

## Govt plans to open dairy units on PPP model

Aiming to boost the dairy sector, the Uttar Pradesh government has plans to open dairy units on a public-private partnership (PPP) model.

Chairing a high-level review meeting in Lucknow on Saturday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that strengthening the dairy sector of the state was one of the top priorities of the government today.

"Dairy units can be opened under the PPP model in the state. Make planned efforts to engage more and more youth in the dairy sector. The government will extend all cooperation to companies keen to work in the sector under the public-private partnership model," the chief minister said.

The government step will also help farmers get into dairy business along with crop cultivation.

The opening of new dairies will also generate revenue for the government.

Stressing the need for comprehensive reforms in the functioning of Animal Husbandry department, Yogi said that officers of the department should be sent to the districts as nodal officers.

"They must check arrangements in cow shelters, and get 'bhoosa' (fodder) banks established across districts. Strictest action be taken against those involved in heinous crimes like cow smuggling," he added.

As per the vision of the government, the dairy sector and animal husbandry could play a pivotal role in improving the condition of farmers. The sector also helps to reduce rural poverty and inequality and ensures nutrition to poor rural households.

"Animal husbandry can become a huge source of additional income for small farmers of the state and is a great way of economic empowerment of women to increase their participation in entrepreneurship," the chief minister added.