

## Workshop on *Solar – A Green Energy Alternate to Augment Dairy Farmers' Income*



**S**hri Raj Kumar Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Govt of India inaugurated NDDB's workshop titled "Solar – A Green Energy Alternate to Augment Dairy Farmers' Income" at the SCOPE Convention Centre, New Delhi on 9 January, 2019. Shri Anand Kumar, Secretary, MNRE, Govt of India; Shri Deepak Gupta, former Secretary, MNRE, Govt of India & Honorary Director General, National Solar Energy Federation of India (NSEFI) and Shri Dilip Rath, Chairman, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) graced the occasion.

Officials from MNRE, NITI Aayog, NDDB & its subsidiaries; MDs/CEOs of select dairy cooperatives/producer companies; industry representatives from Tata Power, InfiCold, NISE; representatives from donor agencies like World Bank, SDC and KFW; officials from research & consultancy firms like

KPMG, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), GIZ, IIT, Bombay; representatives from electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs) like Mahavitaran, Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd (GUVNL), Andhra Pradesh Eastern Power Distribution Company Ltd (APEPDCL) and Industry representative bodies like NSEFI, Solar Thermal Federation of India (STFI) participated in the workshop.

In his inaugural address, the Hon'ble Union Minister said that the entire dairy value chain from village level milk pooling points to product delivery is energy intensive. Extensive use of solar energy in dairy value chain can significantly reduce operational cost and ensure usage of clean energy. Shri Raj Kumar Singh said that NDDB with its mandate of promoting cooperative strategy has played a pivotal role in creating a pan India network of dairy cooperatives.

He further mentioned that the dairy network now has around 1.65 lakh village level dairy cooperatives, 218 district/regional/taluka unions and 24 State Dairy Federations/Apex Milk Unions. Around 15 million milk producers are affiliated to this network. As on March 2018, the network maintains 72 MLPD of processing capacity, 18 MLPD of chilling capacity and 38 MLPD of village level bulk milk cooling capacity. The Union Minister stressed on the need for creating an enabling policy framework to further propagate usage of solar energy utilising the dairy cooperative network for the benefits of farmers.

