

Recommendations of the 45th Dairy Industry Conference

The 45th Dairy Industry Conference was held from 16th to 18th February, 2017 at Mumbai. The following major recommendations emerged out of the Farmers' and Technical Sessions:

Farmers' Sessions:

Enhancing milk production is the main requirement as the gap between demand and supply is increasing due to growing human population and improved economic conditions. In order to maintain the growth of milk production and to improve it the following actions are recommended:

☞ One of the major bottlenecks in milk production is the non-availability of feed and fodder at competitive prices to the dairy farmers. This needs to be addressed by organized distribution through dairy cooperative societies or through the Agriculture Marketing department. Farmers need to be incentivized for reserving at least one-fifth of their land holdings (20%) for cultivation of improved varieties of fodder. Whenever fodder is in excess, farmers should be trained and supported financially for preserving it through silage making so that the silage can be used in places where there is scarcity of feed and fodders.

☞ There should be emphasis on quality of milk production — this needs to be encouraged and incentivized. The microbial quality needs to be improved through clean milk production practices and the chemical composition through better feeding practices. IDA should send a proposal to FSSAI to organize massive campaign/training to the farmers/stakeholders to create awareness about microbial and chemical quality of milk and milk products. Packaging of milk and milk products needs to be improved in order to maintain freshness. The milk standards prescribed almost 50 years ago need to be reviewed due to the changes in Agriculture and Animal husbandry practices.

☞ There is increased need for allocation of budget to Livestock sector, especially the dairy sector. The funds

need to be deployed judiciously for the overall growth of the dairy sector comprising production, processing, quality and research and development.

☞ The regions identified and appreciated for intensive dairy development comprise of the Eastern and North-Eastern parts of the country. The Conference notes the rapid strides made in other regions in dairy development and this progress needs to be encouraged. In order to maintain the pace of development it will be desirable to select good practices used in other parts of the country like Calf rearing and Farmers' welfare programmes introduced by Gokul Milk Union, Milking Parlours concept of Kolar Milk Union and the Insurance benefit scheme of Milma, Kerala.

☞ The farmers feel that a uniform price based on quality should be paid to all milk suppliers delivering milk to Mother Dairy in the National Capital Region.

Dr. Kurien Oration Lecture

In Dr. Kurien Oration lecture the impact and cause of demonetization was presented in an impressive and thought-provoking manner by Shri Anil Bokil of Arthkranti Foundation. The advantages of digital and cashless transactions were explained and need expressed for adoption of the scheme by the dairy farming community. However, this would be possible only after the creation of suitable infrastructure.

Climate change and dairying

The Conference took note of the possible impact of climate change on dairying. The major recommendations were to prepare the milk producers and policy makers for controlling the spread of livestock diseases, developing appropriate breeds of cattle, afforestation at all levels, conservation and harvesting of water and exploration of non conventional energy sources. Appropriate budgetary allocation needs to be made for these activities. The country needs to be prepared to face natural calamities like droughts, floods, earthquakes, cyclones etc with adequate stocks of physical and biological requirements



for cattle population. The Green Gujarat concept of tree plantation should be adopted by each state to overcome natural calamities due to global warming.

Functional Dairy foods and Marketing Trends

It was concluded that milk is the coveted natural nutritional product. It was necessary to exploit the market by producing value-added products, e.g. shelf-stable products, fermented milk products, protein rich products, etc. The scope for marketing of A2 milk, camel milk and yak milk was discussed.

In order to ensure quality of milk and milk products, it was felt that necessary quality standards, testing procedures for products and rapid test kits should be developed. The Government needs to earmark funds in the budget for undertaking these activities.

The scope for marketing of specialized flavoured milk with the inclusion of Ayurvedic formulations such as curcumin and aloe vera enrichment was noted. It was also stated that the reduction in availability of water due to climate change resulted in reduction in water consumption. This could be overcome by introducing other dairy products to consumers, e.g. butter milk.

Moreover, it was stated that fun foods would be the new trend for the future.

Since milk and milk products form the essential nutrients and ensure nutritional security at national level, it was recommended that these need to be taxed at the lowest level in the new tax regime.

Productivity and carbon footprints

The newer techniques like Ovum Pick-up (OPU) and In-vitro Fertilization (IVFC) have several advantages for enhancing animal productivity. Productivity could also be enhanced through appropriate breeding policies which need to be reviewed under the present context.

Carbon footprints need to be reduced through the utilization of renewable energy like wind power, solar power, hydro power, etc. The roof top power grids across dairy plants and chilling centres need to be financially supported to reduce the carbon footprints.

Skill Development

Adequate importance and budgetary support needs to be extended for Skill Development in dairy sector in order to enhance productivity at all levels.



Full House at the Plenary Session