

Address

By

President, Indian Dairy Association



Shri Arun Narke

As I stand before you, I am overcome with mixed feelings. On the one hand, I am deeply sad about the untimely demise of Dr. N.R. Bhasin, who was IDA President and a long-standing colleague. An able and efficient administrator of the IAS cadre, he shouldered several responsibilities admirably. Under his able leadership, the Association has progressed tremendously, and his sad demise has left a vacuum at IDA. On the other hand, I am grateful that in this difficult time, I have been entrusted with the responsibility of Presidentship by my colleagues.

A hardcore farmer, my roots are and have always been in the soil. I have even done my Masters in Agriculture from the renowned Agricultural College in Pune. My other interests were football and co-operative movement, but 'Dairy' has always been my prime responsibility. My father, my mentor, was an agriculturist and Chairman of one of the best co-operative sugar factories in Kolhapur; A principled man, he never indulged in politics and I follow in his footsteps. My second

mentor was Dr. V. Kurien – whose commitment and dedication to the Dairy Sector is noteworthy. The Gokul Milk Union and Operation Flood brought me into close contact with Dr. V. Kurien, and his able colleagues. They became my guiding stars and I learnt from him and other stalwarts how to run the dairy business professionally, keeping in mind the benefit of the dairy farmers and helping them to achieve their best. The values imbibed from my father and Dr. V. Kurien guide me even today in my efforts for the betterment of dairy farmers and the needy. Here, I would like to express a few of my concerns with regard to the dairy sector :

Milk Producers

Out of 1.6 crores milk producers in our country, 43 lakhs are women producers, and are connected to 1,44,246 co-operative societies. To produce a few litres of milk, these milk producers toil since early morning 24 x 7, without any break ever. Feeding the cattle, milking it twice a day and then marketing the milk on time are arduous tasks. My concern here is, the remuneration for this hard work is not enough. My opinion is that the price be based on cost of production plus profit. As Dr. Swaminathan Committee recommended, it should be production plus 50% profit. To get justice for our farmers, and to boost their morale we should pursue the matter seriously at government level.

Timely payment of milk producers is my next concern. Although milk producers are paid everyday in Gujarat, the scenario in the rest of the country is not the same. The payment is made every ten days or even later since 60% of co-operatives are running at a loss.

Women Participation

Women empowerment and participation in dairy business are burning topics of discussion. However, substantial work is yet to be done in this direction. Seventy percentage of daily dairy work is carried out by women milk producers, but unfortunately they are not admitted as members of co-operative society, under the pretext that their husbands are already members of a co-operative society. The government has taken one step forward by



reserving two seats for women on management of committees, but there is still a lot to be done. Nestle is one private industry doing good work in this direction. On my behalf, I would encourage the private dairy industry to subscribe from their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for development of women in their area of operation. The co-operatives under NDDDB too are contributing towards this herculean task.

In a nutshell, my appeal to my fellow milk producers is:

- ✦ Under no circumstances should there be any adulteration of milk.
- ✦ Milk should be poured to a co-operative or agency that gives better price and service.
- ✦ False promises are not to be trusted.
- ✦ Dairying happens to be the best subsidiary business for milk producers. My experience and statistics show that income from milk is better than income from sugarcane or wheat. Therefore, never doubt even when the prices of milk change with a change in season.

✦ I have a special message for milk producers who are new entrants or seek to be professionals in this business. I quote the example of entrepreneurs in my district, who are successfully working with 100-200 heads of cattle. Unity amongst milk producers is their only mantra to success in future. Even international prices fall with changes in seasons or in times of drought, but my milk union, The Kolhapur Zilla Sahakari Dudh Utpadak Sangh Ltd. (Gokul) continues to pay higher prices to milk producers despite all odds. If Kolhapur Milk Union can do it, others can follow suit.

✦ Dairy Industry

The dairy business is one of the fastest growing industries, with a consumer value of ` 5,26,403.6 cores (\$81 billion - 2015). The recent GDP growth is at 6.3%, whereas agriculture GDP figures a growth of 4.1%, indicating the importance of dairy within the agriculture sector. However, there are challenges of rising management cost and factory cost. Unless the escalating processing and administration costs are controlled, the milk producer cannot be given a handsome price of 80% of the market rate. I feel that one of the ways to overcome this hurdle is to be innovative and produce low cost energy. A few innovative steps undertaken by the dairy industry are:

- i) Harvesting Solar Energy.
- ii) Using non-polluting coal fire boiler instead of furnace oil as it is energy cheap.

- iii) Lithium Bromide usage requires less refrigeration but provides more chilling of milk. This cost saving means has been implemented at Gokul under the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation Scheme.
 - iv) Recycling treated water for zero discharge from ET Plant, for gardening purpose, for floor washing or for irrigation purpose by nearby farmers is a good cost saver too.
 - v) Use of latest technology in the milk powder plant to produce high quality of agglomerated powder.
 - vi) Use of Bactofuge machine to increase storage quality of milk.
 - vii) Use of latest electronic machines to detect adulteration of milk.
- are, but a few innovations that can help one go a long way.

I must congratulate the government for allocating funds worth ` 8,000 crores for the dairy industry for a span of three years, to be made available through NABARD. However, my request is that a balance be maintained between private and co-operative dairies while disbursing these funds, so that projects under OF and the private dairy sector are equally benefited. At this juncture, I would like to request the government to restart the 'National Productivity Award' as it is a great motivation to this sector.

✦ Climate Change

The greatest concern before mankind today is the rapidly changing environment. Stephen Hawkins recently stated that if we do not seriously tackle the problem, we will have to find a new planet to live in. This imbalance in nature has drastic effects on the dairy sector too. During a drought a few years ago, thousands of cattle died due to lack of water and fodder. The possibility of a similar situation in the future cannot be denied. Therefore, it is necessary to plan for the unforeseen things such as, setting up of fodder banks in areas prone to drought or scarcity of fodder. Even the silage system could be a help in reducing fodder scarcity by the usage of greater green fodder. Scientists hold the dairy industry responsible for depletion of the ozone layer. It becomes our moral duty therefore to feed our animals in a way that will reduce emission of methane gas. The scientists of NDDDB and NDRI, Karnal are to be congratulated on their research in this regard, which has made it possible to improve the digestion of our animals.