



## Cooperative conclave on enhancing competitive advantages of dairy cooperatives as business enterprises



**D**r Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, Niti Aayog was the Chief Guest at the Cooperative Conclave on “Enhancing Competitive Advantages of Dairy Cooperatives as Business Enterprises” organised by the National Dairy Development Board in collaboration with National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Ltd and Institute of Rural Management Anand at IRMA, Anand during 12-13 March, 2019. Shri Dilip Rath, Chairman, NDDB; Shri Satish Marathe, RBI Central Board Member; Shri Mangal Jit Rai, Chairman, NCDFI; Prof Hitesh Bhatt, Director, IRMA; Shri RS Sodhi, MD, GCOMF Ltd; Prof Tushar Shah; Prof Sanjiv Phansalkar; Dr NV Belavadi and Shri Sampath Kumar graced the occasion.

Dairy cooperatives though being a remarkable success story in India are not without its share of problems and constraints related to governance, professionalisation, member engagement. Renowned cooperative leaders, professionals, academicians, policy makers and other stakeholders of the dairy cooperative sector deliberated on these issues.

In his keynote address, Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, Niti Aayog said that the economic reality has changed since Amul model started in 1947. There is a need to introspect about the cooperative movement amidst changing conditions. According to Dr Kumar, along with professionalisation, the human commitment towards national cause requires special attention. Cooperatives should become accountable and fragmented farmers should congregate to enhance the competitive advantages of cooperatives as business enterprises. Dairy cooperatives need to be equipped with latest technology, in-built mechanism for robust governance, superior business model and transparent operating systems.

Dr Kumar said that all of us are conscious that our dairy cooperatives are ineffective in many parts of the country, making them incapable to serve the interests of small milk producers. But it is possible to rejuvenate them by bringing about the required reforms and restructuring of these institutions. Cooperatives are expected to be as efficient as their counterparts in private sector to better serve the interests of their member producers. He hoped that the conclave would come up with a road map to bring resurgence in the cooperative movement.

Shri Dilip Rath, Chairman, NDDB conveyed that India has a vast network of over 1,87,000 village dairy cooperatives. Unfortunately, the success of dairy cooperatives has not been uniform across the country. The percentage of village coverage in major dairying states varies from as low as 13% in Jharkhand to close to 100% in Gujarat. At all India level, the reach of dairy cooperatives is limited to 60% of the dairy potential villages. Now is the right time to give another big push to the milk sector by launching a