

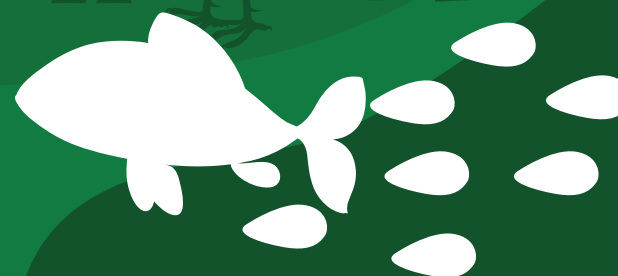
MCCI Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Conclave



**Rural Livelihoods
to Global Markets:
Scaling West Bengal's
Livestock and
Aquaculture Potential**

Thursday, 3 July, 2025

The Park Hotel, Kolkata





Shri Swapan Debnath, Hon'ble Minister of Animal Resources Development, Government of West Bengal,
Shri Pradip Mazumdar, Hon'ble Minister of Panchayats and Rural Development and Co-operation, Government of West Bengal and Chairman, West Bengal State Rural Livelihoods Mission (WBSRLM), and
Shri Biplab Roy Chowdhury, Hon'ble Minister of State (IC) of Fisheries, Aquaculture, Aquatic Resources and Fishing Harbour, Government of West Bengal addressed the gathering as **Chief Guests**. **Dr. Abhijit Shevale**, IAS, Special Secretary, Department of Animal Resources Development, Government of West Bengal and **Dr. Utpal Kumar Karmakar**, Managing Director, West Bengal Livestock Development Corporation Ltd. (WBLDCL) addressed as **Guests of Honour**.

Lighting of Lamp: (L - R) Dr. Utpal Kumar Karmakar, Dr. Abhijit Shevale, IAS, Biplab Roy Chowdhury, Swapan Debnath, Pradip Mazumdar, Amit Saraogi, President, MCCI, Suresh Agarwal, Hony. Secretary, MCCI and Chairman, Council on Agriculture, Horticulture & Food Processing, MCCI, and Partha Sur, Chairman, Council on Animal Husbandry & Fisheries, MCCI

The **MCCI Animal Husbandry & Fisheries Conclave** emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts among Government, Farmers, Industry, and Academia to unlock the potential of these emerging sectors. Key outcomes include comprehensive recommendations for strategic development, aiming to transform the state's livestock and fisheries industries.

The Conclave deliberated on the following key areas to strengthen the livestock and fisheries sectors:

- ✓ Strengthening human capital management
- ✓ Promoting scientific methods for egg and meat production
- ✓ Establishing Parent Breeding Farms

- ✓ Implementing effective medication systems for livestock
- ✓ Empowering Self-Help Groups (SHGs) through entrepreneurship
- ✓ Developing training centers to enhance youth employment
- ✓ Addressing challenges related to overproduction
- ✓ Setting up advanced laboratories to drive innovation
- ✓ Providing resource support for rural households
- ✓ Encouraging women's participation in livelihood sectors
- ✓ Raising awareness about existing schemes and policies



These focus areas aim to foster sustainable growth and development in the livestock and fisheries sectors.

Shri Amit Saraogi, President, MCCI, in his Welcome Address emphasized West Bengal's pivotal role in India's fisheries and livestock sectors, leveraging its abundant natural resources and strategic location. The state leads the nation in inland fish



production, contributing 18.5% to India's total fisheries output, and excels in shrimp and ornamental fish production. In livestock, West Bengal accounts for 12.62% of India's meat production, with poultry and goat meat as major contributors. The state's 2.86 lakh hectares of brackish water resources and 7.55 million hectares of waterlogged areas provide a robust foundation for aquaculture expansion.



Shri Saraogi noted that India's fisheries exports are projected to grow from USD 7.8 billion in FY24 to USD 12.5 billion by 2030, with West Bengal's marine exports, particularly shrimp, expected to reach USD 2.2 billion by the same year. In the livestock sector, India's poultry and meat exports are anticipated to hit USD 2 billion by 2030, while West Bengal's meat exports are forecasted to grow by 25%, driven by demand from the Middle East and Southeast Asia. He highlighted that the fisheries



and livestock sectors support 28 million livelihoods nationwide, including 2.8 million in West Bengal, where women constitute 45% of the fisheries workforce, and 1.50 million people are employed in the livestock sector, underscoring the sectors' role in inclusive growth.

