

CLFMA of India and Sri Lanka Livestock Meet Marks a New Chapter in Bilateral Cooperation

- *The CLFMA of India and leading Sri Lankan institutions initiated formal dialogue to advance livestock health, feed innovation, and policy collaboration.*
- *Two days of interactive sessions and networking forged a roadmap for joint R&D, capacity-building and sustainable trade cooperation.*

Monday, July 07 2025: In a significant step towards strengthening regional cooperation in the livestock and poultry sectors, the **CLFMA of India**, in association with the **Sri Lanka Veterinary Association (SLVA)** and the **World Poultry Science Association – Sri Lanka Branch (WPSA-SL)**, hosted the **India–Sri Lanka Livestock Meet** on **1st and 2nd July 2025**. The two-day event marked the formal beginning of an institutional dialogue between the two nations and set the stage for collaborative action in areas such as animal health, feed innovation, policy alignment, and knowledge exchange.

Reflecting the strategic importance of the engagement, the event was attended by several high-level dignitaries and institutional heads from Sri Lanka. Among the prominent attendees were Dr Palika Fernando, Additional Secretary (Livestock Development), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation, and Dr Sulakshana Jayawardana, Director General – Treasury, Ministry of Financial Planning and Economic Development. The Sri Lankan delegation also included key figures from SLVA and WPSA-SL.

Representing India, the CLFMA delegation was led by Chairman Mr Divya Kumar Gulati and included Deputy Chairman Mr. Naveen Pasupathy, Honorary Secretary Mr Nissar F. Mohammed, Treasurer Mr. R. Ramkutty, President – East Zone Mr. Sameer Chotai, International Liaison Committee Member Mr. Jaison John, and Executive Director Colonel Vinay Kumar.

The engagement began on **1st July 2025** with an informal coordination meeting between the office bearers of SLVA, WPSA-SL, and CLFMA's Sri Lanka coordination team. The relaxed setting allowed for open, solution-driven dialogue and laid the groundwork for future alignment. This was followed by a networking dinner where **Mr Divya Kumar Gulati** formally invited the Sri Lankan delegation to participate in CLFMA's upcoming 66th National Symposium and 58th Annual General Meeting in Hyderabad, scheduled for 22–23 August 2025 at Hotel Taj Deccan, Hyderabad — an invitation that was warmly received.

Building on the momentum from Day 1, the **formal sessions on 2nd July** commenced with a welcome address by Mr. Gulati, who outlined CLFMA's mission, recent initiatives, and its long-term vision for regional cooperation. A detailed presentation by **Colonel Vinay Kumar** further showcased CLFMA's impact across India's livestock value chain. The dialogue that followed focused on aligning efforts in

areas like livestock breeding, veterinary research, nutritional advancements, and capacity-building. It was evident that both sides saw the value of transforming this bilateral dialogue into a structured and ongoing partnership.

"This meet is not just a bilateral engagement—it's a platform for creating long-term value for the livestock and poultry sectors of both countries," **said Mr Divya Kumar Gulati, Chairman, CLFMA of India.** "We see immense potential for joint R&D, policy advocacy, and trade cooperation, and we are committed to deepening this collaboration."

Adding to this momentum, **Dr. Palika Fernando** affirmed the government's interest in strengthening technical and research collaboration with Indian counterparts. "There is tremendous scope for India–Sri Lanka cooperation in livestock breeding, feed innovation, and veterinary sciences. We appreciate CLFMA's proactive approach and look forward to institutionalising this partnership."

Echoing this sentiment, **Dr Sulakshana Jayawardana** reaffirmed the Sri Lankan government's commitment to structured, cross-border cooperation. **Dr. Ushan Pallegama, President, SLVA, and Dr. Mallawa Arachchi, President, WPSA-SL,** also expressed enthusiasm for establishing long-term collaboration with CLFMA through formal institutional frameworks and joint initiatives.

Following these productive discussions, the event concluded with a felicitation of dignitaries and a vote of thanks by **Mr. Nissar F. Mohammed**, followed by a formal dinner. The atmosphere was marked by mutual respect, shared purpose, and a clear willingness to build a long-term partnership.

The CLFMA delegation included:

- Mr. Divya Kumar Gulati, Chairman
- Mr. Naveen Pasupathy, Deputy Chairman
- Mr. Nissar F. Mohammed, Honorary Secretary
- Mr. R. Ramkutti, Treasurer
- Mr. Sameer Chotai, President – East Zone
- Mr. Jaison John, International Liaison Committee Member
- Colonel Vinay Kumar, Executive Director

By fostering open dialogue and shared goals, the India–Sri Lanka Livestock Meet reaffirmed the power of partnerships in building a robust, sustainable, and inclusive livestock ecosystem for the region.

About CLFMA:

Founded in June 1967 as The Compound Feed Manufacturers Association, CLFMA of India is the apex body for the country's livestock sector. It represents over 250 members across various sub-sectors, including feed manufacturing, poultry, dairy, aquaculture, animal nutrition, and veterinary services. CLFMA is recognised by Central

and State Governments, livestock farmers, government agencies, agricultural universities, veterinary colleges, and national research institutes. As the voice of the Indian livestock industry, CLFMA advocates for sustainable growth, industry standards, and policy development, contributing significantly to the advancement of the animal protein value chain in India and internationally.

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