

GOVERNMENT ARTS AND COMMERCE COLLEGE, VANTHLI

INNOVATION CLUB

Educational Field Visit Report: Shree Savaj Junagadh District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Ltd

➤ Introduction

With the objective of understanding the significance of the cooperative sector and acquiring practical knowledge regarding milk processing and dairy supply chain management, an educational Student startup and Innovation policy field visit was organized for 23 male and female students of Government Arts and Commerce College, Vanthli. The visit took place on July 28, 2026, to Shree Savaj Dairy, Junagadh, under the overall guidance and leadership of Principal Dr. Deepika Dave.

➤ Overview of Shree Savaj Dairy

Junagadh District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Limited, popularly known as 'Savaj Dairy', is a premier cooperative institution serving milk producers and livestock farmers across the Saurashtra region, particularly in the Junagadh district. Operating on the cooperative model, the union focuses on securing fair and remunerative prices for rural dairy farmers while ensuring the delivery of pure, high-quality milk and dairy products to urban and rural consumers.

➤ Detailed Observations & Processing Stages

During the visit, Technical Guide Hiralben Nimavat led the student group through the comprehensive plant tour, explaining every crucial stage in the dairy production lifecycle:

- **Milk Collection and Reception**

Technical Guide Hiralben Nimavat detailed the initial procurement process. Raw milk collected at primary village-level cooperative societies is transported to the central processing plant via insulated milk tankers. Upon arrival at the

reception dock, immediate automated weighing and preliminary sampling are conducted before unloading.

- **Quality Testing and Laboratory Analysis**

Senior Chemist Bharatbhai Karangiya demonstrated the advanced analytical instruments utilized in the central laboratory to ensure strict quality compliance. Key highlights of the laboratory inspection include:

- **Digital Milk Analyzer & AMCS Software:** Equipped with automated computerized milk testing units, providing precise multi-parameter testing within 20 to 30 seconds of sample introduction.
- **Fat Content Testing:** Accurately measures the exact percentage (%) of fat/butterfat present in the incoming milk batches.
- **SNF (Solids-Not-Fat) & Density Measurement:** Evaluates vital non-fat nutrients including proteins, lactose, and essential minerals, along with overall density.
- **Water Adulteration Detection:** Instantly detects external water dilution through density reading anomalies, ensuring standard purity before approval for processing.

➤ **Pasteurization and Milk Processing**

Process In-charge Archanaben Zala guided the students through the pasteurization and processing assembly lines. Pasteurization involves heating raw milk to a precisely controlled temperature and rapidly chilling it to eliminate pathogenic bacteria while preserving nutritional value. During processing, milk is standardized and separated into various fat grades.

➤ **Dairy Product Manufacturing Units**

The plant features specialized processing divisions for value-added dairy commodities. Students observed the production lines for:

- Buttermilk (Chhas) and Curd (Dahi)
- Pure Ghee and Butter
- Fresh Paneer (Cottage Cheese) and Traditional Dairy Sweets

➤ Automated Packaging & Cold Storage

Packaging In-charge Krupaliben Asodariya demonstrated the automated pouch-packing and sealing operations. Key aspects include:

- Fully automated machines fill, seal, and print batch information on milk and buttermilk pouches under hygienic conditions.
- Packaged products are immediately transferred to temperature-controlled Cold Storage rooms to maintain optimal freshness.
- Early each morning, refrigerated transport fleets and tankers distribute fresh products across regional retail networks.

➤ Cooperative Structure & Management

Milk Procurement Manager Dr. Pravinbhai Kadhani provided an insightful session on the cooperative operational model. He emphasized that Savaj Dairy is not merely a commercial processing plant, but a robust socio-economic framework dedicated to rural development and farmer empowerment.

- **Support Services for Farmers:** The union provides compound cattle feed, veterinary medical assistance, and artificial insemination services directly to registered livestock owners.
- **Profit Redistribution:** A major portion of net operational profits is redistributed back to dairy farmers as annual performance bonuses, strengthening rural livelihoods.

Conclusion & Key Takeaways

The educational visit to Shree Savaj Dairy, Junagadh was highly enriching, practical, and inspiring. The experience allowed students to observe the end-to-end supply chain of the dairy industry—from raw milk collection at village level to sophisticated quality testing, pasteurization, value-added manufacturing, packaging, and distribution. Furthermore, seeing the practical implementation of 'Sahakar Se Samriddhi' (Prosperity through Cooperation) provided valuable insights into community empowerment and modern agro-cooperative management.

Photograph



