

Press Release from  
Sikkim Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Limited (Sikkim Milk Union)  
Gangtok, Sikkim

The Sikkim Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Limited (Sikkim Milk Union) convened a State-Level Monitoring and Evaluation Committee Meeting on 6 February 2026, with the participation of senior officials from the Finance & Planning Department, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services Department, and the Cooperation Department,

Government of Sikkim with regards to the Rs. 8 per litre of milk incentive.

The main agenda of the meeting was the evaluation of audit reports submitted by the Department of Cooperation for the financial years 2024–25 regarding milk incentive .

The Committee undertook a detailed review of fund disbursement during FY 2024–25, monitoring mechanisms adopted for effective implementation, and audit procedures followed by the Cooperation Department.

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed, duly acknowledging and appreciating the corrective measures undertaken in compliance with

earlier audit observations. With regard to the current audit report, the Committee expressed overall satisfaction and recommended that prior approval of the Government be obtained for utilisation of unspent balances or accrued interest to address any shortfall in incentive disbursements in subsequent periods.

During the meeting, field-level operational issues were also discussed. Route Supervisors of the Sikkim Milk Union placed their grievances before the officials of the Cooperation Department, particularly highlighting manpower constraints affecting timely audits of milk cooperative societies.

The Addl. Registrar, Cooperation Department, acknowledged these concerns and assured that the grievances would be examined for appropriate redressal, with due prioritisation of milk cooperatives at par with multipurpose cooperative societies.

In addition, the Sikkim Milk Union had the privilege of hosting a delegation from the National Dairy Development

Board (NDDB) along with 25 dairy farmers from the States of Mizoram and Meghalaya as part of an exposure and learning tour.

The delegation visited the biogas plant at Kamerey Milk Producers' Cooperative Society on 5 February 2026.

Subsequently, on 6 February 2026, the delegation

visited the Khesey Milk Producers' Cooperative Society and the dairy processing plant of the Sikkim Milk Union at Gangtok, gaining valuable insights into

cooperative functioning, milk procurement systems, processing practices, and farmer-centric initiatives implemented in

Sikkim.

The meeting was held under the guidance of the Managing Director, Dr. T. B. Ghatani, who highlighted the growth trajectory of the Sikkim Milk Union, the strong farmer-oriented support extended by the State Government, and the Union's sustained efforts towards strengthening the cooperative dairy structure, enhancing farmers' income, and promoting sustainable dairy development in the State. He also emphasised the importance of inter-state knowledge exchange, capacity building, and institutional collaboration for the holistic development of the dairy sector.

Further, as part of its ongoing capacity-building initiatives, the Sikkim Milk Union has deputed 50 dairy farmers from various districts of the State to undergo a five-day Dairy

Animal Management Training Programme at the Eastern Regional Dairy Training Centre (ERDTC), Matigara, Siliguri, scheduled from 9 February to 13

February 2026. The programme will focus on scientific dairy animal management, feed and fodder practices, ration balancing, and

productivity enhancement.

The Sikkim Milk Union reaffirmed its commitment to empowering dairy farmers through structured training programmes, transparent incentive mechanisms, and continuous institutional support, in alignment with the Government of Sikkim's vision for inclusive growth and a resilient cooperative dairy sector.