

NDDDB Plan to Boost Dairy Farming in Rural Odisha

by Anup Nayak

Cuttack: In order to make dairy farming a lucrative business in rural areas and meet the growing demands of dairy products, there is a need to set up more dairy co-operative centre (DCS) in the State, said Managing Director of National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB) Dillip Rath on Friday.

During a field visit to the milk cooperative societies at Patapur and Naiguan villages under Salipur in Cuttack district, Rath said the DCS will contribute to improve quality of life of rural dairy farmers.

In the first phase of national dairy plan (NDP) of NDDDB, 33 DCSs or village cooperative societies have been set up in undivided Cuttack district and nine more are on the anvil. These DCSs are a joint collaboration of Cuttack Milk Union and Omfed.

The union is pooling about 2200 litres of milk from the cooperative societies per day. There are 1004 members in 33 DCSs of which 300 are women. Ten societies are run only by women. "The NDDDB also aims to empower the women in rural areas by mak-

ing them self-sufficient through the societies," said Rath.

Earlier, local middlemen used to exploit the dairy farmers by purchasing milk at a lower rate and selling it to sweet shops at a much higher price. However, after the DCSs were set up, the practice has come to an end and the farmers are earning

In first phase of national dairy plan (NDP) of NDDDB, 33 DCSs or village cooperative societies have been set up in undivided Cuttack district

₹18 to 20 per litre of milk which is much higher than what the private vendors were paying, informed Rath.

With 35 women members, the Naiguan DCS produces around 90 litres of milk per day. The Patapur milk cooperative society pools around 80 litres of milk per day.

The NDDDB has set up DCS in 14 States to increase the milk production capacity of

the country. Apart from undivided Cuttack which includes Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur and Jajpur districts, the NDDDB will establish DCS in Puri, Sambalpur, Balasore and Ganjam districts, informed Rath.

He further said the Omfed and Cuttack Milk Union will provide cattle feed to the farmers at a subsidised price and village level resource personnel will be engaged in the villages having DCS to train the farmers under ration balancing programme of NDDDB.

According to reports, while there is a demand of around 5.80 lakh litres of milk per day, the State manages to produce 4 lakh litres. Besides, the State buys milk powder from other States to meet the growing demand for dairy products.

The gap will be bridged after the completion of NDDDB's six-year plan in which hundreds of DCS will be established across the State, Rath added. Among others, PG Dora, General Manager of Omfed, Bidyadhar Sahoo, General Manager of Cuttack Milk Union and NDDDB officials were present during the field visit.