSAI, the regulatory objective is to ensure a supply of safe and wholesome food, not to ensure a revenue stream of fines for violations," Macrae said in an emailed response to queries from Mint. "Punishing those who do not comply because of capacity issues does not solve their capacity issues or deliver safe and wholesome food,"

Under Agarwal, said Macrae, FSSAI is focusing on the new approach of "supporting those willing to comply, in order that their challenges in complying are overcome and they then deliver safe and wholesome food. This focus is in line with what is happening across the world and FSSAI is being truly innovative in tackling this new approach," he added.

Survey/Report

India emerges as milk-producing leader: Minister

Posted by: [Admin](#) October 28, 2017 in [International](#)

<http://www.newspatrolling.com/india-emerges-as-milk-producing-leader-minister/>



Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh on Saturday said that India was emerging as a leader among the milk-producing nations as it produced 163.7 million tonne milk in 2016-17.

He also said that the central government had released Rs 499.08 crore to states under Rashtriya Gokul Mission, with an objective to conserve and propagate indigenous breeds in an organized and scientific manner.

“In 2015-16, total milk production in Bihar was 8.29 million metric tonne, which was 5.33 per cent of the whole country. Bihar has 6.67 per cent of the country’s total cattle population. Therefore, there is a need to increase milk production and productivity in the state,” Singh

said at the Pashu Arogya Mela in Bihar’s Motihari, an official statement said.

He said dairy farming has been a traditional source of livelihood and it has a deep connection with the agricultural economy.

As per the statement, currently, there are 19 crore cattle in the country, which amounts to 14 per cent of the total cattle population of the world.

On the Rashtriya Gokul Mission, he said: “Till now Rs 1,077 crore has been sanctioned for the proposals received from 27 states under the scheme. And so far, Rs 499.08 crore has been released under this scheme.”

The Central government had allocated Rs 67 crore to Bihar under the mission and Rs 22.5 crore were sanctioned for the implementation of this scheme so far, he added.

FIAPO report on dairy industry leaves a bad taste in the mouth

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/fiapo-report-on-dairy-industry-leaves-a-bad-taste-in-the-mouth/article9928288.ece>

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 27:

Investigation reveals animal cruelty in milk-producing centres in 10 States; milk from sick cows a major health hazard

Picture-perfect images of cows on green pastures belie the cruelty inflicted on them in an increasingly space-deprived dairy industry, alleges the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), which has called for stricter norms in the interest of public health and family welfare.

In its report, Cattle-ogue, an investigation into 451 milk-producing centres across 10 States, FIAPO says that cows raised in these dairies were closely confined leaving them unable to nurse their calves, for instance; they were treated like milk-producing machines; genetically manipulated and pumped with antibiotics and hormones in order to produce more milk.

Health risk

And it's not just the animal that suffers in such cases, but also people who end up drinking the milk coming from these sick and depressed animals, says FIAPO director Arpan Sharma. In fact, members of the medical fraternity have pointed

out how milk from distressed animals could increase the chances of

developing heart disease, diabetes, cancer, among other ailments.

The government needs to bring in laws to regulate urban dairies at the Central and State levels, Sharma told BusinessLine.

The FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) regulates milk processing, but when milk is sourced from badly-run dairies, the raw material or input ingredient is affected, he points out. In cities, most of the milk, sweets and paneer are made out of milk sourced from badly run dairies on the periphery of the city, he says.

"The Centre, too, needs to amend the Registration of Cattle Premises Rules 1978 to introduce conditions for the holding of cattle in commercial dairies," he says, adding that they have approached different authorities on this.

Bringing in better and regulated conditions will also help small farmers in the business by weeding out fly-by night, unscrupulous operators, who masquerade as dairy farmers, he added

Unfair treatment

The FIAPO report found that urban dairy animals get little access to soft ground in 78 per cent of the dairies it investigated.

"They spend their lives in cramped, poorly ventilated and dark enclosures in more than one quarter of the dairies, where injuries from slipping in their own excreta are a common occurrence; 64.1 per cent

Not so fair

- The investigation was undertaken in NCT Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, UP, MP, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Telangana and Tamil Nadu
- Letters seeking action have been sent to State and Central authorities and the Food Safety and Standards Authority
- FIAPO has 80 members and 200 supporter organisations



dairies had ill, injured and distressed cattle. Poor veterinary care and illegal use of drugs and hormones such as oxytocin to increase the milk let-down are prevalent. Thus, an evident delinking of humane treatment of cattle as sentient beings, is being noticed as a result of the rising demand for milk and milk products,” the report said.

Further, the report points out that “cattle are separated from calves (male calves die within the first week in 25 per cent of dairies) and receive little to no veterinary care, and are injected with drugs procured illegally to induce sudden milk let-down in almost 50 per cent of the dairies. Unproductive cattle are sold to

economically weaker farmers for their personal use or to slaughterhouses by 62.9 per cent of the dairies – both at low prices to earn meager sums of money from the final disposition”.

Faking it

The investigation also reveals the system of the khalbaccha, an effigy made by stuffing a dead calf with hay. “Because of strong maternal bonds, the mother often stops lactating if the calf has died. Hence a khalbaccha is routinely used to mimic the presence of a calf and continue milking,” it said, calling for an urgent and strict implementation of existing laws of animal welfare and urban governance.

Study reveals some unpalatable truths behind your glass of milk

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/study-reveals-some-unpalatable-truths-behind-your-glass-of-milk/article9925564.ece>

MUMBAI, OCT 26:

Picture-perfect images of happy cows on green pastures belie the cruelty inflicted on the animal in an increasingly space-deprived dairy industry, alleges the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), calling for stricter norms on the dairy industry in the interest of public health and family welfare.

