

Livestock Methane in India: Aligning Livelihoods, Systems, and Finance

Roundtable Discussion

Date: 10th June 2026

Time: 10:30 am – 1:30 pm

Mode: Closed-door discussion

Venue: The Claridges, New Delhi

Background

India is home to the world's largest livestock population of 536.76 million, which produces 25% of the world's milk¹. This increase in livestock population leads to increased methane emissions, primarily from enteric fermentation and manure management. As a result, livestock contributes to 58% (BUR 4, 2020) of India's agricultural methane footprint. However, unlike crop-based emissions, livestock methane is diffuse, biologically driven, and more complex to measure and manage, making it less visible within existing climate finance frameworks.

Current research and policy discussions indicate that while technical mitigation solutions exist through feed improvements and manure management, evidence of their effectiveness in maintaining dairy productivity, animal health, and protecting farmers' incomes is scattered. This leads to heightened risk perceptions among dairy producers when considering methane mitigation measures. Furthermore, even where the evidence is compelling, the fragmentation of dairy producers precludes their aggregation. Additionally, there is a lack of robust, affordable, and scalable monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems at the grassroots level. These barriers prevent the development of a clear, scalable, and financeable pipeline of livestock methane abatement in India.

The Government of India has actively supported dairy development and livestock health through various schemes and programs introduced by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying. At the same time, livestock systems in India are deeply embedded within rural livelihoods and socio-economic structures, making the sector a critical component of rural resilience. Consequently, interventions must be context-aware and farmer-centric, with a strong focus on livelihood security and alignment with local values and practices.

With this background, CPI is organizing a roundtable to explore how livestock methane can transition from a technically understood challenge to actionable opportunities on the ground, including both animal feed and manure management. The forum would bring together dairy producer organizations, nodal agencies, thinktanks, ecosystem enablers, and financial institutions. It will deliberate upon possible projectized solutions and accompanying financing mechanisms that could be scaled up to address the twin objectives of methane abatement and farmers' income security.

¹ <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?id=154532&NotelId=154532&ModuleId=3®=3&lang=2>



Agenda

Particulars	Time
Registration (tea/coffee)	10:00 am - 10:30 am
Welcome & Opening Remarks Speaker:	10:30 am - 10:35 am [5 mins]
Context Setting: Speaker: Monika Chakraborty	10:35 am - 10:50 am [15 mins]
Speaker Introduction	10:50 am - 11:00 am [10 mins]
Theme	Discussion Focus
Enabling Systems Moderator: Debal Mitra Time – 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (1 hour)	
Technology and Evidence for Scale	Which technical interventions (e.g., feed improvements, additives, manure management systems like biogas) show the most promise in the Indian context, and what evidence gaps remain on their impact on emissions, productivity, and farmer incomes? How can pilots be designed to generate credible, scalable, and livelihood-aligned evidence?
Livelihood-Centric Design and Adoption	How can climate-resilient livestock interventions be designed to enhance farmer incomes, reduce risk, and improve productivity rather than add new burdens? What co-benefits (e.g., milk yield, animal health, input cost reduction) are most effective in driving sustained adoption across diverse livestock systems in India?
Digital MRV (DMRV) and Data Systems	What types of MRV systems are feasible for diffuse, smallholder-based livestock emissions, and how can digital tools (remote sensing, farm-level data, modeling) enable cost-effective, scalable, and credible monitoring? How can these systems also generate value for farmers (e.g., improved herd management, productivity insights)?
Policy, Institutional Alignment, and Aggregation	How can sustainable livestock interventions be integrated within existing livestock, dairy, and rural development policies while aligning with farmer priorities? What institutional models (e.g., cooperatives, FPOs, private value chains) are best suited to aggregate farmers, deliver services, and support long-term program implementation at scale?
Theme	Discussion Focus
Financing Pathways Moderator: Amandeep Singh Time: 12:00 pm – 1:15 p.m. (1 hour 15 mins)	



Dairy-Linked Productivity Financing	Which proxy indicators (e.g., milk yield, input efficiency, animal health outcomes) can be used to link financing to lower emissions intensity in the absence of direct measurement systems? Additionally, what roles can dairy cooperatives and private dairies play as intermediaries for credit delivery, repayment collection, and performance tracking?
De-risking Investment: Insurance, Guarantees and Blended Finance	What are the key risks (farmer-level, institutional, and market-related) that limit investment in livestock methane solutions, and how can instruments such as insurance, guarantees, and blended finance be designed to address them? What role should public finance play in absorbing early-stage risk and crowding in private capital?
Financing Models for Manure-to-Value Systems	How can financing models support scalable, revenue-generating livestock interventions, such as manure-to-biogas systems, by integrating multiple revenue streams (energy, fertilizer, carbon)? What aggregation and institutional mechanisms are required to ensure long-term operational and financial viability?
Results-Based Finance, Carbon Finance, and Measurement Challenges	Given the challenges of directly measuring livestock methane emissions, how can results-based financing models be structured using proxy indicators (e.g., productivity, practice adoption)? While manure-related carbon crediting methodologies are being developed, feed additive-related methodologies are still evolving. How could feed-based solutions get integrated into carbon financing? What level of MRV rigor is required for financial applications, and how can measurement systems balance credibility with cost and feasibility?
Closing Reflections and Next Steps Speaker:	1:20 pm – 1:30 pm [10 mins]
Networking / Lunch	1:30 onwards

About the GMH – CBI – CPI Methane Abatement Program

The Climate Bonds Initiative, C40, and Climate Policy Initiative are collaborating under the Global Methane Hub to accelerate credible methane abatement across priority sectors. The program focuses on building financing frameworks, improving market understanding of methane mitigation, and supporting stakeholders in integrating methane into transition planning.

Stakeholder consultations, such as webinars and roundtables, are central to this effort, helping translate research into actionable pathways and coordinated ecosystem responses.

Following earlier engagement on bioenergy, this roundtable shifts attention to rice cultivation, where large mitigation potential exists but scaling remains limited.



About Climate Policy Initiative (CPI)

Climate Policy Initiative (CPI) is an analysis and advisory organization with deep expertise in finance and policy. Our mission is to support governments, businesses, banks, and financial institutions to drive economic growth while addressing climate change. CPI has offices in Austria, Brazil, India, Indonesia, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States.