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## FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

207th Edition 1st to 15th June 2024

Milk price hike: many cut consumption or switch to cheaper brands

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Chief Editor Dairynews7x7.com

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Uncovering the Dairy Landscape
- ★ Indian News
  - Animal Health/Protection
  - Marketing
  - Dairy Policy
  - Regulatory/Legal
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## Dairy Pulse 207<sup>th</sup> Edition (1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2024)

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## BLOG

## WATER FOOTPRINT OF MILK IN INDIA

<https://dairynews7x7.com/water-footprint-of-milk-in-india/>



Following my recent article on the five critical areas driving the Meta crisis in the dairy industry, I decided to delve deeper into the water footprint of the dairy sector. Water and climate are inextricably linked, with the saying “Water is Climate and Climate is Water” capturing this connection. I recently encountered a compelling research study titled “Water Requirement Estimates of Feed and Fodder Production for Indian Livestock vis-à-vis Livestock Water Productivity,” (Sultan Singh et al -IGFRI, Jhansi, UP) which sheds light on this crucial aspect.

As per the research paper, the water required for feed production constitutes the largest part of livestock water needs and significantly impacts livestock water productivity. Producing one kilogram of dry matter (DM) for feed ranges from 267 liters (sorghum) to 713.3 liters (lucerne), 1,000 liters (linseed) to 2,000 liters (soybean), and 690 liters (maize grain) to 850 liters (oat grain). The total water requirement for drinking, washing and cleaning livestock in 2003 and 2010 was 16.30 and 16.15 million cubic meters (MCM), respectively, with cattle needing the most (10.11 and 9.51 MCM). Water for drinking and washing livestock is minimal (3.6%) compared to feed production.

Projected water needs for green fodder and concentrate in 2015, 2020, and **2025** are 151.72, 156.83, and **161.81** billion cubic meters (BCM) for fodder and 142.76, 157.67, and 172.04 BCM for concentrate. Livestock water productivity for milk ranges from 475 to 3,751 liters per kilogram, while meat requires 8,215 to 9,680 liters per kilogram.

#### Water Footprint of milk

As per multiple sources, the average water footprint of milk in India is approximately 1,560 liters per liter of milk, influenced by farming practices, feed types, and climatic conditions. While the global average is about 1,020 liters per liter of milk, indicating that India’s water footprint is relatively high due to inefficient practices and climatic conditions.



Considering total milk production of 220 billion Litres in 2022, the total water foot print of milk produced becomes, **343.5 BCM ( Billion Cu mtr)**. Let us compare it with the national demand of water in the country. **Water requirement of the country for irrigation in high demand scenario for the years 2025 and 2050 has been assessed by National Commission on Integrated Water Resources Development-1999 as 611 BCM (Billion Cubic Metre) and 807 BCM respectively. As per ground water resource assessment for the years 2017, 2020 and 2022, the ground water extraction utilised by the irrigation sector are 221.46 BCM, 217.61 BCM and 208.49 BCM, respectively.**

Considering these numbers the milk production is consuming a significant part of this water demand. It is high time to assess the factors contributing to this huge water foot print of dairying in India.

Several factors contribute to the high water footprint of milk production in India. A significant portion of this footprint comes from the cultivation of feed crops such as maize, soy, and other grains, with irrigation practices often leading to higher water consumption. Inefficient water management and irrigation techniques in many parts of India exacerbate this issue.

Traditional dairy farming practices, characterised by lower cattle productivity and feed efficiency, further increase the water footprint. Additionally, there are significant regional variations in the water footprint of milk, influenced by differences in climate, agricultural practices, and water availability. For instance, milk production in arid and semi-arid regions tends to have a higher water footprint compared to more water-abundant regions.

The high water footprint of milk production has several environmental implications. Excessive use of groundwater and surface water for irrigation and animal consumption can deplete water resources. The grey water footprint highlights the issue of water pollution due to agricultural runoff, including fertilisers and pesticides, which can contaminate local water bodies. These factors collectively underscore the need for more efficient water use and management practices in India's dairy industry.

To reduce the water footprint of milk production in India, several strategies can be implemented. Improved irrigation techniques, such as drip or sprinkler systems, can significantly reduce water usage. Sustainable feed production involves using rain-fed crops and optimising the feed mix to reduce dependence on water-intensive crops. Implementing water-efficient farming practices and training farmers in water conservation techniques are crucial for better water management. Additionally, utilising technology for monitoring water usage and improving the overall efficiency of dairy farms can further help in reducing the water footprint.

## **Conclusion**

The water footprint of milk production in India is a significant environmental concern. Addressing this issue requires a multifaceted approach involving improvements in agricultural practices, better water management, and the adoption of sustainable farming techniques. Reducing the water footprint not only helps in conserving water resources but also ensures the long-term sustainability of dairy farming in India. Suggestions and comments are invited from everyone to reduce water foot print of milk in India at least to the global average first.

# Dairy Market Prices

Prices of 500 ml  
Standardised Pouch Milk  
(4.5% Fat & 8.5% SNF)

As of May 15, 2024

\*4.0% Fat



## Dairy Commodities

Commodity	Qty. (MT)	(₹/kg)*
SMP	2,399	241
Butter	516	360

\*Weighted average prices on ex-dairy basis during May 31, 2024

## Source



[www.NCDFI.coop](http://www.NCDFI.coop) | [www.NCDFItoMarket.com](http://www.NCDFItoMarket.com)

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## Dairy Blogs



Dilemma: India's Milk Discrepancy

Infant in a little bit of heaven: went down to earth. Lets save them.

Dairy News 7X7 - February 15, 2024

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) recently approved amendments to food safety regulations, allowing the use of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) or Agmark certifications for food products. The move aligns with the "One Nation, One Community..."



40,000 litres of milk purchased from Tamil Nadu to meet the demand of...

Dairy News 7X7 - March 12, 2024

The National Milk Innovation Project is currently utilizing about 20,000 litres of milk from Tamil Nadu. According to the report, out of the collected milk, 10,000 litres is used for producing powder with rest 1,000 litres...



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## INDIAN NEWS

### JUBILANT FOODWORKS TO DOUBLE DOMINO'S STORE COUNT IN INDIA IN MEDIUM TERM

June 15, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/jubilant-foodworks-to-double-dominos-store-count-in-india-in-medium-term/>



India has become the first market outside of the US to have 2,000 Domino's Pizza stores. Jubilant FoodWorks is looking to double this count to 4,000 in the medium term. The leading food services company remains bullish on both dine-in and delivery segments and is also ramping up investments on back-end commissaries.

"We believe we are still in the early stages of tapping into the potential offered by a market like India. We plan to add about 180 stores in FY25. In terms of the future outlook, we definitely will be looking to add around 200 stores annually and increase this pace in the coming years as we see pick-up in like-for-like growth," said Sameer Khetarpal, CEO & MD of Jubilant FoodWorks Ltd, told businessline.

The company has stated a goal to double the count to 4,000 Domino's stores in the medium term in about 5-6 years.

Art D'Elia, EVP-International, Domino's Pizza Inc, said, "India is the first market outside of the US to have crossed the 2,000 store-mark.. We believe India has a huge runway for growth. It is among the top five markets in terms of international sales (outside the US).

It's one of the few markets where Domino's is leading not just in the pizza category but is also the leading player in the QSR segment, which is a unique dynamic to India."

#### Investment outlook

Responding to a query on investment outlook, Khetarpal said, "We will be investing about ₹250 crore per annum. We will continue to make investments in this range for the next few years. This is a massive investment outlay. We are also investing in back-end commissaries. We opened one in Bengalure during last financial year. We have now started work on the Mumbai commissary."

The QSR segment has been seeing sluggishness in demand in the past few quarters. However, Domino's India recorded positive like-for-like growth in Q4 due to sharper focus on value proposition with measures such as free delivery .

"India continues to witness strong GDP growth. There could be near term consumption and demand headwinds. But, I think we will see things improving in the next couple of quarters for the industry. Good monsoons will



also mean recovery in rural demand for all consumer goods companies,” Khetarpal said.

Besides focusing on sharper value proposition offerings, the company has also been focusing on faster deliveries. Nearly two-thirds of the deliveries are now done in under 20 minutes.

On commodity cost outlook, he said “ In India, inflation has come down from the decadal highs that were seen earlier. But we continue to be cautious and monitor the raw material costs. Recently milk prices have gone up and cheese is the biggest cost for us in terms of ingredients. Seasonal rains or heat also caused disruption in the vegetable supply chain.”

## TEAM SPONSORSHIPS: AMUL’S JAYEN MEHTA ON REACHING THE YOUNG AUDIENCE

June 15, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/team-sponsorships-amuls-jayen-mehta-on-reaching-the-young-audience/>



Sponsoring a cricket team is the easiest way to reach out to a young audience, feels global dairy brand Amul which is sponsoring three teams during the ongoing ICC Men’s T20 World Cup, which includes South Africa, the USA and Sri Lanka

“We wanted to associate our brand with a sport. There were two ways before us: Advertising sponsorships and Team sponsorships. Today in an era when media is highly fragmented, team sponsorships work very well. So an Amul logo displayed on the USA team’s jersey is visible on television, digital and in print,” says Jayen Mehta, Managing Director of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF).

“Secondly, unlike a spot in television which is only for a targeted audience restricted to a region or a country, the team jersey is visible

across various continents. But this is an easy way to reach out to a younger audience. For a brand like ours, this is a good association. This helps peripheral brand building and awareness for other products,” Mehta told business-line recently.

In the 2023 ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup played in India, Amul sponsored Afghanistan, South Africa and Sri Lanka. In 2011, the Amul brand associated itself with cricket when it sponsored the Netherlands team. After that, the brand also sponsored teams like New Zealand

Amul’s move to sponsor the USA cricket team comes immediately after the Indian dairy brand launched its range of fresh milk in the United States in March 2024. GCMMF has tied up with the Michigan Milk Producers Association for selling fresh milk in the East Coast

and Midwest markets of the US. When asked how the fresh initiative in the United States was progressing, Mehta said, "It has picked up. We are doing good."

