

Finally someone has thought of registering animals in India (17th DP) 1 to 15 July

Dear friends,

Last fortnight brought a lot of hopes for Indian cattle. In 2011 while we launched our second vision document on Indian dairy industry i.e Dairy vision 2030 then the biggest question to be answered was that how do we calculate the total production of milk in India without having any formal mechanism of animal, farm and farmer identification and registration. We tried our through RTI several times but could not get any response. The moment I saw the news that in Haryana , government is planning to issue Aadhar card for cows then it was a golden moment for me . In my last mail also I raised issue of incorrect data on cattle and milk production in Punjab province of Pakistan.

Such initiative at a national level would bring out the true picture of Indian cattle population and milk production (to a large extent). The industry must get ready for a big surprise in the offing soon in next 2-3 years.

Other initiative of government seeking collaboration with US based monopolist in the area of sexed semen technology is also wonderful. However the government should also look at some seminal research being going on in New zealand for laser based sexed semen sorters (which would presumably be much cheaper than the one offered by US based company. The government wishes to increase number of female bovine of high pedigree in India which is a very good initiative.

It would be equally good if government take some action for scientific animal management (culling in short) for the unproductive, sick,old cows also which have become a great cost bearing on poor farmer due to unreasonable stand of current government to ban slaughtering of cows in most part of the country.

The report on Gokul mission and their activities is also interesting and showing how effectively the government initiatives to protect local germ plasm and protection of local cows through cow shelter program is getting implemented. I would request government to also consider cow genetics as an evolutionary process rather than revolutionary process. For a short term target of achieving high growth in milk production through local cows the government should also consider inclusion of high producing exotic breeds like HF and Jersey also which have become a real game changer for farmers in states like Punjab and Karnataka along with other parts of Rajasthan, Tamilnadu and even north eastern states.

It is always good to see industry growing as usual, Private equity investment flowing in and government planning huge targets for FDI in dairy sector. However without improvement in identification and registration of animals, farm , farmers and intermediaries as well as having a robust strategy for building cold chain for milk transportation, nothing worthwhile would be achieved.

India needs a milk cold chain and distribution network like Food Corporation of India (FCI). NDDB and a few other state federation have done a great deal of job but "miles to go before I sleep....."

Enjoy rest of the dairy news from last fortnight here.

with warm regards

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