

Kenya Dairy Farmers Interact with IDA Officials

A delegation of dairy farmers from Kenya including members of Kenya Cooperative Creameries and private farms visited India to study dairy farming practices and dairy manufacturers establishments. They had interactive meeting with the IDA officials at ITC Welcome Hotel on 12th November 2019 in New Delhi. The main objective was to expose Kenya farmers to modern ways of dairy/livestock farming employed in India. Around 72 delegates attended the meet.

The meeting was presided over by His Excellency The High Commissioner of Kenya in India, Mr. AMB. WILLY KIPKORIR BETT, EGH; President, IDA Dr. G.S. Rajorhia and Dr. Sushil Kumar, former Vice Chancellor and Director, NDRI, Karnal attended the meet along with IDA staff.

While addressing the meet, the Kenyan High Commissioner in India said that they are highly impressed with Amul Cooperative model which is the secret of the success of Indian dairying and we would like to follow the same for Kenya dairy industry. He expressed his willingness to know how Govt. of India is gearing up to double the income of farmers by 2022. He also said that Kenya dairy is growing and needs good quality dairy machineries available in India. He also showed interest to import good animals from NDRI, Karnal.

He stated that dairy farming in Kenya is one of the lucrative agricultural activities and well known as Africa's biggest dairy product manufacturer. Kenya has a population of approximately about nine million dairy cows. Kenya is focussing on environment friendly measures and adoption of some smart techniques to reduce wastages.

Dairy farming in Kenya is rapidly growing using modern technologies such as milking machines and silage bailing machine for cattle feeds. Kenya maintains some of the well known foreign breeds of cows viz. Holstein Friesian, Jersey, Channel Island Cows, Ayrshire, Guernsey, and other breeds. Evolution of modern technologies has played a vital role in transforming the traditional landscape of dairy farming in Kenya.

Dr. G.S. Rajorhia, President-IDA briefed the delegates about success story of Amul. While explaining the Amul model, he emphasized that under this cooperative model 80-85 per cent of the consumer price is paid back

to dairy farmers. Amul has created market for the dairy farmers through innovations and strong branding of their products using efficient supply chain management along with diverse portfolio of their products. Today, the Amul brand has enabled farmers to be entrepreneurs and earn well. The whole process is transparent and there is no exploitation. It has proved that it is not just a product but a movement that represents

the economic freedom of farmers. Later on during the question and answer session, Dr. Rajorhia explained the usefulness of hydroponic farming in India. While

elaborating on the same, he

said that hydroponic farming is being considered as a revolution in the farming or agriculture industry because of its capability to produce green fodder in short span in comparison to the normal green grass. This farming technique is environment friendly as there is not much use of chemicals in the form of pesticides and insecticides. Dr. Rajorhia also requested the farmer delegates to participate in the upcoming 48th Dairy Industry Conference scheduled to be held during 20-22 February, 2020 in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

Dr. Sushil Kumar, former Vice Chancellor and Director, NDRI, Karnal also spoke on the occasion. He informed that 60% of milk collection in India is contributed by the small and marginal dairy farmers and 55 per cent of the total milk production comes from buffaloes. So role of buffalo is very important in Indian dairying. He gave a big credit to the Indian dairy sector because it remains largely free from mad cow disease because animals are served only vegetarian feeds.

The tour organizer and Director, Uday Tours Mr. Rajiv Mehra thanked the IDA for educating the farmer delegates of Kenya in learning more on animal nutrition, fertility, animal feeds and value addition and dairy machinery, etc.

Kenya's economy is dominated by the agricultural sector and great opportunities exist to expand this sector by investing in value addition of agricultural products. Dr. Ignatius Kahiu, Chairman, NEW Kenya Cooperative Creameries Ltd. showed keen interest in seeking knowledge and technical support from IDA. There is a scope for Indian dairy industry to set up mutually beneficial joint ventures in Kenya. ■