Apart from Amul, the Karnataka Milk Federation is also sponsoring the jerseys of Scotland and Ireland during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. The logo of the Nandini brand is displayed on the attire of both teams.

### **biggest brand**

Meanwhile, Amul, which has positioned itself as one of the largest probiotic brands in the world, has seen a 50 per cent growth in the sales of its probiotic buttermilk this summer. "This summer, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) has sold 50 per cent more buttermilk than it did last year.

We are processing an estimated 45-50 lakh litres of buttermilk every day and all of it is probiotic. The average is around 30-35 lakh litres.

We are the world's largest probiotic brand," Jayen Mehta of GCMMF said.

Probiotics are live beneficial cultures that when administered in adequate amounts confer a beneficial health effect on the human host. They are known not only for aiding digestion but improving overall gut health and the immune system. Amul which has been selling probiotic buttermilk at ₹30 per litre also launched "Tadka Chass" earlier this year.

The new product is a spicy version of the buttermilk. "Amul started working on probiotics way back in 2006. We tried launching a probiotic product but it failed. Later in 2007, we got into probiotic ice creams," the official added. In January 2007, GCMMF for the first time introduced the Amul range of probiotic and sugar-free ice creams that were aimed at the health-conscious and diabetic.

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## Who We Are

We are a team of dairy experts with 30+ years of industry experience. We have worked on milk adulteration surveys with FSSAI in India in 2016 and 2018. Our panel includes experts in testing, R&D, and new product development from the dairy and food sectors.



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## NDDB, TERI, AND SRDI INK MOU TO BOOST RURAL LIVELIHOODS & SUSTAINABILITY

June 14, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/nddb-teri-and-srdi-ink-mou-to-boost-rural-livelihoods-sustainability/>

The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and the Suzuki R&D Center India Pvt. Ltd (SRDI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collectively advance initiatives in renewable energy, circular economy, rural development and waste management. This collaboration aims to improve rural livelihoods by assisting stakeholders in generating carbon credits through mitigation measures, exploring mechanisms for carbon credit exchange and developing methodologies and tools for assessing carbon footprints of rural livelihood activities. All three organizations will also collectively undertake comprehensive studies, assessments, training programmes and share research and training facilities to further the objectives of MoU.

The MoU was signed in presence of Dr Meenesh Shah, Chairman and Managing Director, NDDB; Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI and Mr Kenichiro Toyofuku, Director, SRDI. The partners also agreed to jointly represent their collaborative research, methods, findings and policy solutions at various forums to promote sustainable rural development.

Emphasizing the importance of this collaboration, Dr Vibha Dhawan in her welcome address said that since its establishment in 1974, TERI has been deeply committed to sustainable development. “By blending our knowledge and research with practical experience, we provide

viable solutions to the challenges of sustainable development. The partnership with NDDB and SRDI will enable us to expand our efforts in promoting sustainable practices in rural areas. Through research, training and capacity building, we empower farmers and rural communities to embrace eco-friendly methods and contribute to a circular economy,” she highlighted.



Speaking at the occasion, Dr Meenesh Shah stated that this MoU represents a significant milestone towards sustainable rural development. “By combining our strengths and resources, we are

ready to develop innovative solutions that will not only improve rural livelihoods but also promote environmental sustainability. Our collaborative efforts in renewable energy, waste management and carbon credit mechanisms will lead to a greener and more prosperous future for rural communities and propel India towards net zero dairying,” he added.

Mr Kenichiro Toyofuku informed that SRDI, as an Indian subsidiary of Suzuki Motor Corporation, is focused on technology development for mobility and achieving carbon neutrality. He further added, “One of our key objectives is to adopt clean fuels like dung-based biogas for mobility. This MoU with NDDB and TERI is a noteworthy step towards deeper engagement with the dairy sector, helping us achieve sustainability goals for both the automotive and dairy industries. Together, we can drive innovative solutions that benefit the environment and rural livelihoods.”



The newly signed MoU outlines the roles of NDDB, TERI and SRDI in promoting sustainability and improving rural livelihoods. NDDB will support surveys and pilot initiatives by leveraging its rural network. Collaborating with TERI and SRDI, NDDB will assist in generating carbon credits and providing technical expertise. TERI will conduct assessments with focus on carbon

credits and pilot projects, aligning their efforts with sustainability goals. SRDI will support assessments by linking with national and international entities, as well as assisting in carbon credit quantification. Additionally, SRDI will encourage innovative solutions for sustainability in the dairy sector.

## WHO CONFIRMS HUMAN CASE OF BIRD FLU IN INDIA

June 13, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/who-confirms-human-case-of-bird-flu-in-india/>

(Reuters)-The World Health Organization on Tuesday said a case of human infection with bird flu caused by the H9N2 virus was detected in a four-year-old child in the eastern Indian state of West Bengal.

The patient was admitted to the pediatric intensive care unit (ICU) of a local hospital due to persistent severe respiratory issues, high fever and abdominal cramps in February, and was discharged three months later after diagnosis and treatment, the WHO said.

The patient had exposure to poultry at home and in his surroundings, and there were no known person reporting symptoms of respiratory illness among his family and other contacts, the agency said.

Information on the vaccination status and details of antiviral treatment were not available at the time of reporting, the WHO added.

This is the second human infection of H9N2 bird flu from India, with the first in 2019, the agency said.

While the H9N2 virus typically tends to cause mild illness, the United Nations agency said that further sporadic hu-

man cases could occur as this virus is one of the most prevalent avian influenza viruses circulating in poultry in different regions.

An immediate response from the Indian health ministry was not available during late hours.



## WILL TAKE TO STREETS IF DAIRY FARMERS DON'T GET SUBSIDY": SHARAD PAWAR

June 13, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/will-take-to-streets-if-dairy-farmers-dont-get-subsidy-sharad-pawar/>

**N**CP (SP) president Sharad Pawar on Wednesday warned of agitation if the Maharashtra government did not provide subsidy to milk producers.

He was speaking during a visit to drought-affected villages in Indapur tehsil of Pune district.

"If the government failed to provide subsidy to dairy farmers, we will take to the streets," he said.



The NCP chief also said that the government in the state was needed to be changed if the people's problems were to be resolved.

Asking which government in the past waived crop loans or ensured fair prices for farm produce, Mr Pawar said he was not sure if the current Shiv Sena-BJP-NCP government understood these problems.

"If our requests are not heeded, you must hand over the policy-making power to us in the next four to six months," the veteran politician said, alluding to the coming assembly elections.

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## NON-BOVINE MILK COULD BE THE FUTURE FOR BETTER NUTRITION: EXPERTS

June 11, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/non-bovine-milk-could-be-the-future-for-better-nutrition-experts/>

**S**cientists believe that the milk of non-bovine species, such as goats, sheep, camels, donkeys, yaks, etc., which possess numerous therapeutic properties and are proliferating in India, needs to be explored to improve human nutrition and health.

Due to its therapeutic, insulin and low-lactose properties with cheap farming compared to cattle, experts and scientists of the country's top research institutes on dairying and animal production believe that non-bovine milk could be the future in India.

Scientists believe that the milk of non-bovine species, such as goats, sheep, camels, donkeys, yaks, etc., which possess numerous therapeutic properties and are proliferating in India, needs to be explored to improve human nutrition and health.

Last week, Dr Manish Kumar Chatli, director of the Central Institute for Research on Goats in Mathura, Dr Artabandhu Sahoo, director of the Research Institute on Camel in Bikaner and several domain experts gathered at the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) in Karnal at a seminar on "Bovine & non-bovine milk and human health".

The event chaired by Dr Dheer Singh, director and vice-chancellor of NDRI, discussed the "vital role of dairy in delivering quality nutrition

to nourish the world," highlighting the importance of milk and milk products for human beings.

Singh mentioned that India's annual milk production is 230.58 million metric tonnes (MMT) with a per capita availability of 444 g/day, surpassing the global average of 322 g/day and the dairy and animal husbandry sector contributing 4.5 percent to India's GDP, with the dairy sector alone contributing 24 percent to the agricultural sector, valued at around ₹10 lakh crore, the highest in the world.

“No doubt that there is a need to explore the health benefits of non-bovine milk, which possesses numerous therapeutic properties that are considered good for human health. It contains a large amount of functionally active lipids, lactose, immunoglobulin, various peptides, nucleotides, oligosaccharides and metabolites,” he added.

Speaking to Hindustan Times, Dr Chatli termed the importance of goat as "gareeb ki gaye" (poor's cow) and its milk as an "ausadhi" (herb) due to the immunomodulatory activity of goat milk and its potential to reduce parasitemia index, specifically during malaria and dengue is known to the whole world.

He said the proteins in goat milk possess an inhibitory effect against hypertension, and cardiovascular disease and synthesise essential amino acids in the human body, particularly for infants.



“There are nearly 15 goats in India and 3.3 crore farmers are engaged in this sector. We are producing 7.6 MT of milk annually, which is 32% globally. The population of goats is growing by 1% every year and demand for its milk is by 6%. Its milk has small fat globules, while the protein is high and gets absorbed in the body easily to provide good immunity. The lactose content in this milk is 30%-40% less than that of cow,” he added.

Dr Chatli agrees that non-bovine milk is the future in India. “This can be quenched by the fact that it is growing at the rate of 10.4% as against bovine milk with a growth rate of 3.84%,” he told the HT.

Meanwhile, Dr Sahoo said camel milk’s properties support gut health and improve symptoms associated with autism, and diabetes and improve our immunity against infectious diseases.

