

# THE HINDU

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## NDDB's ambitious dairy plan catching up in Cuttack

CORRESPONDENT



FOR A BETTER FUTURE: Members of milk producers' co-operatives in consultation in Cuttack district on Friday. — Photo: Lingaraj Panda

In order to boost the milk productivity in the country, the National Dairy Development Board's ambitious National Dairy Plan (NDP) is catching up in Cuttack district. Looking at the interest of the milk producers on NDP, the NDDB is planning to set up at least 42 cooperative societies here in the district to meet the ever growing demand of the milk.

"NDP is not only going to bridge the gap of demand and supply of milk at local level but the plan is aimed at improving the economic status of milk producers through a focused programme of scientific breeding and taking care of nutritional requirement of the cattle", said the NDDB managing director Dilip Rath while taking stock of two of the recently formed cooperatives in two villages of Salipur block of the district on Friday.

Encouraged by the Cuttack Milk Union's enthusiasm, the NDDB-sponsored cooperative societies were formed at villages Patapur and Naiguan here last fortnight and the members of the cooperatives are buoyant to be part of the ambitious national plan.

"I am hopeful to be immensely benefitted by the newly formed society as it holds a lot of promises for the marginal farmers like us", said a member of Naiguan cooperative society, an exclusive all-women society.

The World Bank funded NDP is focusing on 14 milk producing States of the country, including Odisha, which account for over 90 per cent of country's milk production, Rath said adding that the Plan is having an outlay of Rs. 2,242 crores to be spent on breed improvement, animal nutrition, milk procurement, project management and learning during the next five years.