

Assam govt, NDDM ink pact on East Assam Milk Producers' Co-op Union Ltd

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Assam government has signed an agreement with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB) delegating the operational management of East Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Limited to the national dairy body. The agreement was signed by representatives from both sides in presence of State chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday during the north-east dairy cooperative conclave held in the city.

Commenting on it, Sarma expressed hope that the agreement of handing over of operational management of the eastern Assam milk producers' union would improve the financial health of the ailing cooperative body, as it happened in case of Purabi dairy.

"Just as handing over the management of Purabi dairy to NDDDB in 2008 saved the



cooperative body (West Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union) from near collapse, I am certain it would prove decisive in bringing a huge positive development in the fortune of milk producers' union in eastern Assam," said Sarma.

Referring to the overall daily milk production of about one lakh litres in Assam (against the demand of nearly 42 lakh litres) in comparison to Gujarat and Karnataka (with two crore litres and 80 lakh litres daily milk production respectively),

Sarma described various measures being implemented or in the pipeline to bring about a white revolution in the State.

"The government has brought a large number of Gir breed of cows from Gujarat. We plan to take that number to 15,000. We are also making extensive use of artificial insemination methods so that we have the best offspring of cattle in the State. Finally we are strengthening the cooperative milk production initiative by providing the dairy farm-

ers avenues to diversify their markets," stated Sarma. The government is now focusing on milk processing units. Moreover, attempts are being made at providing affordable veterinary care to the dairy farmers. Once the State increases the daily milk production to at least 10 lakh litres, it should reduce the dependency on milk from outside the State. Then it may help the dairy farmers to get considerable monetary gain.

In presence of State agriculture & animal husbandry minister Atul Bora, senior officials of NDDDB and Assam government, Sarma also remotely commissioned Purabi Cattle Feed Plant at Changsari. The plant is designed to supply concentrated, nutritious cattle feed to farmers across the State. It is assumed that lack of nutritious cattle feed is one of the contributing factors behind low milk yield in Assam.