“Among these immunity-boosting compounds, protein fractions, such as lactoferrin and immunoglobulins, are the major contributors to

this activity by exhibiting anti-inflammatory, anti-oxidant and anti-viral properties,” he added.

Pointing out an important factor that farmers of Haryana are facing in summers on reduced milk, Dr Sahoo said, “Unlike in cattle, the milk production in camel does not decrease, as it has grown in such environment. Rather, it produces most of the milk during summer. Their lactation period is also more.”

Dr Dheer said with the help of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and other experts, NDRI is conducting clinical validity of the non-bovine milk.

“Characterisation of milk constituents of non-bovine milk needs to be taken up on priority at the national level as this will go a long way in the diversification of milk for the development of healthier and nutritious products, and also be a source of income to farmers rearing these animals. The NDRI has taken an initiative in collaboration with other institutes working on the milk of their animals,” he added.

**VERKA HIKES MILK PURCHASE PRICE BY ₹10 PER KG OF FAT**

June 10, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/verka-hikes-milk-purchase-price-by-10-per-kg-of-fat/>

**T**he buffalo milk price has been increased from ₹810 per kg of fat to ₹820 per kg.

The cow milk price has been increased from ₹770 per kg fat to ₹780 per kg.

Milkfed has increased the purchase price of milk by ₹10 per kg of fat. Ludhiana plant general manager Surjit Singh Bhadour said that the buffalo milk price has been increased from ₹810 per kg of fat to ₹820 per kg. The cow milk price has been increased from ₹770 per kg fat to ₹780 per kg.



According to the firm, the milk production costs for the farmers have increased.

“The new rates will be effective from June 11, 2024,” he said. Bhadour said that the decision by Milkfed Punjab has been taken given the increasing production costs of the dairy farmers during this season. “The milk production costs for the farmers have increased. The soaring

temperatures have affected the milk production,” he added.

**ICE CREAM BRAND HOCOCO’S VALUED AT INR 600 CR WITH BACKING FROM CHONA FAMILY, SAUCE.VC**

June 10, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/ice-cream-brand-hococos-valued-at-inr-600-cr-with-backing-from-chona-family-sauce-vc/>

**S**UMMARYHocco has reportedly raised INR 100 Cr (\$12 Mn) in a fresh funding round

The funds will be used to expand the company’s manufacturing capacity

The round also saw participation from angel investors, including film producers Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar

Ahmedabad-based ice cream brand Hocco has reportedly raised INR 100 Cr (\$12 Mn) in a

fresh funding round led by its promoter group Chona family and existing investor Sauce.vc.



The round also saw participation from angel investors, including film producers Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar.

As per an ET report, the primary capital infusion valued the company at INR 600 Cr post investment.

The funds will be used to expand the company’s manufacturing capacity, Hocco’s

managing director Ankit Chona told ET. The eight-month-old brand expects to clock INR



200 Cr in revenue in the fiscal year ending March 2025.

Inc42 has reached out to the company's founder for a comment on the development. The story will be updated based on the response.

Founded in 1944 by Satish Chona, Hocco began as an ice cream parlour in Karachi. In 2017, the Chona family sold their legacy brand Havmor to South Korean conglomerate Lotte for INR 1,020 Cr.

In 2019, they expanded their legacy food service business by launching Hocco.

In 2023, Hocco gained momentum. It claims to have more than 100 restaurants and eateries across India and one in the US, across casual dining restaurants, quick-service eateries and ice cream cafes.

It aims to serve authentic recipes with a twist to new-age customers

With a legacy of nearly 80 years, its portfolio includes Hocco Eatery, 1944 The Hocco Kitchen, Hocco Ready-to-Eat, Huber & Holly, and Hocco Ice Cream.

As per ET, post the funding, consumer-focused investment firm Sauce.vc, known for backing new-age brands like Mokobara and The Whole Truth, now holds approximately a 10% stake in Hocco.

"We started in October last year. We were very bullish but did not expect this kind of response. What we predicted we'd be doing in the second or third year, we've ended up doing in the first year. Currently, our plant capacity is between 40,000-50,000 litres a day, and our original projection by May was 15,000 litres. By next summer, we will triple our capacity reaching 1.3 lakh litres a day," Chona told ET.

In recent years, India's ice cream industry has witnessed the emergence of several new-age brands, including Yummo, NIC, Go Zero, Fru-bon, and more and has been gaining traction from a lot of investors.

Earlier this year, Pune-based Walko Food, which operates ice cream brand NIC, secured an additional investment of \$20 Mn (INR 165.8 Cr) from its existing backer Jungle Ventures as a part of its growth funding round.

Last year in May, NIC raised \$11 Mn in a growth funding round led by Jungle Ventures.

## CAPACITY OF AMUL CHOCOLATE FACTORY TO BE DOUBLED: GCMMF MD JAYEN

MEHTA

June 10, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/capacity-of-amul-chocolate-factory-to-be-doubled-gcmmf-md-jayen-mehta/>

**A**mul's chocolate factory in Gujarat is being expanded to double the quantum of chocolates it currently produces.

"We are doubling the capacity of the chocolate plant. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi had come to Mogar in 2018, we had increased the capacity by five times. That capacity got exhausted in two years. Since the last one year we have been working on the expansion," said Jayen Mehta, Managing Director of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), the apex body of milk cooperatives in Gujarat.

The Amul chocolate plant at Mogar near Anand is the only such plant in the GCMMF network. In 2018, PM Narendra Modi had inaugurated the plant which can produce 1000 tonnes per month of chocolates.

"We are currently installing the requisite machinery and the expansion work is expected to be completed in the next few months," Mehta

told businessline on the sidelines of a convocation ceremony of Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA).

The complex at Mogar also consists of a 600 tonne per day take-home-ration plant and a therapeutic food plant with a 600 metric tonne per capacity.



Impact of rise is cocoa prices

When asked about how GCMMF is dealing with the rising prices of cocoa which is an important ingredient, Mehta said, "In 25 years, the rates of Cocoa increased from ₹150 to ₹200 (per kilo-

gram). Now it is difficult to get it at ₹850-900."

The increase in cocoa prices has been partly passed on to the consumers.

GCMMF procures most of the cocoa needed for chocolates, ice-creams and other products from CAMPCO (Central ArecaNut and Cocoa Marketing and Cooperative Society) which is a cooperative body in Karnataka.

"We are their largest customer," he said without disclosing the amount of Cocoa that the cooperative procures.

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## MILK OCCUPIES GIANT SHARE IN HARYANA'S FOOD BILL-HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE SURVEY

June 8, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/milk-occupies-giant-share-in-haryanas-food-bill-household-consumption-expenditure-survey/>

The sharp rise in share of spending on beverages and processed food by Indian households caught everyone's eyes, but that may not be true in every state — Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan, among others.

Rural Haryana spends 41.7 percent of its total food expenditure on milk and milk products, shows a detailed report on Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on June 7.

Even in the urban areas of Haryana, spending on milk and milk products was high at 33.1 percent, only third to urban Rajasthan and Punjab.

This is in stark contrast to the trend given that both in rural and urban India, the share of spending on beverages and processed food in total food consumption has been maximum in 2022-23 for almost all the major states. Some other exceptions to this rule were Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh for milk and milk products and Kerala for eggs, meat and fish.

In February, the government had released a factsheet based on the findings of the report, which had shown that beverages and processed food had the highest share among spending on food at an all-India level. The government has now released the full report which offers granular data.

In 2022-23, food accounted for about 46 percent of the value of the average rural Indian households' consumption, within which the contribution of beverages, refreshments and

processed food has been the highest (9.62 percent).

And, similarly in the total of 39 percent, the largest contributor for urban India was beverages, refreshments and processed food (10.64 percent).

Unlike most states, rural Kerala spent the most at 23.5 percent of its total food expenditure on egg, fish and meat. This is almost double of the all-India average 10.6 percent.

In contrast, rural Haryana's share of expenditure on eggs, meat and fish was the lowest at 2.1 percent in total food consumption across all categories and among all major states, while for the urban counterpart it was Rajasthan at 2.3 percent for the exact same parameters.

India's fact sheet on the latest Household Consumer Expenditure Survey on February 24 had revealed that rural households are spending more than their urban counterpart. The share of food in total monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) was 39 percent and that of non-food categories was 61 percent for 2022-23.

In the rural food basket, the percentage of MPCE spent on cereals more than halved to 4.89 percent in 2022-23 from 10.69 percent in 2011-12. Meanwhile, the share of consumption expenditure on milk and milk products has gone up slightly, while that of vegetables edged down.

In Urban India, spending on cereals was down sharply, while that on



## DELHI HIGH COURT PULLS UP ANIMAL HUSBANDRY UNIT OVER VIOLATIONS IN DAIRY COLONIES

June 8, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/delhi-high-court-pulls-up-animal-husbandry-unit-over-violations-in-dairy-colonies/>

The Delhi High Court has come down heavily on the Animal Husbandry Unit of the Delhi government, observing that there is a “lack of will” in State functionaries to stop the “rampant violation of laws” by dairy owners in the nine dairy colonies in the Capital.

“These violations not only affect the public health of the citizens and residents who are consuming the milk being produced in these dairies, but are also wrapped in extreme cruelty to the animals housed there,” the court noted in its May 27 order.

Last year, a Delhi High Court-appointed Court Commissioner tasked with inspecting the nine dairy colonies in the Capital had found that several norms were being violated. The dairy units were operating in poor hygiene, the holding areas were overcrowded with little space for the cattle to move, and milch animals were found to be in poor health. Moreover, the inspection report revealed that several common issues were plaguing each dairy colony, such as the presence of solid waste overflowing in open drains.



During the hearing, the counsel for petitioner Sunayana Sibal showed the Bench photographs of the Bhalswa dairy colony, dated May 26, which showed the cattle grazing at the base of sanitary landfill and eating garbage. “The Delhi government has decided to turn a blind eye to the horrific conditions in these dairy colonies,” he said.