In its report “CATTLE-OGUE”, an investigation of 451 milk producing centres across 10 milk producing states, FIAPO says that cows raised in these dairies were closely confined, leaving them unable to nurse their calves, for instance; they were treated like milk-producing machines, genetically manipulated and pumped with antibiotics and hormones in order to produce more milk.

And it’s not just the animal that suffers in such cases, but also people who end up drinking the milk from these sick and depressed animals, says FIAPO director Arpan Sharma. In fact, he adds, members of the medical fraternity have pointed

out how milk from distressed animals could increase the chances of developing heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and other ailments.

At the Central and state levels, the Government needs to bring in laws to regulate, especially, the urban dairies, Sharma told BusinessLine. The FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) regulates milk processing, but when milk is sourced from badly-run dairies the raw material or input ingredient is affected, he points out. In cities, most of the milk, sweets, paneer, etc, is got from milk sourced from badly run dairies on the periphery of the city, he says.

“The Centre, too, needs to amend the Registration of Cattle Premises Rules, 1978, to introduce conditions for the holding of cattle in commercial dairies,” he says, adding that they have approached different authorities on this.

Bringing in better and regulated conditions will also help small farmers in the business by weeding out fly-by-night, unscrupulous

operators who masquerade as dairy farmers, he added.

Not so white

The FIAPO report found in the dairies it investigated that urban dairy animals get little access to soft ground in 78 per cent of the dairies. “They spend their lives in cramped, poorly ventilated and dark enclosures in more than one quarter of the dairies, where injuries from slipping in their own excreta are a common occurrence, 64.1 per cent dairies had ill, injured and distressed cattle. Poor veterinary care and illegal use of drugs and hormones such as oxytocin to increase the milk let-down are prevalent. Thus, an evident delinking of humane treatment of cattle as sentient beings is being noticed as a result of the rising demand for milk and milk products,” the report said.

Further, the report points out, “cattle are separated from calves (male calves die within the first week in 25 per cent of dairies), receive little to no veterinary care and are injected with drugs procured illegally to induce sudden milk let-down in almost 50 per cent of the dairies. Unproductive cattle are sold to economically weaker farmers for their personal use or the

slaughterhouses by 62.9 per cent dairies – both at low prices to earn meagre sums of money from the final disposition.”

The investigation also reveals the system of the khalbaccha, an effigy made by stuffing a dead calf with hay. “Because of strong maternal bonds, the mother often stops lactating if the calf has died. Hence a khalbaccha is routinely used to mimic the presence of a calf and continue milking,” it said, calling for an urgent and strict implementation of existing laws of animal welfare and urban governance.

Info-box:

The investigation was undertaken in: NCT Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, UP, MP, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Telangana and Tamil Nadu.

Letters seeking action have been sent to State and Central authorities and the Food Safety and Standards Authority (FSSAI).

FIAPO has 80 members and 200 supporter organisations.

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Dairy farmers to cut greenhouse gas production by 25 by 2020

26th Oct, 2017

To read the news please follow the link below:

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2017/10/25/Dairy-farmers-to-cut-greenhouse-gas-production-by-25-by-2020>

Up to half of milk, fruits and veggies produced in India goes waste due to poor cold chain infra: Study

Oct 24, 2017, 18:27 IST

https://m.timesofindia.com/city/mangaluru/up-to-half-of-milk-fruits-and-veggies-produced-in-india-goes-waste-due-to-poor-cold-chain-infra-study/amp_articleshow/61205574.cms

Despite India being world's largest producer for milk and second largest producer of fruits and vegetables, about 40 to 50 per cent of the total production valued of \$440 billion (bn) ends up wasting, noted a recent ASSOCHAM-MRSS India study.

"India has about 6,300 cold storage facilities with a capacity of 30.11 million metric tons, which are only able to store about 11 per cent of the country's total perishable produce," said ASSOCHAM secretary general D S Rawat while releasing the study.

Highlighting that about 60 per cent of this capacity is spread across states of UP, West Bengal, Gujarat and Punjab, the ASSOCHAM-MRSS India joint study noted, "The situation is severe in southern part of India due to unavailability of cold storage units, moreover as the climate is far more hot and humid."

The study estimated that cold chain market in India valued at \$167.24 bn in 2016 is projected to reach \$234.49 bn by 2020. The cold chain market has grown steadily in the last few years and this trend is projected to continue until 2020.

While there are many positive changes in Indian cold chain market, however high operating costs is a major roadblock for sector's overall growth.

"Shortage of adequate infrastructure, lack of trained personnel, outdated technology and

inconsistent power supply are other major obstacles in growth of cold chain infrastructure in India," said Rawat.

Setting up cold-chain involves higher infrastructure cost for operations. "Given the expected growth in grocery retail to \$847.9 bn by 2020 from \$500 bn in 2012, there are some changes expected by the industry as a whole to ensure three significant areas of handling food collection, storage and transportation to be more cost effective for retailers."

Technology interventions like GPS and sensors be used to centrally monitor and track the temperature, position of truck to ensure better control on product quality.

While retail cold chain as a sector is currently struggling to be more efficient, there is a lot of headroom for improvement with the help of operational and technology level changes which can be brought into the overall system.

By implementing self-updating and hosted computer systems, cloud storage offers many benefits to warehousing include cutting down on maintenance, infrastructure and labour costs that come from installation and upgrading of warehouse management systems.

The industry should be switching the man-to-goods process to goods-to-man, machines like these are just an example of how robotics can be used to revolutionize logistics.

Milky business

Updated: Oct 22, 2017, 06:25 AM IST, DNA

<http://www.dnaindia.com/health/report-milky-business-2554374>

The battle of low-fat milk vs full-fat milk began years ago and still continues to wage. In fact, we've been advised to opt for skimmed milk over full-fat dairy milk for ages now. However, large population studies conducted abroad have begun to question this choice. Also, certain research has suggested that those who consume full-fat dairy weigh less and are less likely to develop diabetes too.

