

## TODAY'S IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS

### UPSC

Date: 20.09.2024

### Women Empowerment as Dairy Farmers

**Source:** The post is based on the article published in “The Hindu” on 20<sup>th</sup> Sep 2024.

**In News:** Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah launched the standard operating procedure for ‘White Revolution 2.0’ stating that milk dairies will aid empowerment of women and the fight against malnutrition.

**Syllabus:** Mains – GS I (Social Issues – Women Empowerment)

#### Introduction:

- White Revolution 2.0 will lead to the empowerment of women fight malnutrition in children, generate employment, strengthen organic farming through in the country.
- India has become the largest milk producing country in the world maximum women are engaged in the dairy sector with some generating business worth 60 thousand crore rupees in Gujarat alone.
- The government aims to increase milk procurement by dairy cooperative societies by 50 per cent over the next five years.
- White Revolution 2.0 involves setting up and strengthening 100,000 new and existing district cooperative societies, multi-purpose district cooperative societies, and multi-purpose PACS, (Primary Agriculture Credit Societies) which will be linked to milk routes with necessary infrastructure.



## Objectives:

- Empowering women farmers.
- Enhancing local milk production.
- Strengthening dairy infrastructure.
- Boosting dairy exports.

## White Revolution 2.0 role in women empowerment:

- ◆ White revolution 2.0 will work for women's self-reliance and women empowerment it will also give strength to the fight against malnutrition.
- ◆ Natural farming will be strengthened by continuing the business of animal husbandry, because natural farming is successful only with the help of animal dung.
- ◆ Union Minister of Cooperation said that the work of increasing the fertility of cultivable land will also be done through animal husbandry.
- ◆ The Primary Cooperative Society and Milk Producers Committee till now more than four lakh bank accounts have been opened in cooperative banks and more than Rs 550 crore has been deposited in just two districts.
- ◆ 1732 micro ATMs were opened and 20,000 new credit cards were issued.
- ◆ Digital transactions worth about 24 lakhs were done using the new credit cards.
- ◆ Union Government more than 9 lakh accounts have been opened so far and deposits of about Rs 4000 crore have increased in cooperative banks.

## Provisions and Features:

- ❖ **Women Empowerment:** Focus on empowering women in the dairy sector and strengthening women's cooperatives.
- ❖ **Increase in Milk Procurement:** Aims to raise procurement by 50% over the next five years.
- ❖ **Cooperative Infrastructure:** 100,000 new and existing cooperative societies (district cooperative societies and Primary Agricultural Credit Societies) to be set up or enhanced.
- ❖ **RuPay Kisan Credit Cards:** Nationwide rollout for dairy farmers, with micro-ATMs at cooperative societies.
- ❖ **Computerisation of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies:** 67,930 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies will be computerised for better management.

## Significance:

- ✓ **Women Empowerment:** Creates leadership opportunities for women in dairy, promoting gender equality.
- ✓ **Boost to Rural Economy:** Strengthening cooperatives and milk procurement will improve rural livelihoods.
- ✓ **Improved Infrastructure:** Modern technology, micro-ATMs, and computerisation will increase efficiency.
- ✓ **Job Creation:** Expanding cooperatives and modern practices will generate jobs for 130 million farmers.
- ✓ **Malnutrition Reduction:** Enhances dairy quality to combat malnutrition.
- ✓ **Cooperative Modernisation:** Focus on Artificial Intelligence and advanced technologies.
- ✓ **Dairy Exports Boost:** Improved production and quality to enhance India's dairy exports.

## Way forward:

- The Government of India has organized a scientific event for indigenous production of 38 equipment related to testing equipment, bulk milk collection and dairy infrastructure, which the Prime Minister will present before us in the coming days.
  - We no longer need to import any dairy machinery from the Netherlands or Japan.
- Their 100% production will take place in India. In a way, we have moved ahead with the goal of becoming completely self-sufficient in the dairy sector.