The court remarked that the Animal Husbandry Unit has not only failed in discharging its primary function of granting and regulating the licenses of these dairies, but has also not provided for functional veterinary hospitals in the area.

“The State’s lack of will to shift Ghazipur and Bhalswa dairy colonies to an alternate site de-

spite the presence of sanitary landfills shows that decisions are being taken for considerations not relevant and germane to public health,” the Bench said.

While listing the case for further hearing in July, the court made the Drugs Controller General of India, Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs party in the case.

## SOARING MILK PRICES MAY HIT AFFORDABILITY, HEALTH

June 8, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/soaring-milk-prices-may-hit-affordability-health/>

**G**rowth in the dairy industry necessitates ethical, accessible and safe milk production; without these, milk could become inaccessible to the general public

For ages, milk has been universally acknowledged as an excellent source of nutrition, especially for children. A good sign that milk & dairy production in our country is increasing fast. However, if the trend of consistently rising milk prices is not held up, it may be hard for the common man to afford it, thus impinging on the health of their family. Whole milk price of popular brands is presently hovering around Rs. 66 a litre. Nutritionists recommend routine intake of milk and its derivatives to maintain a balanced diet. So ironic that the legendary repository of milk, 'a country with rivers overflowing with milk' is now concerned with feeding safe milk to its people!

India has been consistently atop in milk production since 1997 and contributes about 25% to the global milk output. In 2023, India produced 231 million metric tonnes of milk with a decadal compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6%. More important than NITI Ayog's prediction of achieving the 300 million metric tonnes mark by 2030 is the need to ensure that this staple nutrition is accessible to the countrymen at large. The fault lines must be identified and addressed in time.

Beyond just a fluid secreted by the mammary glands of female mammals for nourishing their

young ones, cow milk and cows are special to India, sacred and pure since the Vedic era. Along with its other holy derivatives like curd and ghee, it is a routine offering to Gods at religious observances particularly during Shivaratri and Nag Panchami festivals. To Hindus, the cow is sacrosanct, at par with Gods. As against other milch animals, buffalo, sheep, goats and camel, the cow is also a symbol of motherhood, fertility, prosperity, health and

strength. It has had sanctity in other faiths as well. Egyptians accorded cow the status of goddess of milk, 'lat' due to its association with nurturing attributes. Among early Christians, milk was figuratively used for

abundance, blessings, spiritual food and purity. Prophet Muhammad said, "The milk of the bovine (cow) contains healing, its fat is a medicine and its meat a cause for sickness." This is despite most milk in India being derived from buffalo, which is valued for its higher fat content and its use as a draught animal.

In our country, 60% of the milk is produced by the unorganised sector, remaining 40% is from the organised sector, mostly dairy cooperatives and private players. However, the scenario is set to reverse and in a few years the milkman of the unorganised sector may have to shift the profession for numerous reasons. For one, the city folks prefer value-added or packaged milk & dairy wrapped in pouches or packets made of LDPE, LLDPE, HDPE or EVA; cans and tetra packs. Admittedly, the products





from the organised sector are superior; pasteurised (i.e. heating for a while up to 70°C to minimise infection, then cooling) and sticking to certain quality specifications yet it has its pitfalls partly the deliberate ones. I recall the description of the Vijaya brand milk tetra pack of an Andhra Pradesh dairy in the early 80s while I was in Bhopal. It guaranteed freshness without refrigeration for up to six months in any ambient temperature – decades after, we witnessed Amul, Britannia and other popular brands taking the cue. Mind that the milk in the pouch procured from the booth degenerates when heated just in 10 to 15 minutes, it is so delicate. There is more to tetra packs than tetrahedron texture to keep its non-degradability intact for long.

It is toxic preservatives like formaldehyde and other additives in play to extend the shelf life of milk and its derivatives. Studies have already shown serious health consequences like food poisoning, gastrointestinal and cardiac issues, hepatic and renal failure and even cancer.

It is like lethal insecticides being spread 400 times more than the permitted doses on maturing crops to avert foodgrain loss and ensure enhanced shelf life. Also, witness many popular desi ghee brands selling at Rs. 450 a litre

while in villages it costs between Rs. 1200 to Rs. 2400 although dairy people confide that per kg cost of desi ghee is Rs. 500 to Rs. 600.

Indian dairy business is incessantly growing at 4.5% annually. The organised milk sector is elated at the growing international and domestic demand and business prospects. Yet it must be monitored that the ethical aspects are not compromised and the domestic consumers are not taken for a ride. Fodder availability for large milch cattle, education & training and technology improvement are the other formidable issues in dairy to be addressed. Our young ones also must be made to learn that saying no to milk is saying no to nutrition and that almond milk, soy milk, rice milk and coconut milk are poor substitutes.

Amul Federation, the undisputed leader has planned expansion activity abroad and is targeting one Rs one lakh crore business now. Dairy supports the livelihoods of one billion people worldwide. As we celebrate Milk Day, an FAO initiative, to recognise the importance of milk as a global food let us not overlook that the common people are not deprived of this staple nutrition.

## MILK PRICE HIKE: MANY CUT CONSUMPTION OR SWITCH TO CHEAPER BRANDS

June 8, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/milk-price-hike-many-cut-consumption-or-switch-to-cheaper-brands/>



**M**other Dairy, earlier this week, hiked the milk prices of its brands by Rs 2 per litre in Delhi-NCR. The price hike is applicable in Delhi-NCR as well as other markets, the company said. Amul also increased its milk rates by Rs 2 per litre across all its brands.

A survey conducted, LocalCircles, after the milk price hike stated that 4 in 10 Indian households are feeling the pinch of milk price hike. The consumers who took part in the survey said 60% are “paying higher prices and buying same quantity and brand”.

About 14% stated that they “have switched to a low-cost brand or local supply source”, 20% stated that they “have reduced the quantity that we purchase”, and 3% stated that they “have stopped buying milk”.

\With the latest hike, the revised milk prices for Amul variants such as 500 ml Amul buffalo milk, 500 ml Amul Gold milk, and 500 ml Amul Shakti milk stand at Rs 36, Rs 33, and Rs 30, respectively.

On the other hand, in Delhi-NCR, Mother Dairy full cream milk is available now at Rs 68 per litre. Toned and double-toned milk will be priced at Rs 56 and Rs 50 per litre, respectively, and Buffalo and cow

Milk prices have increased 6-8 times in most parts of India in the last 24 months with the latest increase announced recently. How is your household coping with the high milk prices?



Responses - 13,866

- Have switched to a lower cost brand or local supply source
- Have reduced the quantity that we purchase
- Have switched to cheaper alternative of the same brand
- Have stopped buying milk
- Paying higher prices and buying same quantity and brand
- Can't Say



milk prices have been increased to Rs 72 and Rs 58 per litre, respectively. Token milk will be sold at Rs 54 per litre.

The survey received over 13,000 responses from household consumers in over 309 districts of the country. Around 62% of respondents were men while 38% of respondents were women. About 42% of respondents were from tier 1, 25% from tier 2 and 33% of respondents were from tier 3, 4, and rural districts.

### **Milk price hike**

Jayen Mehta, MD of GCMMF, which markets a range of products under the 'Amul' brand, said that the hike is to compensate farmers for the increased cost of production and due to rise in overall cost of operation and production of milk. Mother Dairy said: "The surge in farm prices is only being partially passed on to the consumers, with an effective revision of 3-4%, thereby securing the interests of both the milk producers and the consumers."

Mother Dairy in its statement said: "The surge in farm prices is only being partially passed on to the consumers, with an effective revision of 3-4 per cent, thereby securing the interests of both the milk producers and the consumers."

The last time both Amul and Mother Dairy increased the price of milk was in February 2023. However, Mother Dairy increased milk prices by INR 10 per liter between March and December 2022 while Amul hiked its prices thrice in 2022.

"The increase of Rs 2 per litre translates to the range of 3-4 per cent increase in MRP, which is much lower than the average food inflation. It is worthwhile to note that since February 2023, Amul has made no increase in prices of fresh pouch milk in major markets," GCMMF said in a statement.

"The increase of Rs 2 per litre translates to the range of 3-4 per cent increase in MRP, which is much lower than the average food inflation. It is worthwhile to note that since February 2023, Amul has made no increase in prices of fresh pouch milk in major markets," GCMMF said in a statement.



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**VOTED FOR CONGRESS IN LOKSABHA -DAIRY FARMER’S MILK IN HASSAN REJECTED**

June 6, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/voted-for-congress-in-lok-sabha-dairy-farmers-milk-in-hassan-rejected/>

**R**esidents of Somanahalli, near Hassan in Karnataka, staged a protest in front of the office of the Deputy Commissioner in Hassan on June 5 alleging that the milk producers’ cooperative society in the village refused to take milk from them on the grounds that they voted for the Congress candidate in the Lok Sabha elections.

The villagers alleged that the milk producers’ cooperative society in the village had been run by people identified with the JD(S). The secretary of the society had allegedly refused to take milk from them.

Milk producers’ cooperative societies collect milk from villagers and send the same to Hassan Milk Union. The milk producers get weekly payments from the union.

The protesters alleged that Somanahalli Nagaraju, president of Hassan District Cooperative Central Bank, and other leaders of the JD(S)

were putting pressure on the local milk producers’ society. The protesters submitted a memorandum to the DC.

**Reaction of Hassan milk co-operative MD**

H. Mahesh, Managing Director of Hassan Co-operative Milk Producers’ Society Union (HAMUL), told The Hindu that he would look into the allegation. “There are more than 1,700 milk producer cooperative societies. The process of collecting milk from producers has nothing to do with any political party, caste, or other identity. Societies cannot refuse taking milk on such grounds,” he said.