WHAT RESEARCH SAYS

In a recent study, published in the journal *Circulation*, Dr Dariush Mozaffaria and his colleagues analysed the blood of 3,333 people enrolled in the Nurses' Health Study of Health Professionals Follow-up Study taken over 15 years. They found that people who had higher levels of three different by-products of full-fat dairy had, on average, a 46 per cent lower risk of getting diabetes during the study period than those with lower levels.

Full-fat dairy products contain more calories, and so many experts assumed avoiding it would lower diabetes risk. However, studies have found that when people reduce how much fat they eat, they tend to replace it with sugar or carbohydrates, both of which can have worse effects on insulin and diabetes risk.

In another separate study published in the *American Journal of Nutrition*, another group analysed the effects of full-fat and low-fat dairy on obesity and found that among 18,438 women in the Women's Health Study, those who consumed the most high-fat dairy products lowered their risk of being overweight or obese by 8 per cent.

EXPERT SPEAK

What do our experts think of these studies? Nutritionist Karishma Chawla of Eat Rite 24x7, says that there can be some evidence to the study mentioned. However, too much

indulgence in saturated fats also can lead to imbalance in fats. Low-fat milk is preferred with the least fat percentage for fat loss and overall well-being. Saturated fats, come in from a lot of invisible fats like egg yolk, milk products, red meats, etc. Hence, it is imperative to monitor the fat coming in from foods, advises Chawla.

Dr Pradeep Gadge, diabetologist, Gadge Diabetes Centre, opines that nutrition is an ever-changing field. One day, a certain food is good for you; the next day, not so much. The researches mentioned above was conducted as prospective studies. A prospective study is a study that involves a lot of watching and waiting over a period of time. A prospective study, while helpful and interesting, is not strong enough or conclusive enough to establish cause and effect.

VERDICT

So what would our experts recommend? "Well, I think the concept of milk and fat is misunderstood. The ideal thing is to consume fats in balance, for long term health. Too much of saturated fats coming from full fat milk can disrupt the balance leading to increase of inflammation and degenerative diseases," says Chawla.

Dr Gadge says, "You can choose to go on full-fat dairy, But consider the following: Limit your servings to no more than two per day. Eat foods with healthy, unsaturated fats. Until we learn more about saturated fat, it's wise to make sure that you consume healthier fats."

"One cup of whole milk provides 149 calories and 5 gms of saturated fat but 1 cup of skimmed milk contains only 83 calories and 0.1 gm of saturated fat. If you prefer milk with a thicker texture than skimmed milk, try 1 per cent milk, which has 102 calories and 1.5 gms of saturated fat per cup," informs Dr Manjiri Puranik, weight loss expert, Insta Sculpt.



Puranik gives her verdict saying, “At the end of the day, if you balance the total number of calories per day, you can still have milk in your regular diet, which is high-fat depending on

underlying associated medical conditions or you can opt for healthy milk options like coconut milk or almond milk.”

Foreign News

Fresh Dairy to intensify trainings for dairy farmers

Added 28th October 2017 02:11 PM

https://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1464625/fresh-dairy-intensify-trainings-dairy-farmers

The training will be accompanied with close monitoring on their farms to ensure that they are putting into practice what they learn.



VALUE ADDITION | MILK PRODUCTION

Regular training of farmers in best practices in dairy farming is one of the ways through which Fresh Dairy plans to ensure that there is continuous production of milk to meet export demands.

The trainings will be channeled through farmer field days that bring together stakeholders in the dairy value chain in different places where their farmers are based.

The trainings will be accompanied with close monitoring on their farms to ensure that they are putting into practice what they learn.

While speaking at a farmer field day in Sembabule district, John Gethi, the director of milk procurement at Fresh Dairy, said: “We want to train farmers and show them how best to manage and handle milk. We have given them milk coolers. We want to make sure that there is quality milk right from the village to the processing plant”.

According to Gethi, trainings conducted in the past are already yielding results, as evidenced by a growth in exports from \$13m between January and August 2016 to \$18m in the same period this year.



PIC: Lwemiyaga MP Thoedore Ssekikubo addressing farmers. (Credit: Shamim Saad)

He said pay outs to farmers by Fresh Dairy increased from sh24b last year to sh58b this year. Apart from enriching the economy with earnings from export, the milk processor also contributed to the tax base sh3b this year up from sh2b last year.

“This shows that Dairy is becoming a major contributor to the national economy and is positioning itself as one of the major foreign exchange earners,” added Gethi.

During the farmer’s field day, farmers called on stakeholders to help find a lasting solution to ticks, which they said are making it hard for cattle to produce milk.

Lwemiyaga county MP Theodre Ssekikubo, who

was the chief guest, called on the government to speed up the programme of extending water to rural areas.

"Cows get infected by some of the diseases as they move around in such for water," he said.

Local dairy industry faces challenges

Oct 27, 2017

http://www.cadillacnews.com/news/local-dairy-industry-faces-challenges/article_05c9bf66-e3c1-56d9-b34b-103e4f18c9c8.html

Gingrich Meadows is a 1,500-acre farm operation in northern Osceola County. Just outside LeRoy, it has 450 dairy cows, making it more than twice the size of the national average of 220, but it may not be enough, co-owner Amy Martin said.

"That size of farm is disappearing fast," Martin said. "Many farmers are not finding it worth it. They're not making any money, and they're just giving up."

In the 1980s, there were as many as 11,000 dairy farms throughout Michigan. Today, there are fewer than 1,900.

Exactly why they have declined so rapidly over the decades is due to two self-reinforcing factors: lower prices and higher efficiency.

