

India to help Mongolia set up Amul-like dairy cooperative

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VADODARA: When Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits Ulan Bator on Sunday, he will be taking along with him the 'Taste of India' to Mongolia.

Amul — India's best known food brand — is all set to help Mongolia develop its dairy sector based on the Amul model of cooperatives.

A team from Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) — the country's largest co-operative that markets brand Amul — visited Mongolia last month.

Modi will be the first Indian Prime Minister to make a trip to the Mongolian capital. During his visit, a cooperation agreement between GCMMF and the Institute of Technology, Mongolia, will be signed.

Discussions between Amul and Mongolia started when the ambassador of Mongolia to India visited GCMMF headquarters in Anand in June last year.

It was during this meeting that Mongolia had asked GCMMF to facilitate Mongolian milk producers to restructure their dairy industry.

GCMMF's team had last month visited the milk-processing plants in Mongolia, Institute of Technology at Ulan Bator and met stakeholders in dairy sector to understand the Mongolian government's outlook on dairy development and their role.

"Our cooperation will be for creation of an effective milk procurement system near Ulan Bator and Darkhan cities and in Bayankhongor and Ovorkhangai provinces in partnership with existing rural cooperatives and milk processing entities," GCMMF's managing director R S Sodhi told TOI, while confirming the development.

Amul will help develop training programmes on management of bulk milk cooling system, clean milk production, animal health, establishing milk producers organization, develop standards of operation procedure of different units in dairy chain, dairy technology for non-dairy technologists, quality control of milk and dairy products and technological and engineering aspects of manufacturing of basic dairy products.

It will also organize vocational dairy training course for Mongolian dairy operators, representatives of small, medium enterprises in India and study tour for dairy specialists of Mongolia in India.

Mongolia will invite dairy experts on animal breeding, health, dairy processing, including indigenous products from India to organize joint workshops, seminars, and training activities. It will invite experts on establishment of rural cooperatives, milk producers' organization and work out the models of such cooperative establishment in one of the rural provinces of Mongolia.

India will also help in designing and fabrication of small scale tools and equipment for traditional dairy products, as well as an automatic milk delivery machine suitable to Mongolian condition.

"Although Mongolia is almost half the size of India, it has a population of just 30 lakh, half of which lives in urban pockets. But Mongolia's total cattle population is over five crore with just the number of cows being around 35 lakh. Hence, there is very good potential of dairy development in that country," said a GCMMF official, who visited Mongolia in April.