Shri Saraogi stressed the global demand for sustainable proteins as a significant opportunity for India and West Bengal. The country's aquaculture sector is projected to reach USD 400 billion by 2030, with West Bengal poised to lead in organic and eco-friendly fish farming. The state's leather industry, fueled by livestock by-products, is expected to grow to USD 2.5 billion by 2030. Scaling up organized processing units through modern abattoirs and enhanced cold chain networks will strengthen export competitiveness. Additionally, capacity-building programs for farmers and fishers, alongside climate-resilient practices like Biofloc technology and heat-tolerant breeds, will ensure long-term sustainability and protect livelihoods. Strengthening Fish Farmer Producer Organizations (FFPOs) will further empower rural communities to access global markets directly. Shri Saraogi concluded that West Bengal's leadership in fisheries and livestock, combined with India's ambitious vision, paves the way for sustainable prosperity, elevating farmers and fishers from rural heartlands to global prominence.

Shri Partha Sur, Chairman, Council on Animal Husbandry & Fisheries, MCCI, in his Theme Address, highlighted the critical role of the livestock and fisheries sectors in supporting West Bengal's rural communities. The state produces 6 lakh metric tonnes of poultry annually and



leads India in egg production.

Shri Sur noted that the global aquaculture market is poised for significant growth by 2028, presenting opportunities for West Bengal to invest in value-added products such as processed fish fillets, ready-to-cook meat, and organic dairy. The state's strategic location, with access to ports like Kolkata and Haldia, lowers logistics costs, thereby enhancing export competitiveness.

He emphasized that West Bengal's livestock and fisheries sectors have immense potential to transform rural livelihoods and capture global markets. By leveraging natural resources, adopting advanced technologies, and addressing challenges, the state can foster sustainable and inclusive growth.



Shri Swapan Debnath, Hon'ble Minister of Animal Resources Development, Government of West Bengal, commended MCCI for organizing the Conclave on Animal Husbandry and Fisheries. He highlighted that advancements in science and technology have transformed the livestock sector into a profitable industry, significantly

contributing to employment generation in West Bengal. The state is enhancing this sector through public-private partnerships and encouraging corporate outlets to trade livestock products, aiming for self-sufficiency in egg, meat, and milk production.

Shri Debnath announced that the Government of West Bengal has extended the Egg Production Incentive Scheme 2017 for poultry until August 31, 2025. This initiative has disbursed Rs. 33.90 crore to beneficiaries, creating employment for 20,000 individuals. With a demand for 1,528 crore eggs annually, West Bengal produces 1,623.90 crore eggs, achieving self-sufficiency in egg production. The state government views the livestock sector as having substantial potential to evolve into an organized industry.

The West Bengal Livestock Development Corporation Ltd. (WBLDCL) has established a Parent Breeding Farm for poultry in Jalpaiguri. Additionally, the Haringhata unit of WBLDCL facilitated meat exports to Qatar during the FIFA World Cup 2022. In 2023-24, West Bengal produced 12.54 lakh metric tonnes of chicken. A Sundarbans-based milk cooperative and livestock producer, alongside the National Dairy Development Board, earned international recognition at the third International Dairy Federation in Paris. This cooperative employs 4,500 women, producing 2,000 liters of milk and 250 kg of milk products daily.

Shri Debnath emphasized the potential of Black Bengal Goat meat as a valuable protein source and urged the private sector to explore this opportunity. In 2023-24, West Bengal's milk production reached 2,000 liters, generating Rs. 367 crores in revenue.



Shri Pradip Mazumdar, Hon'ble Minister of Panchayats and Rural Development and Co-operation, Government of West Bengal, and Chairman of the West Bengal State Rural Livelihoods Mission (WBSRLM), commended the Conclave's focus on bridging rural livelihoods with global markets through collaboration between public and private sectors. Despite economic liberalization, he noted that further progress is needed to fully realize West Bengal's potential in livestock and aquaculture. The state, a leading producer of vegetables with an annual output of nearly 20 million tons, offers significant opportunities in food processing, dairy farming, fish culture and processing, and integrated cold storage supply chains, all of which directly enhance rural livelihoods.