According to the latest figures put out by the USDA in September, out of the largest milk producing states in the country, Michigan prices are the lowest at \$16.60 per 100 gallons (cwt).

However, that is because Michigan is one of the most efficient dairy producing states, ranking third nationally in milk production per cow at 24,638 pounds.

"Prices are really tough, you have to be super efficient," Martin said. "There's no room for error."

The dairy industry is in a race to the bottom, Martin said. In order to make up for dropping prices, farms have had to increase production by adopting greater efficiency measures, which grows supply, but further drives down the price,

and as prices drop only large operations can make up for losses by implementing expensive efficiency measures in order to stay in business.

The price of milk peaked in April 2014 at \$25.50 cwt, which was a very profitable time for dairy farmers, Martin said, but during this time farms invested heavily into new technologies that increased the amount of milk produced per cow, which later drove prices down again.

By April 2015, milk prices had fallen to \$16.60, where they have stayed more or less the same since.

To recoup lost revenue Gingrich Meadows adopted greater efficiency measures such as hiring nutritionists to develop vitamin recipes for livestock that maximize milk production, and increased computerization.

However, expensive vitamin cocktails, comfort controls for cattle, and investment in more complicated technical capital have slimmed returns.

The \$15.50-\$16 cwt range, which was once profitable, is now little more than a break even amount, Martin said.

"It's been over three years now of low dairy prices," she said. "We've never seen them so low."

As a result, Gingrich Meadows can't hire as much labor, and has been forced to drop some premiums for crop insurance.

“It increases our risk of loss, but you gotta do what you gotta do to pay the bills,” she said.

Most farms sell their milk to co-ops, a company that is responsible for finding a home for commodities. Co-ops reduce the risk farmers have to take in finding buyers

Co-ops make it safe for farmers to stay in business, but co-ops have had difficulty keeping up with Michigan dairy production, and have had to ship milk to adjacent states, which raises expenses.

Not only is shipping out of state expensive for suppliers like Martin, but in turn saturates markets in those places, which creates a cascading over supply effect.

Wisconsin, where many Michigan farms including Martin’s export dairy products, has more than 8,000 dairy farms (comparable to Michigan in the 1980s), but is now losing them at a rate of seven per week as prices there fall.

This was all writing on the wall to Brad Morgan, founder and president of Morgan Composting, when he sold his 250 dairy cow operation in the 1990s to begin his manure management business.

“Our objective is to make cheap food so we can afford a snowmobile,” Morgan said. “It sounds funny, but to a point it’s always going to be a balance of supply and demand, and farmers are creative geniuses. They can be known as their own worst enemy because with today’s technology they can overproduce. And that’s what’s happened.”

Morgan said the food processing system in place today has become complacent, and that processors like Yoplait and Dean’s haven’t done a good job of product development. Rather than just increasing efficiency, farmers should look into doing it themselves.

“We can sell Coke, we can sell Pepsi, we can sell beer, but we really can’t sell milk. What’s happening now I think there’s going to be new avenues of opportunity, whether it’s in Michigan or nationwide that’s going to look at specialty

products that can get to the consumer today,” Morgan said.

Rather than just selling a bottle of milk, cheese, or yogurt, farmers and processors have to come up with new products that can supply, and Morgan knows a few things about market diversification.

Morgan Composting has developed over 20 different products, and Morgan wants to see the same attitude of diversification applied to the dairy industry as a whole.

“Dairy products are not that different,” Morgan said. “Everybody wants to put it in the bottle, put it on the shelf and have the customer buy it, but you can only go so far. In time, creating new, innovative ways to take milk and put it into a product that becomes more sensible is probably, in my mind, the missing link in what has to happen in the future.”

That’s pretty tough for an individual farm to do, Amy Martin said.

“I’ve been working 18 hour days for the last couple of weeks. I don’t have time to try to develop some new flavor of yogurt,” she said.

Although Martin knows of some of the farms that have decided to bottle their own milk, it’s not enough for an operation of her size.

“For me, if I was to do that, where am I going to sell 8,000 gallons of milk a day? Because that’s what I would need to have to do,” she said.

That is why most farms defer product development to their co-ops or rely on processors like Yoplait or Dean’s, which are already actively engaged in identifying market trends to do it for them.

However, if farms become larger and more efficient, it may push them to vertically integrate their supply chains, thus making co-ops and processors redundant, Morgan said.

“If you can’t sell it you can’t make it. And that’s what the dairy industry is facing,” he said.

Whatever the future holds, Martin is dedicated to Gingrich Meadows's success.

"It's kind of a turning point right now I think only the strong and the most well-managed farms, no matter what size, are going to survive," she said.

Murray Goulburn's end angers dairy farmers

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2017/10/27/murray-goulburns-end-angers-dairy-farmers>

Dairy farmers have vented their anger over the demise of dairy processor Murray Goulburn, with some saying it sounds a death knell for the dairy industry.

At a packed Murray Goulburn annual general meeting on Friday, dairy farmers whose families have supplied Murray Goulburn for decades lamented the agreement to sell the dairy co-operative to Canadian dairy giant Saputo for \$1.3 billion.

Over two-and-a-half hours, dairy farmers mostly blasted the board, claiming Murray Goulburn had been poorly managed, had not done enough to save the co-op, had not communicated properly and had capitulated to Saputo when other suitors might have been better.

One Murray Goulburn shareholder and supplier said his family had been supplying milk to Murray Goulburn for 40 years but overseas experience showed that as dairy co-operatives collapsed, so too did the industry.

"I really see this as the death knell of our industry," he said.

Another farmer thanked the "old" board for "stuffing up a truly magnificent Australian company", which prompted chairman John Spark to ask that his comments be respectful.

"That was respectful," the man replied.

