

Sustainable Dutch projects in UP help double farm income



Lucknow: From introducing sustainable methods in [Uttar Pradesh's](#) dairy sector with an aim to double farm income to reducing water consumption and wastage in tanneries, the Netherlands government and expert organisations have been collaborating with UP in various sectors.

On a two-day visit to Lucknow, Dutch ambassador to India, [Marten van den Berg](#), spoke exclusively to TOI on the current projects between the two countries and the future course of action.

On dairy farmers:

"Dutch farmers spent a year on ground in Kanpur to train UP's farmers. We have successfully trained around 2,000 dairy farmers and 3,000 women farmers in UP to help them increase milk productivity and double income," said Marten.

After Dutch organisation Solidaridad's interventions in the region, consumers can know the origin of the milk and its treatment process at the scan of a QR code.

"Due to [Covid](#), we also trained farmers on video from the Netherlands and they are now taking the training forward," added economic counsellor Joost Geijer.

On waste to value:

As a pilot project, the Netherlands is setting up 'waste to energy' power plants in Muzaffarnagar and Ghaziabad. A third could be in Pilibhit.

The ambassador said the idea is to convert solid waste into energy and ancillary products such as paper and road tiles and make the project self-sustainable. After Uttar Pradesh as a pilot, the technology will be expanded to the rest of the country.

On saving water:

As part of the clean Ganga collaboration with the Indian government, Dutch organisations have been working with tanneries in Kanpur to use salt and enzymes to clean animal hide instead of using water. Waste from tanneries like sludge is being used to make tiles. Fleshing waste is converted to animal feed and the project has created "a potential saving of 82,500 litres of fresh water withdrawal everyday."

Work in the sugarcane sector has led to saving of 400 billion litres of water as certified by Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow.

On the future role:

A pilot project to construct a road by reusing onsite material is underway. A 20km stretch in Kanpur Dehat is ready as a demo and the process will be replicated across the country.

"We are also working on conversion of farm waste into energy. Instead of burning stubble which is a pollution menace, we will be working on converting it to fuel or furniture," said agriculture counsellor at the Dutch embassy [Michiel van Erkel](#).