Dairy Farming in Odisha: A Comprehensive Guide to Starting and Applying for Support

How to Start Dairy Farming in Odisha: A Step-by-Step Guide

Starting a dairy farm in Odisha involves strategic planning and execution. Here’s a structured approach:

1. Research and Planning

- Market Analysis : Assess local demand for milk and dairy products. Visit nearby milk cooperatives (e.g., OMFED) to understand pricing and market trends.

- Breed Selection : Opt for high-yield breeds like Sahiwal, Jersey, or indigenous breeds suited to Odisha’s climate. Consult local veterinarians or Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) for guidance.

2. Infrastructure Setup

- Land and Housing : Ensure adequate space for cattle sheds (10–12 sq.m per cow), grazing areas, and fodder cultivation. Construct ventilated sheds with proper drainage.

- Equipment : Invest in milking machines, bulk coolers, and storage tanks. Subsidies for these are available under government schemes.

3. Cattle Management

- Purchase Healthy Livestock : Source cattle from government-approved farms (e.g., OUAT’s livestock units) or certified breeders.

- Fodder Management : Grow nutrient-rich fodder like Napier grass or Azolla. Use silage during dry seasons to ensure year-round supply.

4. Healthcare and Hygiene

- Veterinary Services : Register with the Odisha Livestock Resources Development Society (OLRDS) for vaccinations, deworming, and disease management.

- Sanitation : Maintain clean sheds and milking equipment to prevent contamination.

5. Milk Production and Sales

- Join Cooperatives : Sell milk through dairy cooperatives like OMFED for fair pricing and assured procurement.

- Direct Sales : Explore local markets or set up small-scale processing units for value-added products (e.g., paneer, curd).

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How to Apply for Government Schemes and Subsidies

The Odisha government offers robust support for dairy farmers. Below are key schemes and application processes:

1. Odisha Dairy Development Policy

- Objective : Enhance milk production, infrastructure, and farmer income.

- Eligibility : Small/marginal farmers, SHGs, and dairy cooperatives.

- Benefits :

- 50% subsidy for milking machines, bulk coolers, and fodder equipment.

- ₹2 lakh subsidy for setting up dairy units (up to 10 cows).

- How to Apply :

- Visit the District Animal Husbandry Office or OLRDS portal ([olrds.nic.in](https://olrds.nic.in)).

- Submit the application form with Aadhaar, land documents, and a project report.

2. National Livestock Mission (NLM)

- Subsidy for Fodder : 50% subsidy for fodder seed production units.

- Breeding Support : Artificial insemination facilities at subsidized rates.

- Application : Apply through the Block Animal Husbandry Office or online via [ahodisha.nic.in](https://ahodisha.nic.in).

3. Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS)

- Funding : Up to 25–33% subsidy for dairy infrastructure (loans via NABARD).

- Eligibility : Individuals, groups, or NGOs.

- Process : Submit a business plan to a NABARD-approved bank with land and identity proofs.

4. Training Programs

- Skill Development : Free training on modern dairy practices at KVKs or OUAT.

- Registration : Contact the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) or local KVK office.

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Integration with Existing Government Initiatives

The state’s existing schemes (e.g., dairy cooperatives, chilling plants) align with the above steps. For instance:

- Milk Chilling Units : Farmers can access these through OMFED by registering with local cooperatives.

- Subsidized Loans : Available via Odisha State Cooperative Bank for purchasing cattle or equipment.

Future Prospects and Strategic Growth

Leveraging government support and adopting technology (e.g., IoT-based health monitoring) can propel Odisha’s dairy sector. Farmers are encouraged to:

- Utilize Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) for low-interest loans.

- Participate in state-led expos (e.g., Odisha Livestock Expo) to network and learn best practices.

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Conclusion

Dairy farming in Odisha is a viable and profitable venture with systematic planning and government backing. By following the steps above and tapping into subsidies, training, and cooperatives, farmers can significantly boost their income and contribute to the state’s dairy growth. For detailed scheme guidelines, visit the Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Odisha ([dahvsodisha.nic.in](https://dahvsodisha.nic.in)).

This integrated guide ensures farmers have actionable insights to start and scale their dairy operations effectively.