Another attendee said the board should have consulted dairy farmers before agreeing to sell to Saputo, accusing the directors of treating people "like sheep" and giving away three generations of suppliers.

Some farmers, however, accepted the outcome and praised the board for trying to find a solution to the co-operative's problems.

"I feel too tired now to fight on to save a name, unfortunately," said another 40-year veteran.

Craig Dwyer, one of several farmer directors on the Murray Goulburn board, said he never thought that Murray Goulburn would be sold and that its problems could be fixed.

"However reality has prevailed and forced our hand," Mr Dwyer said.

Mr Dwyer said the board had considered all options, including remaining as a stand-alone entity, and equity partnership and a full share sale.

"Believe me when I say that no stone has been left unturned by the board and management in exhausting all avenues before arriving at this agreement," he said.

Murray Goulburn chief executive Ari Mervis said Murray Goulburn simply could not go in its present form given its high debt, declining milk supplies and inability to match the "aggressive"

farmgate milk price on offer from other dairy processors.

Murray Goulburn's milk supplies have fallen dramatically since the co-operative shocked the industry in April 2016 with a surprise cut to the price it pays farmers for their milk.

The price cut prompted some dairy farmers to quit supplying Murray Goulburn or retire altogether from the sector.

At one stage during Friday's meeting meeting, the lights in the room temporarily went out.

"We're well and truly in the dark now," chairman John Spark said.

In Organic Farming, Rules Are Not Made to be Broken

<https://www.commondreams.org/views/2017/10/27/organic-farming-rules-are-not-made-be-broken>

Consumers see organic food labels showing cows grazing next to a little red barn and that's what they want to buy, products from happy cows owned by profitable farmers that respect the rules, their customers, the environment and their animals.

And, most organic milk is still produced that way—the barns are not always red, but most organic farmers still fit the image their customers see on the label.

When USDA's National Organic Program (NOP) puts rules for organic production in place, they need to be followed, farmers have to find a way—and NOP needs to enforce those rules for everyone.

NOP is, per their website, "a regulatory program housed within the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service. We are responsible for developing national standards for organically-produced agricultural products. These standards assure consumers that products with the USDA organic seal meet consistent, uniform standards."

Recent articles in The Washington Post however, describe a fact many small organic farmers have protested for years—there are organic farms milking thousands of cows in operations little different from a non-organic concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO). Post reporters, during visits to Aurora dairy in Greeley CO, found

only a few hundred cows grazing at any one time out of a herd of 15,000.

Aurora's website states that "Aurora Organic Dairy is a leading producer and processor of high quality organic milk and butter for retail store brands". Questions about the integrity of organic milk from industrial organic farms seems to make little difference to the mega-retailers (Walmart, Costco and Target).

The recently closed Aurora investigation covered in The Post found no violations. Still, in 2007 the USDA identified "willful violations" of organic rules by Aurora, including failure to provide pasture. Aurora agreed to "major changes" thus saving their organic status. The recent Post story would indicate few changes occurred. Think about it, how do you move 15,000 cows to pasture and back twice or three times a day for milking? Cows aren't sprinters, NOP is, for some reason, denying reality.

US production accounts for about 60% of the organic corn and 20% of the soybeans needed domestically and demand is increasing about 15% a year. Much of the deficit is filled by lower priced grain from the Black Sea Region of Eastern Europe.

Imported grain is cheaper because, often, it is not organic. Peter Whoriskey, reported in the Washington Post May 12, 2017 "The label said

‘organic’ but these massive imports of corn and soybeans weren’t.” He describes a shipment of conventional soybeans from Turkey to California last year that, in transit, became organic, or so the documentation said.

If providing a false organic certificate makes conventional grain organic, one can see why most organic grain farmers in the United States are losing money, and why many are considering giving up on organic production.

Organic dairy farmers have seen a 30% cut in their pay price over the past year, yet USDA Ag Marketing Service data shows, retail organic dairy prices have actually gone up 25% in some cases.

There is supposed to be an ethical commitment to organic, on the part of farmers, processors, retailers and of course the regulatory agency.

Fraudulent organic production, is destroying the organic farming sector in the United States. If USDA doesn’t correct the situation, organic farmers with integrity will lose out to fraudulent imports and CAFO organic dairies.

Those of us who still uphold that image of small red barns have provided a product that consumers expect when they buy organic and we struggle to make it work economically—without cutting corners. How much longer we can survive really depends on whether or not USDA decides that organic rules need to be followed by everyone...no matter how big their farm is, or what country they farm in.

Antibiotic taskforce announces new targets to reduce use in livestock

27 October 2017 15:03:49 |

https://www.farminguk.com/news/Antibiotic-taskforce-announces-new-targets-to-reduce-use-in-livestock_47762.html

It follows news that sales of antibiotics to treat and prevent disease in UK farm livestock have achieved a record low following a 27% reduction over the past two years.

Announced at a London conference on Friday (27 October), the sector-specific targets were developed over the past year by a ‘Targets Task Force’, facilitated by the Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture (RUMA) Alliance.

The Targets Task Force comprises a leading veterinary surgeon and farmer from each of the beef, dairy, egg, fish, gamebird, pig, poultry meat and sheep sectors, who have been consulting with key organisations in their respective industries.

While the targets each sector has set vary according to the availability of data and scope in their sector, the targets as a whole have been described as ‘positive and proactive’.

Furthermore, the regulator has welcomed the voluntary sharing of usage data by the different farm livestock sectors, saying it has been ‘sincerely impressed by the way different sectors have risen, or are rising to the challenge’.

60% for pigs

The headline targets for the eight sectors include a reduction in use of antibiotics in pigs by over 60% between 2015 and 2020, with minimal use of highest priority Critically Important Antibiotics (CIAs).