**Reaction of Hassan milk co-operative MD**

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## H5N1 REMAINS INFECTIOUS ON MILKING EQUIPMENT

June 6, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/h5n1-remains-infectious-on-milking-equipment/>

Even as the Atlanta-based CDC has cautioned people to avoid drinking raw milk, especially in the States where H5N1 has been reported in cattle herds, there has been increased demand for raw milk. From the day H5N1 (bird flu) was confirmed in cattle in mid-March this year to mid-May, the sales of raw milk has increased 21-65% compared with the same period last year. However, no human case of H5N1 infection in people who consume raw milk has been reported so far in the U.S. despite the increase in raw milk consumption.

“The asymptomatic avian influenza surveillance programme in the U.K. has found that human infection can be very asymptomatic,” says Dr. Vinod Scaria, a senior consultant at Vishwanath Cancer Care Foundation told The Hindu. Two people in the U.K. who had worked on an infected poultry farm in England and tested positive for H5N1 did not show any symptoms and were detected only because of the asymptomatic surveillance programme. “Testing of people, including those who consume raw milk that may be infected with H5N1 has been very low in the U.S.,” says Dr. Scaria. According to the CDC, there has been “no sign of unusual influenza activity in people, including in syndromic surveillance”.

On May 30, the CDC reported a third case of H5N1 infection in a farm worker in Michigan who had direct exposure to infected cows. Eight days earlier, CDC reported the second

case of H5N1 infection in a farm worker in the U.S., and the first in the State of Michigan. The first human case in the U.S. was also in a farm worker in Texas. Similar to the first two cases, the latest case of H5N1 infection had eye discomfort with watery discharge. But unlike the earlier two cases, the case reported on May 30 had “more typical symptoms of acute respira-

tory illness associated with influenza virus infection, including A(H5N1) viruses”. In the second case reported on May 22, two specimens were collected — upper respiratory tract and eye specimens. While the nasal specimen tested negative at

both the State health department and the CDC, the eye specimen sent to the CDC for testing was positive for H5N1.

The route of transmission has not been ascertained, though it is likely to be airborne.

Meanwhile, researchers from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory carried out a study to assess the risk that H5N1-containing milk poses to animals and humans and fed droplets of raw milk from infected dairy cattle to five mice. The mice showed signs of illness one day after they were fed raw milk containing the virus. The researchers found high virus titers in the respiratory organs of the mice and moderate virus titers in several other organs. Since the mice were only fed raw milk, the infection in the nasal passages, trachea and





lungs, suggests that infection may have occurred through the pharynx, the researchers note in a Letter published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*. The H5N1 virus was also found in the mammary glands of two mice even though these mice were not lactating.

In another study posted as a preprint (which is yet to be peer-reviewed), researchers found H5N1 virus in unpasteurised milk remains infectious on milking equipment for over one

hour. The researchers then used H1N1 as a surrogate for the H5N1 virus found in cattle to study the viral persistence in raw milk. They found the H1N1 virus in unpasteurised milk persisted for at least three hours on rubber and at least one hour on stainless steel. "These results indicate that influenza virus is very stable in unpasteurized milk and that deposited H5N1 on milking equipment could remain infectious for long periods of time," they write.

### HERITAGE FOODS STOCK ZOOMED 34% IN 3 DAYS ON TDP'S LANDSLIDE WIN

June 5, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/heritage-foods-chas-zoomed-34-in-3-days-on-tdps-landslide-win/>

**H**eritage Foods hit a record high of Rs 538, as they rallied 18 per cent on the BSE in Wednesday's intra-day trade amid heavy volumes. This dairy products stock has zoomed 34% in 3 days on TDP's landslide win

Shares of Heritage Foods hit a record high of Rs 538, as they rallied 18 per cent on the BSE in Wednesday's intra-day trade on the back of heavy volumes. In the past three trading sessions, the stock of dairy products

company has surged 34 per cent following the news that Chandrababu Naidu was set to become Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister for fourth term after Telugu Desam Party's (TDP's) landslide victory. In the past one month, the stock has zoomed 63 per cent.

At 10:01 am; Heritage Foods was trading 15 per cent higher at Rs 522.05, as compared to 0.11 per cent rise in the S&P BSE Sensex. The average trading volumes at the counter jumped over three-fold, with a combined 7.3 million equity shares changing hands on the NSE and BSE.



The Heritage Group was founded in 1992 by TDP Chief Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu, with three-business divisions viz., dairy, retail and agri under its flagship company Heritage Foods. Nara Lokesh, the son of TDP chief N.

Chandrababu Naidu, is one of the promoters of Heritage Foods.

Heritage Foods has a presence in the cattle feed business through its subsidiary, Heritage Nutrivet Limited (HNL). Heritage Foods' milk and milk products, such as Curd, Ghee,

Paneer, flavoured milk, among others, are consumed by more than 1.5 million households in 11 states across India.

The company has introduced value-added products, which have boosted its overall revenue. Its ice cream/frozen dessert is witnessing rapid growth, and the company aims to expand in existing markets across channels and drive innovation.

For the financial year 2023-24 (FY24), Heritage Foods had reported a robust 83.6 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth in its consolidated

profit after tax at Rs 106.50 crore. Revenue grew by 17.1 per cent YoY at Rs 3,793.9 crore. Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortization (ebitda) jumped 51.5 per cent at Rs 209.50 crore; margin expanded 125bps at 5.52 per cent in FY24.

The spending on dairy products continues to increase due to growing awareness about their health benefits and the introduction of innovative products to the market. It has allowed small-scale dairy producers to increase their income by selling milk to larger farms that have greater access to customers in regional as well as urban markets.

The management said the strategies the company laid out few years ago of becoming more consumer centric, strengthening its portfolio with the launching of a dozen innovative products, expanding availability with an omni-channel route to market approach, intense marketing programs step changing brand preference, have all started bearing fruit. After a few years of headwinds, the dairy sector is finally seeing green shoots and the management is confident that Heritage Foods will outperform in the coming financial year.

## WHY FSSAI ADVISES AGAINST CONSUMING BREAST MILK AND BANNED ITS SALES

June 4, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/why-fssai-advises-against-consuming-breast-milk-and-banned-its-sales/>

**F**ood Safety and Standards Authorities of India (FSSAI) officials in Chennai cracked down on an outlet suspected of selling human breast milk. The outlet was under observation for 10 days after receiving a complaint. While no sales were observed during the surveillance period, a surprise inspection on Friday uncovered a hidden stock of breast milk, according to reports.

Samples from the recovered bottles priced at ₹500 for 50ml, have been sent for testing. It's important to note that the

commercial sale of breast milk is strictly prohibited in India. The FSSAI issued an advisory last week clarifying that processing and selling human milk violates the FSS Act, 2006.

According to Dr Kranthi Shilpa, Consultant Gynecologist, CARE Hospitals, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, consuming breast milk, especially from unregulated sources, can be harmful for the following reasons:

- Infections and Contaminations: Breast milk can be a vector for transmitting infectious diseases such as HIV, hepatitis, and bacterial infections. If the milk is not properly screened and pasteurized, it can carry harmful pathogens.
- Adulteration and Contamination: Commercially sold breast milk may not meet hygiene and safety standards. There is a risk of contamination with harmful substances, either through improper handling or intentional adulteration.



It is best to avoid consuming breast milk and instead rely on a balanced diet that meets the nutritional needs of adults. (file)– Nutritional Imbalance: Breast milk is tailored to meet the nutritional needs of infants, not adults. Consuming it might not provide the necessary nutrients required for adult health, and it could contribute to an imbalanced diet.

- Storage Issues: Improper storage can lead to the growth of harmful bacteria. Breast milk needs to be stored at specific temperatures and handled with care

to prevent spoilage and bacterial contamination.

The sale of breast milk is often not regulated or supervised by health authorities. This means that there is no guarantee of the milk's safety, quality, or purity, warned Dr Shilpa.

The commercialisation of breast milk can lead to ethical concerns, including the exploitation of vulnerable women who might sell their milk due to financial necessity, she added. Selling breast milk might deprive infants, who are the primary beneficiaries, of this vital resource.

While breast milk is highly beneficial and necessary for infants, its consumption by adults, especially from unregulated commercial sources, poses significant health risks and ethical concerns. It is best to avoid consuming breast milk and instead rely on a balanced diet that meets the nutritional needs of adults.

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## PRIVATE MILK VENDORS ALSO INCREASED MILK PRICES SIGNIFICANTLY IN HARYANA, ASSAM

June 3, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/private-milk-vendors-also-increased-milk-prices-significantly-in-haryana-assam/>

While the entire world celebrated World Milk Day on June 1, people in Sirsa are facing hike in milk prices due to the extreme heat. There is also the issue of power cuts and water shortages. Private dairies are selling buffalo milk for Rs 70 per kg, while cow milk is being sold for Rs 56 per litres. These prices have increased by Rs 3 to Rs 4 per litres over the past three to four days.

The Vita Milk Plant in Sirsa is also experiencing a decrease in daily milk supply by 5,000 liters due to the heat. However, the Vita Milk Plant management is offering reasonable prices to dairy farmers to maintain the milk supply. In April, the plant received 80,000 litres of milk per day, but now, this supply has decreased to 75,000 litres in May.

CEO of the plant Bishamber Kumar said the plant was currently offering higher prices to dairy farmers than private dairy players, which was helping in maintaining the supply. He said that the rate for buffalo milk with 10 per cent fat was Rs 76 per litre and for cow milk with 10 per cent fat, it was Rs 65 per litre. The plant sells milk based on different fat percentages, such as 4.5 and 8.7 per cent fat, which costs around Rs 60 per litre. Bishamber explained that due to the heat, the milk yield became low in animals and buffaloes were more affected compared to cows. A resident Rohit Saini said the milk prices had gone up due to the severe heat in May. He said he noticed Rs 4 hike per kg in prices when he bought it from the dairy



today. Rohit stated that the rise in prices and other food items, along with reduced business activities due to the heat, was a double burden on the common man.

