

# Vet college, banks collaborate to extend loans to dairy farmers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Puducherry:** Rajiv Gandhi institute of veterinary sciences and research (River) established by a government society, has collaborated with Indian Bank, Puduvai Bharathiyar Gram Bank and Syndicate Bank to set up counseling centres at the institute to offer loans to the dairy farmers, who undergo training at the institute, and enable them to start dairy enterprises.

The institute invited 486 farmers, who underwent training sponsored by Nabard for more than one year, for the maiden bankers-dairy farmers' meet. Officials from the three banks enlightened the budding dairy farmers on the criteria to obtain loans from the banks. More than 80% of the aspiring dairy farmers were women.

While inaugurating the meet earlier, A Anbarasu, development commissioner, stressed the need to enhance milk production in Pudu-

cherry. He was of the firm opinion that the Union territory has the potential to achieve self-sustenance in milk production. He inaugurated round-the-clock service christened 'Kalnada Kuran' to disseminate information related to livestock farming to the farmers.

S Sundaravadivelu, secretary (cooperation), urged the budding dairy farmers to undergo rigorous

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training extended by experts in River and other institutes and to enrol themselves as members of the Milk Co-operative Society (MCS) to market their produce.

S Ramkumar, River dean, said the institute extends training to livestock farmers for more than 160 days in a year. River training coordinator, K Natchimuthu, said the institute extends training to dairy farmers on 16 most important aspects of improving their dairy animal husbandry skills and helping them to enhance the milk production.