Data released earlier in the day indicate a good start has been made, with usage in the pig sector falling by around 35% between 2015 and 2016.

Targets Task Force member and president of the Pig Veterinary Society Mark White said he was pleased such a significant milestone had been reached in the first year of concerted efforts to reduce antibiotic use.

“It’s encouraging to see the response in the sector to the challenge laid down, which bodes well for achieving our ambitious 2020 goal,” he said.

“It is evident that the sector – steered mainly by the members of the Pig Veterinary Society, AHDB Pork and the National Pig Association – has the will and the capability to fully engage with the issue.”

Next steps, he said, were to focus on eliminating routine preventative treatment where it is still happening, mainly due to lack of resource or expertise.

“We can also work to improve water delivery systems so that more targeted treatment in the water can be used instead of in-feed medication.”

20% for dairy cattle

The dairy cattle sector has committed to a 20% reduction by 2020, with a particular focus on halving use of the highest priority CIAs.

The work to achieve this will be led by a newly-created Dairy Antimicrobial Stewardship Group (DASG) which includes all key organisations in the sector.

Some of the strategies to achieve these goals in dairy farming include reducing the use of antibiotic dry cow therapy and injectable products, and cutting back on group treatments such as antibiotic footbaths for lameness which remain largely unproven, instead using topical and targeted treatments.

Di Wastnage, dairy farmer from Devon, Task Force member and chair of the DASG, said the sector needed to be ambitious about what it could achieve.

“While use is lower than in some sectors, there are clear areas to tackle where use can be habitual, or common disease problems go unchallenged.

“For example, eliminating BVD and Persistently Infected animals from the herd is one of the obvious places to start, as well as talking to your vet to calculate the usage levels you have at the moment.

Calf rearing can produce a ‘hot spot’ of treatment, as can digital dermatitis. Everyone has the potential to use antibiotics more responsibly somewhere.”

Poultry will maintain

Three sectors – poultry meat, laying hen and fish – are either already low users of medicines or have made significant reductions over the past five years.

These sectors will be focusing on maintaining use at the minimal level needed to ensure good health and welfare among their livestock, while tackling emerging challenges should they arise.

The poultry meat sector, previously described as a ‘pathfinder’ for the rest of the farming industry, has already reduced use by 71% between 2012, when its stewardship scheme was introduced, and 2016.

In doing this, the poultry meat sector has also ceased all preventative treatment and use of the highest priority CIAs. It will now maintain current levels in chickens and look for further reductions in turkeys.

This sector will use clinical governance to ensure CIA antibiotics are only prescribed when absolutely needed and with sign off from veterinary specialists and management.

The laying hen and fish sectors have similarly committed to continuing low use, with the laying hen sector eliminating all use of highest priority CIAs in the past two years.

The gamebird sector, having undergone a comprehensive awareness-raising initiative among game rearers in 2017 to cut back on reducing the need for medicines, aims to reduce use by a quarter this year, with a further 25% reduction between 2018 and 2020.

10% for beef and sheep

The beef and sheep sectors are already low users of antibiotics, but have acknowledged they each need better data, and will also commit to addressing 'hotspots' of use.

Both have committed to a 10% reduction in antibiotic use by 2020, subject to securing better data.

For the beef sector, reduction in use centres around calves and youngstock, particularly in the areas of respiratory disease.

There is also an emphasis on calves from dairy herds, where mixing animals from different sources can create a peak in disease pressure similar to children going to school for the first time.

In sheep, the focus areas are to reduce routine preventative antibiotic usage against abortion (miscarriage), lameness and neonatal lamb diseases such as watery mouth and joint ill.

With initiatives proving that routine preventative use is largely avoidable through a combination of vaccination, good hygiene,

quality nutrition and careful shepherding, Dr Fiona Lovatt of the Targets Task Force is optimistic about the opportunities to reduce overall use.

"In the sheep sector, we're not high users of antibiotics. But we want to ensure that any use is totally targeted so we are challenging all inappropriate or routine preventative use.

"Convincing farmers to change practices is tricky, and none of us want to see an increase in levels of disease, but those who have had the courage to work with their vets to change what they do are now seeing what is possible. The answer is to take a holistic approach and work closely with a keen sheep vet."

'Leadership and persistence'

Gwyn Jones, chair of both RUMA and the Targets Task Force, said he has been "overwhelmed" by the positivity of the group and its willingness to be ambitious.

"The members have worked very hard and have shown incredible leadership and persistence. They have also provided unprecedented support and inspiration to each other.

"I am delighted they have agreed that the group should continue to meet twice-yearly to review progress and discuss issues."

The Targets Task Force was first proposed by RUMA after the O'Neill Review on Antimicrobial Resistance was published in May 2016.

The group was progressed after Government confirmed an objective to have sector-specific targets in place by the end of 2017.

Consumers must be informed about dairy substitute drinks

October 27, 2017 12:02 pm

<https://www.farmersweekly.co.za/agri-news/world/consumers-must-informed-dairy-substitute-drinks/>

Dairy substitute drinks do not contain adequate levels of iodine, and according to UK researchers they are therefore not a suitable alternative for the 'real thing'.

Researchers at the University of Surrey examined the iodine content of 47 dairy substitute drinks – including those containing soya, almond, coconut, oat, rice, hazelnut and hemp – excluding those marketed specifically for infants and children – and compared it with that of cows' milk.

In a report on the study in the British Journal of Nutrition, the researchers said that the majority of dairy substitute or milk-alternative drinks contained iodine concentration levels of about 2% of that found in cows' milk.

According to the report, iodine is required to produce thyroid hormones, and is particularly important during pregnancy as it is essential for foetal brain development.

Previous research at university found that low iodine levels in pregnant mothers was linked to lower IQ and reading scores in their children up to age nine.

