

**JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT
BETWEEN THE
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING OF THE
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA
AND
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND
DAIRYING**

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (hereinafter jointly referred to as the "Parties"), have reached the following Intent for further deepening bilateral cooperation in the field of animal husbandry and dairying including the development of the dairy industry in Sri Lanka.

2. The Parties reiterate their common interest in achieving greater socio-economic development through stronger bilateral collaboration in animal husbandry and dairying, which will also contribute towards enhanced food security and livelihood, apart from promoting resource efficient and sustainable development of the animal husbandry and dairy sector in Sri Lanka.
3. The Parties agree to cooperate in the following areas, without prejudice to any new areas for collaboration that are mutually agreed between the Parties:
 - a) Improving dairy productivity including milk production;
 - b) Enabling the use of modern technology, equipment and best practices in dairy and associated sectors;
 - c) Achieving digitalization in dairy sector;

- d) Improving the productivity of dairy farming systems including pasture/fodder cultivation and the cattle feed industry;
- e) Improving animal health through accessible veterinary care practices, including efficient monitoring and immunization;
- f) Genetic upgradation of the dairy herd;
- g) Promoting capacity building and skill development including through training programmes for Sri Lankan farmers and experts, and regular bilateral exchanges;
- h) Facilitating dairy research and development in Sri Lanka through experience sharing and other means as mutually agreed;
- i) Encouraging mutually beneficial bilateral commercial engagement including through collaborative activities such as investments, Joint Ventures, and Public Private Partnerships;
- j) Assisting in the commercialization of the dairy sector value chain;
- k) Development of strategic dairy development plans with suitable policy and regulatory measures;
- l) Strengthening the operation of farmer-managed dairy sector; and
- m) Any other mutually agreed area for cooperation.

4. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying of the Republic of India may:

- (i) Nominate an Indian entity or entities through the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) of India, to support in carrying out assessments of the dairy sector in Sri Lanka, identifying matters that need to be addressed and preparing suitable plans, including inputs for suitable policies and regulations;

- (ii) Assist the identification of ways to strengthen the existing animal husbandry and dairy system in Sri Lanka and provide support for optimum utilisation of state-owned assets with a goal of achieving greater efficiency and quality including in the farms, facilities and milk processing plants owned/operated by the National Livestock Development Board of Sri Lanka;
- (iii) Facilitate operation and management of milk production, procurement, processing, packaging, marketing, input services etc. in Sri Lanka through suitable measures/entities apart from encouraging investments from India wherever necessary;
- (iv) Support animal breeding, animal nutrition and animal health interventions including making available animals, semen/embryos, animal vaccines, plants/equipment/materials for the dairy value chain in Sri Lanka;
- (v) Support fodder development activities for livestock including fodder cultivation, fodder seed production, pasture improvement and fodder conservation practices;
- (vi) Support the establishment of farmer-centric milk procurement system following cooperative strategies;
- (vii) Support the creation of a robust information system and digitalisation across the dairy value chain;
- (viii) Support and provide assistance in milk production in Sri Lanka through India and other entities that may be nominated through NDBD;
- (ix) Provide training opportunities in India for Sri Lankan farmers, field officers and other suitable experts/personnel;
- (x) Provide capacity building opportunities for Sri Lankan stakeholders in the field of modern animal husbandry practices and dairy technology

in India, which includes inter alia engineering and technical assistance on processing of dairy products;

- (xi) Assist research and development activities for improvement across the dairy value chain in Sri Lanka;
- (xii) Support formulation of policies that will help in strengthening the entire dairy value chain;
- (xiii) Provide any other expertise in relation to the implementation of objectives identified by the Parties; and
- (xiv) Explore the possibility of securing financing for suitable initiatives/projects under the purview of this Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI).

5. The Ministry of Agriculture of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, identified for the purpose of cooperation under this JDI, may:

- (i) Share necessary information with Indian stakeholders for carrying out the objectives as outlined in this JDI;
- (ii) Institute the required policy and regulatory measures to carry out the objectives outlined in this JDI;
- (iii) Ensure security and protection of assets, interests and personnel of Indian constituents invested/involved in activities under this JDI; and
- (iv) Facilitate suitable concessions and exemptions for projects/entities/initiatives involved in activities under the purview of this JDI.

6. The Parties may involve other relevant entities in activities under the scope of this JDI on the basis of mutual consent including their participation in the establishment of joint cooperative enterprises or joint ventures in areas specified in the JDI, within the scope of their respective laws, regulations and policies.

7. The Parties agree to constitute a Joint Working Group for overseeing and facilitating cooperation under this JDI.

This Joint Declaration of Intent is signed in two originals in the English language on 21 July, 2023.

Place and Date: New Delhi, 21 July, 2023

**FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF INDIA**

Alka
Alka Upadhyaya
Secretary- Department of Animal
Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD)
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal
Husbandry and Dairying

**FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE
DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA**

Milinda Moragoda
Milinda Moragoda
High Commissioner of the
Democratic Socialist Republic of
Sri Lanka to India