

# ASIAN FEED

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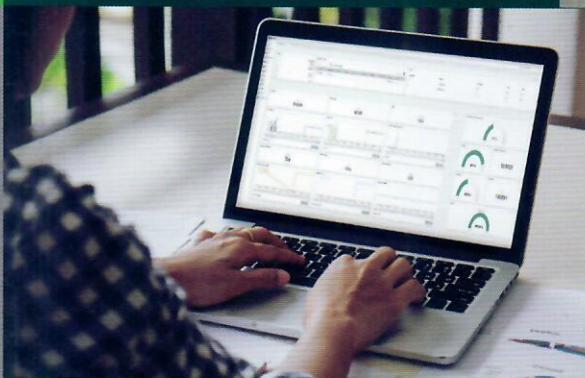
*Xabier Arbe Ugalde*

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## Indian feed faces revamp in regulations

The Indian government wants to regulate the compound feed industry, but the industry is finding some of its regulations tough to follow. The 64th National Symposium of the Compound Livestock Feed Manufacturers Association (CLFMA) brought together industry and government stakeholders to iron out the complications.

The two-day event in New Delhi last August saw representatives from both sides highlighting concerns, even as demand for protein grows in India.

### The push for exports

"The issue is not scalability but sustainability," said Baram Singh Yadav, Managing Director of Godrej Agrovet, in addressing the panel on 'Graduating from Quantity to Quality: Making Our Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery Globally Competitive'.

The poultry industry suffers patches of overproduction as local consumption drops with periods of 'vegetarianism' in India. Mr Yadav stressed that the only solution to help farmers face these slumps was to direct excess to exports.

To compete in export markets, the industry sought government policy assistance to improve quality and price competitiveness, especially of poultry products.

On the part of the government, Alka Upadhyaya, Secretary of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, said the government has created several investment funds to help the industry. They are also setting up disease-free zones for avian influenza and FMD to help improve exports.

Ms Upadhyaya invited industry stakeholders, especially in the cattle industry to look at 'hub and spoke models' to increase fodder and silage availability. "Silage and feed prices



CLFMA released their Livestock Survey Report - Volume II at their annual meeting.

have gone up by 62% in the last few years and this is a concern," she said.

Tarun Shridhar, former Secretary of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, stressed that the government had changed its policy on husbandry from one of 'livelihood support' to one of 'investment'. The infrastructure funds would help farmers scale up and move into more value-added products.



Suresh Deora

"Your focus now should be to improve productivity and quality," he said, stressing that there is ample opportunities for expansion locally.

When it comes to quality, the industry and government are focused on improving standards.

### Regulating the feed industry

The biggest hurdle is the standards set by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). BIS' cattle feed standards, which took effect in January 2022, aim to ensure milk and meat produced adhere to safety standards,

with special emphasis on the level of mycotoxins in milk. This has been a bane for Indian milk products in international markets.

However, Suresh Deora, CLFMA Chairman, told *Asian Feed Magazine* that the implementation has seen mixed results and now the government wants to make the voluntary standards enforceable.

"One of the major issues here is to stick to the 20ppb mycotoxin limit and 11% moisture level. This is difficult as our grains come from multiple sources, and contamination levels are hard to control," he explained.

A study by Trouw (Bhat et al 2021) showed that the average aflatoxin levels in cattle feed in India touched 31ppb, with a maximum reaching 150ppb.

Further regulations would only apply to packaged compound feed sold commercially. Mr Deora said this only makes up 18% of the market, with 82% home mixed. "These regulations could discourage producers moving into packaged feeds."

For those who follow the guidelines, testing of samples for toxins, moisture, etc can be expensive because few laboratories are equipped sufficiently.

### Poultry in the spotlight

As cattle feed faces these challenges, the BIS is formulating standards for poultry feeds. Mr Deora said it should learn from the challenges faced by the cattle feed standards.

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The CLFMA 64th Sessions were held in New Delhi in August.



Neeraj Kumar Srivastava (far left) speaking on the panel "Challenges of Feed Security: Bridging the Demand and Supply Gap,"

"We are not against standards. We want to improve quality and safety. But the guidelines must be practical and suited to local conditions," he stressed, adding that they could even have two sets of standards, one for export and another for local consumption.

The Indian government, however, wants to bring in international standards into food and feed safety. Mr Deora explained that the government is drafting legislation to include feed safety under the Food Safety Standards Authority of India, bringing both under one body. This is similar to the Food and Drug Administration in the US.

While this would improve overall food safety, the government would also have to revamp local agriculture processes like improved grain handling, storage, testing, and others to help feed producers stick to the guidelines.

### Meeting the feed gap

To be sure, India needs to improve grain production to keep up with growing livestock production.

"At present, we do not have enough raw materials, and we see a gap of 13-14% in the grain forecast reports issued by the government. There is insufficient data to prepare," Neeraj

*"We are not against standards. We want to improve quality and safety. But the guidelines must be practical and suited to local conditions."*

Kumar Srivastava, Immediate Past Chairman of CLFMA of India said during a panel on 'Challenges of Feed Security: Bridging the Demand and Supply Gap.'

While advocating for high-yielding seed and improvement in productivity, Mr Srivastava called for more research in using alternatives such as sorghum and pearl millet.

Industry panelists also pushed for approval to grow GM crops in India. There was also concern that the boon in the ethanol industry was diverting feed crops from feed use. However, Dr Sandeep Karkhanis, Managing Director of Noveltech, estimates that only 1mt of corn annually should be used for this purpose.

"Given our ethanol use, I do not believe it would be a concern for us. But we need to improve yields in corn for better land use," he told *Asian Feed Magazine*.

Sandeep Singh, CEO of Animal Feed and Godrej Maxximilk,

expressed concern that the feed standards in the pipeline may limit the use of alternative feed ingredients. "Given their specification in crude protein levels and other standards, it would make it difficult for us to experiment with novel and alternative ingredients," he told *Asian Feed Magazine*.

Meanwhile, Naveen Pasupathy, Joint Managing Director of Nanda Feeds, called for a revaluation of the 30% import duty on feed additives, to help the industry manage costs.

Overall, the livestock industry will see interesting times ahead as the government pushes for a revamp of operations. Mr Deora, however, asks who will be responsible for implementation in a country as complex as India.

"What we are saying to the Ministry of Animal Husbandry and Dairying is, make it simple and take responsibility for it, so we can follow through," he said. *AF*

## Adisseo to build 150kt powder methionine plant in China

Adisseo is building a new plant in China to make it a world leader in powder methionine production.

The new plant in Fujian province costing USD 682 million will have an annual capacity of 150,000 tons. The smart plant, which will use green technology, will begin operations by 2027.

The new facility will allow Adisseo to produce solid and liquid methionine simultaneously. Demand for powder methionine remains strong in China and other emerging markets.

Global demand for various types of methionine is expected to continue, especially in China and other Asia Pacific countries. With this plant, Adisseo targets to become one of the global frontrunners in the powder methionine market.

The project will allow the company to further strengthen cost advantage and improve overall profitability through innovative technology synergy and production scale effect, and further reinforce its competitiveness in the methionine industry.