



He conveyed that the Union Govt is promoting solar pumps to ensure usage of clean energy and at the same time reduce the agricultural subsidy burden. GRID connected solar pumps ensure water for free to farmers and help them earn additional income through selling surplus energy.

In his welcome address, Shri Dilip Rath, Chairman, NDDDB said that NDDDB has started application of Concentrated Solar Thermal technology in dairy processing plants to partly address the need of thermal energy in dairy cooperatives. CST can reduce the annual heat demand of the processing plant from 5 to 15%. With the help of capital subsidy support from MNRE and UNDP, NDDDB has completed 15 CST installations in processing plants of dairy cooperatives across four states of Maharashtra, Punjab, Gujarat and Karnataka. The total installed collector area at these locations is around 8,000 m<sup>2</sup> of aperture area.

With successful experimentation of installing GRID connected solar PV systems with storage (if required) in village level dairy cooperatives/milk collection centres, NDDDB has started propagation of solar energy run village cooperatives across the country. Support under National Dairy Plan I was also

provided to 125 such installations across 18 states and results have been encouraging. A uniform policy framework with suitable grant support can help solarise entire village level dairy operations, which would reduce energy cost and contribute significantly to environment protection.

Shri Rath informed that the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India inaugurated NDDDB-promoted Saur Urja Utpadak Sahakari Mandli Ltd at Mujkuvva village near Anand in Gujarat on 30 September 2018. 11 farmers have surrendered their access to the state subsidised electricity and opted for solar energy and supplying surplus energy to GRID.

The workshop highlighted solar energy as income source for dairy farmers. DISCOMs shared their initiatives and promoted the concept of solar as a remunerative crop. IIT, STFI, GIZ, National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Rajasthan Electronics and Instrumentation Limited (REIL) and Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) shared their experiences in application of solar in dairy value chain especially the Concentrated Solar Thermal (CST), industrial heating, bulk cooling and milk collection systems.