Dr Sukhwinder Singh Chauhan, Deputy Director of the Animal Husbandry Department, Sirsa, explained that milk was an important source of calcium, vitamin D, protein, potassium, fat and other nutrients essential for human health. According to FAO statistics, the dairy sector supported the livelihoods of over a billion people

worldwide, and more than six billion people consumed dairy products.

The Brihattar Guwahati Gau Palak Sanstha has announced a hike in the prices of milk in the city by Rs 5.50 per litre from today. This hike takes the wholesale price of this essential commodity to Rs 62 from the previous Rs 56.50. The retail prices are also expected to reach Rs 75.80 per litre after this hike from the previous Rs 65.70.

This hike will impact the prices of all dairy products as well. While the wholesalers have asked the organisation to reduce the price as the steep hike might affect several sectors, including the domestic consumers of this essential commodity, the Brihattar Guwahati Gau Palak Sanstha remains adamant regarding their decision and has threatened to discontinue supplying milk if this hike is not supported by them.

## POST-ELECTION MILK PRICE HIKE RAISES EYEBROWS: STRATEGY OR NECESSITY?

June 3, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/post-election-milk-price-hike-raises-eyebrows-strategy-or-necessity/>

As soon as the elections concluded, major dairies across India raised milk prices by ₹2 per liter. This move comes despite assurances from the top management of the country's largest dairy, who recently expressed confidence in stable input prices, citing significant growth in milk availability and ample stocks of dairy commodities nationwide.

The Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which markets milk and milk products un-

der the brand name Amul, has announced a price increase effective from June 3, 2024. Amul buffalo milk will now cost ₹73 per liter, while cow milk will be priced at ₹58 per liter.

GCMMF attributes this hike to rising input costs. "This price hike is being done due to the increase in the overall cost of operation and production of milk. Our member unions have also increased the farmer's milk procurement price by approximately 6-8% over the last year," stated the GCMMF, India's largest dairy producer. They highlighted that Amul has not increased fresh milk prices since February 2023. On the other side despite significant drops in raw milk prices during that period, Amul didn't reduce the prices also. The federation emphasized that 80 paise of every rupee

paid by consumers is passed on to milk producers. "The price revision shall help in sustaining remunerative milk prices to our milk producers and encourage them to target higher milk production."

Similarly, other dairies from North India, including Mother Dairy and Verka, have also increased

their milk prices by ₹2 per liter. This simultaneous price hike across multiple dairies has raised questions about whether this is a strategic move by politicians to maintain

voter satisfaction until elections are over, rather than a response to genuine cost increases.

The pre-election period saw dairy leaders publicly stating that input prices were under control and that there was a significant increase in milk availability. The sudden post-election price hike appears contradictory to these earlier statements, raising skepticism among consumers.

It is crucial to scrutinize the timing and justification of these price hikes. While the dairies cite increased operational costs and higher payments to farmers, the pre-election assurances of price stability and ample supplies suggest a different story. This situation underscores the need for transparency in the dairy sector and a careful examination of how politi-



cal strategies may influence market prices, especially essential commodities like milk. As the largest milk producer, India must strive for a

balance that supports both farmers and consumers without falling prey to political maneuvering.

## MILMA'S MALABAR UNION HIKES MILK PROCUREMENT PRICE BY ₹2

June 3, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/milmas-malabar-union-hikes-milk-procurement-price-by-2/>

**T**he Malabar Regional Co-operative Milk Producers' Union (MRCMPU) of Milma has announced an additional incentive of ₹2 per litre for milk procured from dairy farmers for three months starting from June 1, which also marks World Milk Day.

The decision will increase the procurement price of milk from ₹45.95 per litre to ₹47.95 per litre, bringing benefit to around one lakh dairy farmers in Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasaragod districts, affiliated to 1,200 primary Anand-model dairy cooperative societies.

The decision was taken by the MRCPU board which met in Kozhikode on Friday, said a press release.

Through the hike, around ₹12 crore will be disbursed to farmers as additional milk price till August 31.

The MRCMPU also decided to extend the subsidy of Gomathi Gold cattle feed for another three months from June 1. As per the scheme, farmers are entitled to a subsidy of ₹250 per 50 kg-bag of cattle feed, which is priced at ₹1,420. Besides, a subsidy of ₹50 will be given to each 50-kg bag of TMR cattle feed being sold by the trust under Milma Malabar Regional Union.

Around ₹5 crore will reach the farmers as cattle feed subsidy through the initiative.

This is the first time the MRCMPU is providing high milk price and cattle feed sub-

sidy during the monsoon season at the same price from five years ago.

Milma Chairman K.S Mani and Managing Director K.C. James said the total amount of ₹17 crore that includes the incentive for milk and subsidy for cattle feed would be handed over to dairy cooperative societies between June 1 and August 31.



## MILMA STRIVING TO ATTAIN SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN MILK PRODUCTION

June 2, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/milma-striving-to-attain-self-sufficiency-in-milk-production/>

**T**he Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (Milma) is working on a multi-pronged strategy to strengthen the cooperative dairy sector and attain self-sufficiency in milk production, Milma chairman K.S. Mani said on Saturday.

Enhancing productivity and supporting dairy farmers, who are burdened by increase in input costs, form the core of this strategy. Bridging the gap between domestic milk production and demand remains a priority, Mr. Mani said in connection with the World Milk Day observance on June 1.

“Milma procured an average 10.31 lakh litres of milk a day in April 2024, which increased to 11.96 lakh litres in May, while the sales stood

at 17.56 lakh litres. Going forward, our focus will be on attaining self-sufficiency in milk production to meet the entire demand,” he said.

### Repositioning Milma

The brand repositioning initiative launched recently by Milma has yielded results, he said. In 2023-24, the milk cooperative posted a higher turnover of ₹4,311 crore, he said.

‘Repositioning Milma 2023,’ the brand makeover initiative, saw the launch of a variety of new products like chocolates, butter biscuits and ready-to-cook and ready-to-eat instant mixes besides

standardising the price, quality and packaging of liquid milk, curd and other dairy staples from the three regional unions. “This process has imparted a big thrust to the market expansion of Milma,” Mr. Mani said.





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## WORLD MILK DAY 2024-RISK REGISTER FOR OUR DAIRY INDUSTRY

June 2, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/world-milk-day-2024-risk-register-for-our-dairy-industry/>



**T**he meta crisis we face seems inevitable as humanity evolves into superorganisms driven by narrow goals. Our relentless pursuit of extraction, conquest, and the destruction of diverse cultures, species, and ecosystems is setting the stage for an impending disaster. In essence, mankind is unwittingly crafting the conditions for its own extinction. It's time to establish a risk register for our dairy industry, focusing on the critical factors that will shape its future.

Key considerations must include the impact of climate change, biodiversity loss, the quest for cheaper cow-less dairy alternatives, emerging lifestyle fads, and the shift towards non-farm activities. Let's delve into each of these aspects.

### Climate Change

Climate change poses a significant threat to dairy farming. Rising temperatures, unpredictable weather patterns, and increased frequency of extreme events can affect milk production, animal health, and feed availability. Sustainable practices and resilient infrastructure are essential to mitigate these impacts and ensure the industry's longevity.

### Biodiversity Loss

The loss of biodiversity undermines the ecological balance necessary for sustainable dairy farming. Diverse ecosystems provide vital services such as pollination, water purification, and soil fertility. Protecting and restoring biodiversity is crucial to maintaining these services and supporting resilient dairy systems.

### Quest for Cheaper Cow-Less Dairy

The drive to produce cheaper cow-less dairy alternatives, while innovative, must be balanced with considerations of nutritional quality and environmental impact. Precision fermentation and plant-based dairy products offer potential solutions, but they must complement rather than replace traditional dairy, ensuring we retain essential nutrients and support rural livelihoods.

### Emerging Lifestyle Fads

Lifestyle trends, such as veganism and flexitarianism, are influencing consumer preferences. The dairy industry must adapt by offering diverse, high-quality products that cater to evolving tastes while promoting the nutritional benefits of dairy. Public education and transparent communication are key to addressing misconceptions and highlighting the value of dairy.



### Migration Towards Non-Farm Activities

Rural-to-urban migration is reducing the agricultural workforce, posing challenges for dairy farming. Investing in technology, automation, and training can help bridge this gap, making dairy farming more attractive and sustainable. Supporting young farmers and creating viable

career paths in agriculture are essential to securing the industry's future. By addressing these critical factors, we can navigate the meta crisis and build a resilient, sustainable dairy industry. Together, we must strive for a harmonious balance between progress and preservation, ensuring that our pursuit of growth does not come at the expense of our planet and future generations.

## DAIRY SECTOR CONTRIBUTING TO NUTRITION, LIVELIHOOD AND SUSTAINABILITY

June 1, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/dairy-sector-contributing-to-nutrition-livelihood-and-sustainability/>

**W**orld Milk Day, celebrated annually on June 1st of every year is a moment to acknowledge the significant contributions of the dairy sector to nutrition, livelihood, and global agricultural economies. In India, dairy is the single largest agricultural commodity, contributing 5 percent to the national economy and directly employing more than 8 crore farmers. India's prominence in the dairy sector is national and global, as it ranks first in milk production, contributing 25 percent to the world's total milk output.

India's milk production has grown remarkably over the past decade, with a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 6 percent. This surge is evident from the increase in production from 187.30 million tonnes in 2018-19 to 230.58 million tonnes in 2022-23. Further as per the FAO Dairy Market Review (2023) milk production of India is estimated to reach 236.35 million tonnes in 2023-24 registering a

growth of 2.5% over the last year beating the world average growth rate. This growth is significantly higher than the global milk production growth rate of 1.3 percent in 2023 over the previous year, highlighting India's robust development in this sector.