Shri Mazumdar highlighted "Anandadhara," a state mission under WBSRLM aimed at organizing and empowering rural communities for self-employment. West Bengal hosts 12.1 lakh Self Help Groups (SHGs), supported by bank financing and government grants to establish their own businesses. Successful SHGs receive training and entrepreneurship programs from institutions like IIM. Additionally, the Department of Cooperation oversees 2.5 lakh SHGs, bringing the state's total to over 14 lakh SHGs. The State Government aims to uplift rural Bengal's economy through these groups

and seeks private sector support for market linkages and processing facilities.

He emphasized West Bengal's leadership in fisheries, producing 22.5 lakh metric tonnes of fish annually, and its top position in goat meat production, which holds substantial export potential. With a cattle population exceeding 20 million, the state produces 76.5 lakh metric tonnes of milk per year (2023-24), presenting opportunities for corporates to invest in dairy farming and diversification amid rising milk demand in India. The growing consumption of perishable products, coupled with available cold storage, supports the development of agri-supply chains and cold chain businesses.

Shri Mazumdar noted past challenges with paddy overproduction, which led the State Government to procure paddy at prices above the Minimum Support Price (MSP). He stressed that demand drivers hinge on hygiene, quality, and food safety. Additionally, West Bengal's production of Black Bengal Goat meat and its strategic location create opportunities for advanced meat processing units. Over the past three years, Rs. 170 crores have been invested in the Animal Resources Development (ARD) distribution scheme, enabling the establishment of 140 new layer bird poultry farms. Through the Modern Integrated Poultry Processing Framework, the state now supplies egg powder and frozen yolk to the market, further strengthening its livestock sector.

Shri Biplab Roy Chowdhury, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Fisheries, Aquaculture, Aquatic Resources, and Fishing Harbour, Government of West Bengal,



stated that West Bengal leads India in fish production and has emerged as the top producer of shrimplets. The state has expanded its fish exports to Bihar, Odisha, and Jharkhand, with inter-state trade reaching 1.78 lakh metric tonnes in the last financial year.

He highlighted the state's focus on cultivating large fish in expansive ponds, with efforts to boost production of the highly sought-after hilsa fish. The Fisheries Department has successfully cultivated fish weighing 500g to 600g and is now working to commercially produce stinging catfish (Singhi) and walking catfish (Magur), aiming to reduce their market prices significantly.

Under the "Abhay Pukur" fish sanctuary scheme, Shri Roy Chowdhury noted that the State Government has procured 33 rare fish species for breeding and conservation, identifying 20 ponds for this initiative.

To enhance fishermen's safety, the department has introduced QR identification cards, providing Rs. 2 lakhs in compensation in case of death. So far, 8,47,566 fishermen have received these cards. Additionally, the Two-way Mobile Satellite Service Transponder (GPS Tracker) system has been implemented to locate trawlers, with 500 trawlers already enrolled and plans to equip 3,500 more fishermen with trackers soon.

Shri Roy Chowdhury reported that



fish exports in 2023-24 totalled 1.42 lakh metric tonnes, increasing to 1.50 lakh metric tonnes this year. He also highlighted the state's initiative to sell fresh fish at affordable prices through Sufal Bangla, a unique program by the Department of Agricultural Marketing, Government of West Bengal, ensuring accessible and high-quality fish for consumers.



Dr. Abhijit Shevale, IAS, Special Secretary, Department of Animal Resources Development, Government of West Bengal, highlighted challenges faced by farmers in a remote block of Purulia, where middlemen arbitrarily priced chicken and goat products due to the absence of weighing by farmers. The establishment of a Farmer Producer Company (FPC) introduced electronic, transparent weighing machines, ensuring fair pricing for chicken and Black Bengal goat products. Dr. Shevale noted that the FPC has developed nutrient-rich goat feed with adequate protein content, supporting the

commercialization of goat meat. With state government support, credit has been provided to beneficiaries for goat meat production. In Jhalda, Purulia, approximately 300 farmers, predominantly women, are rearing Black Bengal goats, which hold significant potential for export to international markets.

He further stated that the Academy of Animal Resources Management (AARM) in Kalyani, under the Department of Animal Resources Development, has been training beneficiaries in livestock management. Dr. Shevale emphasized that income from livestock primarily benefits women, while farm income typically goes to men, highlighting the sector's role in empowering women economically.



