

# 'National Dairy Plan likely in six months'

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The Rs 1,584-crore World Bank-funded National Dairy Plan aimed at empowering dairy farmers was likely to be launched within the next six months, a Planning Commission official said on Friday.

"The National Dairy Plan will be launched by the National Dairy Development Board.

"It will try to empower the farmers through producer companies and various cooperatives. May be within six months or so it will take a shape," the Planning Commission Advisor (Agriculture), Mr V.V. Sadamate, told newsmen on the sidelines of a function here.

The project would be im-

plemented at a cost of Rs 1,584 crore, he added.

"In the next three to four months, we should be ready with the draft of the 12th Five Year Plan.

"The State governments are now delivering their plans for the 12th Plan."

Delivering the J. Jayalithaa Endowment Lecture at the Tamil Nadu Veterinary, and Animal Sciences University here, Mr Sadamate said, "During the last five years, at the current prices, the contribution of the livestock sector to the State Gross Domestic Product has increased from 2.22 per cent to 2.58 per cent, while its contribution to the agricultural sector has increased from 21.97 per cent to 24.8 per cent."