The per capita availability of milk in India stands at 459 grams per day for 2022-23, significantly higher than the global average of 322 grams per day as

reported in the Food Outlook June 2023. This abundance not only supports the nutritional needs of India's vast population but also underscores the efficiency and productivity of the Indian dairy industry.

India has made significant strides in the cooperative sector. Within this sector are 22 Milk Federations/Apex Bodies, 240 district cooperative milk unions, 28 marketing dairies, and 24 Milk Producer Organizations. These organiza-

tions encompass approximately 230,000 villages and include 18 million dairy farmers as members.

A notable aspect of India's dairy industry is the substantial involvement of women, with 35 percent of women participating in dairy cooperatives. There are 48,000 women dairy cooperative societies operational at the village level nationwide, fostering inclusive growth and empowering women in rural areas.

Over the last decade, India's milk production has grown by about 6 percent annually, reaching an impressive 231 million metric tonnes (MMT) in 2022-23. This remarkable increase underscores the dynamic nature of India's dairy sector, which supports a vast livestock population of 303.76 million bovines, and 74.26 million goats. India proudly holds the title of the world's largest livestock owner, with a total livestock population of 536.76 million.

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying is supporting the dairy production by inducting supportive Schemes and Programmes to enhance the milk production and productivity of bovines to meet growing demand of milk and making dairying more remunerative to the rural farmers of the country.

**1. Rashtriya Gokul Mission has been initiated in December 2014 exclusively for development and conservation of indigenous bovine breeds in a scientific holistic manner.**

For the first time in the country Nationwide Artificial Insemination Programme (NAIP) is implemented to enhance Artificial Insemination Coverage from present 30% to 70% and deliver Artificial Insemination services free of cost at farmers doorstep. As on date 7.13 crore animals have been covered, 8.81 crores Artificial Insemination have been performed and 4.75 crores farmers benefitted under the programme. In order to achieve faster genetic upgradation of bovine population bovine IVF Technology is being promoted by the Department and 20 VF labs now operating in the country and as on date, 21068 viable embryos

have been produced out of this 11583 embryos transferred and 1800 calves born. Sex sorted semen production has been introduced in the country for production of only female calves up to 90% accuracy. As on date, production facility has been created at 8 semen stations and 100 lakh sex sorted semen doses produced. For the first time in the world sex sorted semen cattle and buffalo breeds have been produced.

**2. National Programme for Dairy Development:**

National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) is being implemented since Feb-2014 across the country with an objective of creating/strengthening of infrastructure for Production of quality milk, Procurement, Processing and Marketing of Milk & Milk Products through State Implementing Agency (SIA) i.e State Cooperative Dairy Federation. NPDD scheme has been restructured/realigned in July 2021 for implementation from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with the aim to enhance quality of milk and milk products and increase share of organised procurement, processing, value addition and marketing.

Under the scheme, 17.45 lakh new farmers were given benefit of membership of dairy cooperative societies and 83.56 lakh litre of additional milk procured under the projects. About 24.82 lakh litres per day new milk processing capacity has been established and 4193 Bulk Milk Coolers with 94.12 lakh litres chilling capacity has been created at village level milk collection centres. In addition, 6022 Electronic Milk Adulteration Testing Machines, 33854 Automatic Milk Collection Unit with Milk Analyser and 4017 Milk Analysers has been installed for testing and ensuring quality of milk at the collection point itself. About 233 dairy plant laboratories have also been equipped to detect adulterants in milk & milk products and about 10 State Central laboratories have been established for detection of residues, contaminants, heavy metals, adulterants, chemical and microbiological quality of milk and milk products.



### 3. Livestock Health & Disease Control Programme (LHDCP)

Department supplements the efforts of the State Governments / Union Territories by way of financial assistance through the 'Livestock Health & Disease Control Programme (LHDCP), which is a Central sector scheme, with the aim of reducing risk to animal health by prophylactic vaccination against diseases of animals, capacity building of Veterinary services, disease surveillance and strengthening Veterinary infrastructure. The major activities supported are vaccination against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Brucellosis (the erstwhile National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) is now component of LHDCP), Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and Classical Swine Fever (CSF), Assistance to States for Control of Animal Disease (ASCAD) for control of state prioritized economically important exotic, emergent and zoonotic animal diseases and Establishment and Strengthening of Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries-Mobile Veterinary Units (ESVHD-MVU). Further, under ESVHD-MVU, the Central Government has provided 100% financial assistance to the States/UTs towards procurement and customization of MVUs to strengthen veterinary health services in far flung areas at farmer's doorstep.

### 4. National Livestock Mission

For sustainable and continuous growth of livestock sector Department has launched with National Livestock Mission, focusing employment generation, entrepreneurship development; increase in per animal productivity and thus targeting increased production of meat, goat milk, egg and wool under the umbrella scheme Development Programmes. The excess production will help in the export earnings after meeting the domestic demands. The concept of NLM Scheme is to develop entrepreneur in order to create the forward and backward linkage for the produce available at the unorganized sector and to link with the organized sector.

The scheme is implemented with the following three Sub-Missions:

- a.) Sub-Mission on Breed Development of Livestock & Poultry
  - b.) Sub-Mission on Feed and Fodder development
  - c.) Sub-Mission on Extension and Innovation
5. Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund

Under AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan stimulus package, Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) was set-up with the corpus of Rs. 15000 crore. The scheme has been approved for incentivizing investments by individual entrepreneurs, private companies, MSME, Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) and Section 8 companies to establish (i) the dairy processing and value addition infrastructure, (ii) meat processing and value addition infrastructure and (iii) Animal Feed Plant. (iv) Breed improvement Technology and Breed Multiplications farms.

The objective of the scheme is to enhance the milk and meat processing capacity and product diversification thereby providing greater access for unorganized rural milk and meat producers to the organized market, price realization for the producer, availability of quality products for the domestic consumer, generating entrepreneurs, promoting exports, quality, and cheap animal feeds and to availability of quality protein rich food to the Indian consumer.

### 6. KISAN CREDIT CARDS (KCC) for Dairy Farmers Of Milk Cooperatives And Milk Producer Companies

Kisan Credit Card (KCC) facility has been made available to livestock and dairy farmers for the first time since 2019 enabling easy and increased access of institutionalized credit facility to them.

As we celebrate World Milk Day, it is evident that India's dairy sector is not just a cornerstone of its agricultural economy but also a beacon of growth, innovation, and empowerment. India's achievements in milk production, women's participation in cooperatives, and

technological advancements in dairy farming set a benchmark for the world, demonstrating how a country can sustainably harness its livestock resources to support both its economy and its people.



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## CELEBRATING INDIA'S DAIRY DOMINANCE ON WORLD MILK DAY

June 1, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/celebrating-indias-dairy-dominance-on-world-milk-day/>

In the words of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, "India's dairy sector is not just about milk production; it is about nurturing millions of dreams, empowering our farmers, and ensuring sustainable development." India ranks 1st in the world in terms of total milk production. (Source: FAO).

Let us raise a glass of milk today in celebration of India's dairy dominance and its journey towards a brighter, sustainable future.



### India's Remarkable Journey in Dairy Production

On World Milk Day, we reflect on the rich history of dairying, illuminating the remarkable journey of India's dairy industry through different eras. From ancient times, where milk production was intertwined with agrarian societies, to the pre-independence period marked by the establishment of military dairy farms under British rule, India's dairy sector has evolved significantly.

The foundation of India's dairy success story lies in the formation of cooperative movements, notably the establishment of the Kaira District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Ltd. (later known as Amul) in 1946. This cooperative was formed under the guidance of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and the leadership of Dr. Verghese Kurien. Amul pioneered the cooperative model, empowering farmers and ensuring fair milk prices.

The turning point for India's dairy sector came with the White Revolution, launched in the

1970s. Operation Flood, the world's largest dairy development program, was initiated to replicate the Amul model across India. It aimed to link rural milk producers with consumers in urban areas, establishing a nationwide network of milk procurement, processing, and marketing. Key milestones included:

Formation of NDDB: The National Dairy Development

Board (NDDB) was established in 1965 with Dr. Verghese Kurien as its chairman. NDDB played a pivotal role in implementing Operation Flood and promoting dairy cooperatives nationwide. Growth of Cooperative Societies: By the 1980s, India had established a robust network of dairy cooperatives, involving millions of farmers across the country. This cooperative structure empowered farmers economically and socially.

### National Trends in Milk Production and Per Capita Availability

In 1950-51, milk production in India was a modest 17 Million Tonnes (MT). By 1968-69, just before the launch of Operation Flood, it had only inched up to 21.2 MT. However, through concerted efforts, India managed to boost milk production to 30.4 MT by 1979-80 and an impressive 51.4 MT by 1989-90. Fast forward to 2021-22, and the country's milk production has soared to a remarkable 221 million tonnes. Over the span of three decades encompassing the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s, daily milk consumption in India has undergone



a remarkable transformation. India has seen a consistent increase in milk production and per capita availability over the past few years. From 2016-17 to 2022-23, milk production increased from 165.40 million tonnes to 230.58 million tonnes. During the same period, the per capita availability of milk rose from 351 grams per day to 459 grams per day. This upward trend reflects improvements in dairy farming practices, productivity, and distribution networks.

The annual growth rate of milk production in India has shown variability. From 2016-17 to 2022-23, the growth rate peaked at 6.62% in 2017-18 and then gradually declined to 3.83% in 2022-23. Despite this decline, the overall trend indicates steady growth, though the decreasing rate suggests challenges that need to be addressed to sustain higher growth. In 2022-23, the growth rate of milk production varied across major milk-producing states. Karnataka had the highest growth rate at 8.76%, followed by West Bengal at 8.65%, Uttar Pradesh at 6.99%, Tripura at 6.07%, Madhya Pradesh at 5.88%, Chhattisgarh at 5.80%, Jharkhand at 5.50%, Maharashtra at 5.15%, Meghalaya at 3.65%, Gujarat at 3.34%, Jammu & Kashmir at 3.32%, Odisha at 3.10%, Haryana at 2.89%, Assam at 2.48%, and Tamil Nadu at 2.07% {Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Govt. of India)}.