"Many people are unaware of the need for this vital dietary mineral and it is important that people who consume milk-alternative drinks realise that they will not be replacing the iodine [found in] cows' milk," Margaret Rayman, professor of nutritional medicine, said in a statement.

A glass of a milk-alternative drink only provides about 2mcg of iodine, a small proportion of the adult recommended iodine intake of 150mcg/day. In pregnancy, that recommendation goes up to 200mcg/day, she said.

Sarah Bath, lecturer in public health nutrition at the university said: "If avoiding milk and dairy products, consumers need to ensure that they get iodine from other dietary sources."

Dairy farmers demand EU action on milk prices

Oct 27, 2017 (updated: Oct 27, 2017)



Europe's dairy farmers gathered in front of the European Commission's headquarters in Brussels on Thursday (26 October) to demand measures to improve their income security in the face of recurring crises in the sector.

At the demonstration organised by the European Milk Board (EMB) as part of its 'Butter isn't everything' campaign, farmers and their representatives called on the EU executive to establish a volume reduction scheme, legally anchored in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), to ensure Europe's milk production responds to fluctuations in price.

A similar measure implemented in August 2016 provided €150m of incentives to farmers to cut production, which quickly reduced the volume of milk arriving on the market and drove up its price. 44,000 farmers voluntarily cut their output over a six-month period, taking some 852,000 tonnes of milk off the market.

According to a Commission spokesperson, the EU average milk price is now 34% higher than in August 2016 and close to 10% higher than the average over the last five years.

But farmers say recent gains are not enough to cancel out the losses of previous years and they need more security. Despite a recent surge in the butter price due to a shortage of supply, most of the extra money generated has not found its way back to milk producers.

"It is an impossible situation for the last link in the milk production chain, which has received no consideration in policy to date," said EMB President Romuald Schaber.

Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker agreed in his State of the Union speech that "there is something wrong in a market when the price of a litre of milk is less than the price of a litre of water", but Commission sources were adamant that any attempt to regulate production in the long-term would amount to a return to quotas, which it has ruled out.

"Since the decision was taken in 2003 to stop milk quotas, member states have always been clear that this was a solution from the past which could not work in an open, global market," the sources told EURACTIV.com. "Quotas are off the table."

'Absurd profits'

A representative of the EMB blamed milk processors for taking advantage of EU farmers and "making absurd profits while not sharing their margins over the whole production chain". She said they pay producers based on the world market price, which does not take into account the added value and high overhead costs of the EU dairy sector.

“When the price of milk goes down, the profits of the processors and retailers go up,” she added.

The Commission spokesperson said the EU executive was following the situation in the dairy market very closely. “The price recovery for all dairy products is a welcome situation for milk producers who struggled for the past years,” the spokesperson said adding that “while the situation in the dairy market is improving, there is no room for complacency”.

Yet farmers fear a repeat of the past boom and bust model. “The higher price is driving up

production, which means that in the end the price will crash again,” Christophe Herden, a German dairy farmer from near Cologne, told EURACTIV at the demonstration.

“We want the dairy industry to have a long-term perspective, which it currently does not have,” the farmer added.

The Commission is holding an online public consultation on improving the functioning of the food chain. The consultation is open until 17 November.

3 dairy farmers to share robotic milking experiences at Lely open days

5:30 am - October 22, 2017

<http://www.agriland.ie/farming-news/3-dairy-farmers-to-share-robotic-milking-experiences-at-lely-open-days/>

Three dairy farmers, all of whom use Lely robotic milking systems, will open their gates to share their experiences of robotic milking.

The farmers in question are located in the counties of Tipperary, Westmeath and Waterford; each runs a unique system and two of the three farmers are recent converts from beef farming.

New entrants from beef to dairy

Eric Wallace always knew there was going to be dairy cows milked on his farm; he just wasn't sure whether they were going to be his own cows or the neighbours.

Hailing from Templederry, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, he had built up a sizeable suckler herd of 70 cows over the years. However, he always believed that dairying was the only way forward for his 150ac farm.

Working full-time with the Department of Agriculture, Eric and his wife Siobhan have two children – Elliot and Hariett. The combination of full-time employment and family commitments meant that spare time was scarce. So, the decision was made to convert to dairy and invest in a Lely Astronaut A4 robotic milking system.

Starting Up With Robots

Wallace touched on his experiences of starting up with robots, saying: “The first two months were demanding enough.

“We started with 70 cows (mainly heifers) and calved them one-by-one onto the robot. It took them a while to get the hang of the robot and the Grazeway gates and we spent a lot of time training them.

“However, they have all settled well and things are flying here. We are operating an ABC grazing

system, which ensures the cows are offered fresh grass every eight hours.

“They are currently milking 1.8 times a day and averaging 15L of milk on 3kg of concentrates. Herd average is expected to be 5,300L/cow, with protein at 3.8%, fat at 4.4% and a somatic cell count (SCC) of 94,000 cells/ml – we are very happy,” he said.

Information And Health

According to the Tipperary-based farmer, the Time for Cows (T4C) management tool generates excellent information. This includes: heat detection and rumination; somatic cell counter, weight, feed to yield, daily milk protein and milk fat indication; and automatic drafting.

The system is very good and user friendly. I dial in remotely and only use it when I need it. I can't believe how quiet the cows are. Visitors to the yard have often commented on how healthy and contented they look.

Advice

Wallace continued: “Overall, I have no regrets. The first few months were very frustrating waiting for all the cows to calve down and adjust to the system.

“One really needs help at the start to get cows pushed through the system and I was lucky I had my farm manager, Michael Carroll, to keep an eye on things when I am away.

“The team of engineers from the Lely Center in Mullingar are very helpful; they offer 24/7 backup and are accessible anytime.