Dr. Utpal Kumar Karmakar, Managing Director, West Bengal Livestock Development Corporation Ltd. (WBLDCL), reported that the corporation achieved a turnover of Rs. 1,600 crore last year. WBLDCL has

established five-layer breed plants to boost egg production and implemented the Broiler Integration Project, supporting 2,800 farmers with facilities for chicken harvesting. The Haringhata Meat Plant operates 300 live chicken counters, slaughtering 15,000 chickens daily, and supports 700 frozen meat outlets across the state. Additionally, a Disease Diagnostic Lab has been set up in Kalyani to enhance livestock health management.

Dr. Karmakar highlighted the State Government's initiative to establish the Academy of Animal Resources Management (AARM) in Kalyani, which provides training for youth in broiler and layer farm supervision. WBLDCL has committed to providing 800 in-house employment opportunities for AARM trainees.

Furthermore, WBLDCL has launched the Pig Integration Project in North Bengal, supplying piglets to marginal farmers, particularly women, for pig meat production. The corporation handles slaughtering and marketing, enabling farmers to benefit financially. WBLDCL has expanded its market reach, now exporting meat to Bahrain.

Dr. Karmakar also announced plans to establish a meat processing unit within six months, with a capacity to slaughter 30,000 animals, further strengthening the state's meat production capabilities. These efforts have driven a significant increase in meat sales, rising from Rs. 34 crores to Rs. 106 crores over the past year, reflecting WBLDCL's effective strategies and the growing demand for quality meat products.

The session concluded with a hearty Vote of Thanks delivered



by **Shri Suresh Agarwal**, Honorary Secretary, MCCI, and Chairman, Council on Agriculture, Horticulture & Food Processing, MCCI. Shri Agarwal emphasized that animal husbandry and fisheries are knowledge-intensive sectors, where proper expertise is crucial for enhancing farm incomes. He expressed optimism that these sectors would flourish as key drivers of inclusive growth in the future.

Key Takeaways:

- West Bengal contributes 12.62% to India's meat production, with poultry and goat meat as primary drivers.
- The state leads India in inland fish production, accounting for 18.5% of the country's total fisheries output.
- In 2023-24, West Bengal produced 2,000 liters of milk, generating Rs. 367 crores in revenue.
- The state is home to over 14 lakh Self Help Groups (SHGs), fostering rural economic

development.

- West Bengal is India's top fish producer, with an annual output of 22.5 lakh metric tonnes.
- Over the past three years, Rs. 170 crores have been invested in the Animal Resources Development (ARD) distribution scheme, establishing 140 new layer bird poultry farms.
- In the last financial year, West Bengal facilitated inter-state trade of 1.78 lakh metric tonnes of fish.
- Fish exports from West Bengal reached 1.42 lakh metric tonnes in 2023-24, increasing to 1.50 lakh metric tonnes this year.
- In Jhalda, Purulia, approximately 300 farmers, predominantly women, are rearing Black Bengal goats, which have significant potential for international export markets.
- The state plans to establish a meat processing unit within six months, with a slaughtering capacity of 30,000 animals.



ABOUT MCCI

MCCI is a 124 years old non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization, with 700 direct members and 15,000 indirect members covering a wide cross-section of small, medium & large industries, trade and services besides, 10 Associations of Industry & Trade are also affiliated to MCCI.

MCCI addresses various aspects of the industry, trade and service sectors, their issues & Challenges and through several learning and best practices forums, guide them to the future. MCCI also helps members to explore international business opportunities through its international connect initiatives.

MCCI has been working on the development of an indigenous vibrant industrial base in the country, especially in Eastern India. The indomitable spirit and quest to build an institution to safeguard the interests of the indigenous business community led to the birth of Vaishya Sabha and with the changing times, now it stands as MCCI. MCCI has evolved to reinvent itself to address the challenges in this era of new normal.

MCCI works as a bridge between businesses and the policy makers to create a conducive economic environment for the industry to prosper and flourish while benefitting all the stakeholders in the economy. The Executive Committee, which has 30 Councils reporting to it, is the principal facilitating structure of the Chamber.

We are one of the leading Chambers of Eastern India relentlessly working for the betterment of MSMEs through several initiatives. MSME Helpdesk, IP facilitation, connecting with Banking and Financial institutions, technology for MSMEs, besides taking up members' issues at the appropriate level. Several Business meets are organized for the benefit of the members.

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