### The Nutritional Powerhouse

Milk is often touted as a nearly perfect food, providing a rich source of nutrients that are essential for human health. It is particularly high in calcium, which is crucial for the development and maintenance of strong bones and teeth. Additionally, milk is an excellent source of protein, vitamin D, vitamin B12, and phosphorus. These nutrients contribute to muscle growth, immune function, and overall health. In India, cows hold a unique and revered status in both culture and agriculture. Indian cows are primarily of the *Bos indicus* breed, known for their distinctive hump and high milk-producing

capacity. Within the *Bos indicus* breed, a subset of cows produces milk that contains predominantly A2 beta-casein protein rather than A1 beta-casein protein found in most other cows. This is known as A2 milk. Studies suggest that A2 milk might be easier to digest for some individuals who experience discomfort from A1 beta-casein (He et al., 2019). In a country where dairy products like ghee, yogurt, and paneer are staples in cuisine, the nutritional benefits of milk from Indian cows play a vital role in the overall health and well-being of the population

### Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship

India's dairy sector has embraced sustainable practices, ensuring the efficient use of resources and minimal environmental impact. The adoption of modern technologies, improved animal husbandry practices, and initiatives promoting organic dairy farming have further bolstered the sustainability credentials of India's dairy industry.

### Innovations Driving Growth

The success story of India's dairy sector is also attributed to continuous innovation and research. The development of high-yielding indigenous and crossbred cattle breeds, advancements in milk processing and preservation techniques, and the establishment of robust cooperative dairy networks, such as the Amul model, have been instrumental in driving growth and efficiency. Looking ahead, India's dairy sector aims to sustain this growth momentum while addressing emerging challenges such as climate change impacts, fluctuating feed costs, and evolving consumer preferences. The government's initiatives like the National Dairy Plan (NDP), Rashtriya Gokul Mission, and Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS) are expected to play a crucial role in further enhancing the productivity and sustainability of the dairy industry.

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## Global News





## FONTERRA PUTS ITS AUSTRALIAN DAIRY ASSETS UP FOR SALE

June 11, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/fonterra-puts-its-australian-dairy-assets-up-for-sale/>

Fonterra has put its Australian business, a major supplier of milk, up for sale in a move that has farmers concerned about shrinking competition in the processing sector.

The New Zealand-based dairy giant – behind household brands such as Western Star butter, Mainland cheese and Perfect Italiano cheese – has eight manufacturing sites spread across Victoria and Tasmania. It employs about 1600 people and collects about 1.4 billion litres of milk annually from hundreds of Australian farmers.



The sale is expected to dwarf the \$1.3 billion paid by Saputo to secure Murray Goulburn six years ago and Bega's \$560 million acquisition of Lion Dairy and Drinks in 2021 amid consolidation in the Australian dairy sector. The Australian operations are for sale as part of a divestment of Fonterra's Oceania division. The co-operative is also considering the sale of all of its global consumer business and Fonterra Sri Lanka.

Aaron Thomas, a Gippsland farmer who supplies Fonterra, said he received a notice from the company outlining its sale plans on Thursday morning.

Mr Thomas said he hoped a new entrant emerged and warned an acquisition by Saputo and Bega, or other major processors, would be bad for farmers. "It needs to be a new player to drive that competition. If it is sold to Bega or

Saputo, or other existing processors in Australia, I think it will be detrimental to all of us," he said.

Fonterra chief executive Miles Hurrell said the company was exiting Australia and other jurisdictions because it wanted to focus on its core business of supplying high-value dairy ingredients. "We believe we can grow further value for the co-op by focusing on being a B2B dairy nutrition provider, working closely with customers through our high-performing ingredients and food service channels," he said.

CEO Miles Hurrell wants to focus on high-value dairy ingredients. Bloomberg

The sale process raises the prospect of more consolidation in the Australian dairy industry. Last year, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission gave a green light for Coles to buy two processing plants in Melbourne and Sydney from Canada's Saputo. The sale marked the first time a large retailer has owned processing plants, having previously relied on dairy producers to make home brand milk.

E&P Capital said Fonterra's Oceania business would be of interest to Bega. "In our view, Bega's highest interest levels would be in Fonterra's Australian operations. However, we would not rule out interest in the other regions, such as New Zealand," wrote E&P analyst Phillip Kimber.

There is already a relationship between the two companies; Fonterra markets and sells the Bega cheese brand under licence, paying millions of dollars in royalties.

Rabobank senior dairy analyst Michael Harvey said Fonterra processed about 17 per cent of Australia's milk pool and was one of the big three alongside Bega and Saputo.

Mr Harvey said the sale of the Fonterra business – given the volumes it processed – was a major event for the Australian dairy industry.

“We’re in a five- or six-year period of major transformation in the downstream sector for dairy here in Australia, with footprint adjustments, plant closures and some changes of ownership,” he said. “There is a focus on strategy for the companies here because pressure points are being forced on them. The milk pool is down, prices are up and cost of production pressures on business owners are forcing a lot of change.”

Any transaction will require the approval of the competition regulator.

Bega was only able to secure Lion Dairy and Drinks after then treasurer Josh Frydenberg rejected a proposed \$600 million acquisition from China Mengniu Dairy.

Fonterra's decision to consider a divestment comes after a strategic review and on the back of receiving unsolicited offers for the assets now on the market.

Collectively, the businesses up for sale use about 15 per cent of Fonterra's milk supply and represent about 19 per cent of operating earnings in the first half of this year.

Mr Hurrell said while they were “great businesses”, their ownership did not fulfil New Zealand-focused Fonterra's core function of collecting, processing and selling milk.

“At the same time, we believe Fonterra is not the highest-value owner of the consumer and associated businesses in the longer term and a divestment could allow a new owner with the right expertise and resources to unlock their full potential,” he said.

The company has previously considered selling its Australian business, and in 2021 flagged it could attempt to demerge the division and list it on the ASX.

## CEREALS, DAIRY PRICES PUSH FAO FOOD PRICE INDEX UP IN MAY

June 8, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/cereals-dairy-prices-push-fao-food-price-index-up-in-may/>



**G**lobal food commodity prices rose for a third consecutive month in May due to increases in the prices of cereals and dairy products.

The FAO Food Price Index, which tracks monthly changes in the international prices of a set of globally-traded food commodities, rose 0.9% in May compared to the previous month, reaching 120.4 points.

The index level for May remained 3.4% below its level from the same time a year ago, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization said.

The figure was also 24.9% below its peak in March 2022.

The cereal price index jumped 6.3% from April due to "rising global wheat export prices, reflecting growing concerns about unfavourable crop conditions curbing yields for the 2024 harvests in major producing areas including parts of Northern America, Europe and the Black Sea region", according to the FAO.

The organisation also reported that maize export prices increased in May as a result of production concerns in Argentina and unfavourable weather in Brazil.

Nevertheless, the cereal price index still stood 8.2% below its May 2023 value.

Meanwhile, dairy prices rose 1.8% as international price quotations for "all the dairy products represented in the index rose in May".

On the other side of the coin, May's price index for sugar dropped 7.5% on the previous month primarily due to pressure from the good start of the new harvest season in Brazil. The FAO added: "Lower international crude oil prices also exerted downward pressure on sugar prices, by lowering demand."

Vegetable oil prices sank 2.4% as palm oil quotations dropped.

The meat price index decreased by 0.2%, as international prices of poultry and bovine meats fell while those of pig and ovine meats increased.

In April, rising poultry, bovine and ovine meat prices pushed up the overall FAO basket of food commodities. The organisation pointed to "slack internal demand" in western Europe and "persistently lacklustre demand from leading importers", especially China.

## MODEST INCREASE IN GDT PRICE INDEX AFTER LATEST AUCTION

June 6, 2024

<https://dairynews7x7.com/modest-increase-in-gdt-price-index-after-latest-auction/>



The average Global Dairy Trade (GDT) price index rose by 1.7% according to latest auction results published today (Tuesday, June 4).

There were a total of 164 bidders in the event which saw 17,637MT of product sold.

The GDT Price Index now stands at 1,162 today – compared to the previous index figure on May 21 of 1,143.

The latest result marks the the highest figure recorded since October 2022.

The average selling price was \$3,824 per metric ton in the auction, which lasted for nearly three hours, during which there were 102 winning bidders.

The GDT auction, which is held twice every month, is a strong indicator of market sentiment and while the latest rise is marginal it will be well received by farmers.

It attracts on average buyers and sellers of dairy ingredients from 60 countries including Kerry Dairy Ireland which joined GDT in April of this year.

According to Kerry Dairy Ireland this provided it with “access to a worldwide pool of active buyers”.

### GDT event

An analysis of the individual product sub-indices from the 357th event today shows that the biggest increase was in butter milk powder which jumped by 10.4% to \$2,845/MT.

The next biggest rise was in skim milk powder (SMP) which rose by 3% to \$2,722/MT.

This was followed by both whole milk powder (WMP) which saw a slight increase of 1.7% to \$3,478/MT and the butter sub-index which similarly rose by 1.7% to \$6,864/MT.

There was a less buoyant performance from cheddar and anhydrous milk fat (AMF) while lactose was the only product to record a decrease in the latest GDT event.

The cheddar sub-index increase by 0.2% to \$4,248/MT while the anhydrous milk fat sub-index rose by just 0.9% to \$7,417.

Lactose fell back by 1.9% to \$792/MT.



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