“As regards the robot itself, there is really no work to it and it's singing away now,” he concluded.

When And Where?

Eric and Siobhan Wallace will host an open day on their farm at Templeberry, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, on Tuesday, October 24. The open day will run from 11:00am to 4:00pm.

The farm will be signposted from the R498 – the Borrisoleigh to Nenagh Road.

Making The Switch From Beef To Dairy

The Glennon family are new entrants to dairy farming, having come from a suckler-to-store system. With the abolition of quotas, along with family support and a burning desire to milk cows, they began milking last February.

Operated by Liam Glennon, 150ac are farmed in total; 50ac of this farm is allocated to his new herd of 70 spring-calving cows.

Based in Dysart, Co. Westmeath, the Glennons started off with 45 heifers and 25 cows; all of these are British Friesian / Holstein Friesian cross.

Calving started in February and cows were let out to grass from mid-February onwards. Herd average is expected to be 5,500L/cow at 3.5% protein and 4.2% fat.

Why Lely Robots?

On choosing Lely robots, Glennon said: “I always wanted to milk cows, but felt it was too costly to enter over the years with quotas. We have a good block of land here and, bar the Single Farm Payment, the returns from beef were poor.

We enjoy GAA and rugby and wanted the flexibility to attend matches, plus we didn't want to be tied to the milking process – twice a day – for the rest of our lives.

“We chose Lely as it provides a lot of knowledge and support – particularly when it comes to grazing.”

The First Year

Glennon continued: “My first year has been demanding enough starting out. We started with 70 cows and it took them some time to get the hang of the robotic milking system and grazing.

“We spent a lot of time training cows and they fully understand the system now and are moving very well.

“We are operating an AB grazing system, which ensures the cows are offered fresh grass every 12 hours. They are currently averaging 16L/day on 3kg of concentrate over two milkings at the moment; we are very happy and contented.”

The Overall Plan

Although Glennon started with 70 cows, his intention is to expand to 120-130 cows in the next few years.

“We have the land available to use and I plan to start reseeded to allow this expansion. We already have a lot of the roadways, fields fenced and paddocks – so we are well set up.

The increased workload isn’t worrying me at all; bar the calvings, there shouldn’t be any more work really.

“Once the farm is set up and well laid out, the Lely Astronaut will milk the cows and allow me time to attend to the other stuff,” he said.

Maintenance And Routine Tasks

With almost eight months experience under his belt, the Westmeath-based farmer spoke about the data generated by the Lely robot.

“You have to engage with the robot, as it will only milk your cows and give you information. You have to learn the basics and work with the machine to get confidence in the system.

“Reliability and performance is much better than originally anticipated and there is virtually no down time.

Doing the simple daily basic tasks, such as: cleaning the laser; washing down the arm; changing the filter sock; and checking the health cow lists, makes life easier as you can nip any problems in the bud before they occur.

“Overall, we have no regrets, everything has worked out as we imagined. It’s been a great year for grass and milk prices and apart from the recent poor weather, it’s been a good year overall,” he concluded.

When And Where?

The Glennon family will host an open day on their farm at Dysart, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, on Wednesday, October 25. The open day will run from 11:00am to 4:00pm.

The farm will be signposted from the R391 – the Mullingar to Horseleap Road.

Switching To Robots In Co. Waterford

David and Helen Murphy – along with their children Jenny, Bridget and Andrew – farm in Rathmaiden, Kilmacthomas, Co. Waterford.

Murphy became the proud owner of the first Lely Astronaut A4 milking robot in the south east, which was installed in January 2013.

He is currently milking 73 Pedigree Holstein Friesian cows; these are averaging 7,500L of milk at 3.4% protein and 4.2% fat. SCC is averaging 60,000 cells/ml and the total bacterial count (TBC) is running at 4,000.

Why A Lely Astronaut Milking Robot?

Murphy explained why he chose a Lely robot, saying: “When I was researching robotic milking, Lely seemed to be the only company that was committed to making it work on a grazing farm.

After visiting a number of Lely robot farms around Ireland, I was confident it would work well for me. Every Lely customer that I spoke to was very happy and that tells its own story; it gave me great confidence to push ahead even though I was going to be the first in the area.

“In the beginning I was terrified but, after the first year, when I realised that the milk yield hadn’t dropped, it gave me huge comfort.

“I knew then it worked for definite. My aim is to maximise the potential of the system and have a steady flow of milk throughout the year,” he said.

Managing A Winter Milk Herd

Murphy is on a winter milk contract with his local creamery. This system has its challenges in a conventional system. However, he believes that there are some key benefits when milking automatically.

“For me, the key benefit is the labour saving element. 2013 was the first Christmas day in over 30 years that I didn’t have to milk cows.

“This used to be a huge burden that no longer exists. I am not paying for labour and good, reliable labour is like a treasure – it never lasts and everyone wants it.

The reliability of the machine and the information it provides far outweighs any other options that were available to me. The return from winter milk production feels much more attractive when the Lely Astronaut is doing the milking for me.

Grazing System

The Waterford-based farmer currently operates an AB grazing system. This provides fresh grass to cows in two separate grazing blocks every 12 hours.

“I found it difficult getting my head around the AB grazing system; especially as I was coming from a traditional habit of guiding cows around and closing paddocks myself after milking.

“Now, having learned, I feel very confident when allocating grass to suit the system. I buffer feed with good-quality silage and this helps me reach consistent production figures throughout the year,” he said.

When And Where?

David and Helen Murphy will host and open day on their farm at Rathmaiden Farm, Kilmacthomas, Co. Waterford, on Thursday, October 26. The open day will run from 11:00am to 4:00pm.

The farm will be signposted from all major routes close to the farm’s location.