

Sustainable Investment Policy of ICAR-NDRI, Karnal

1. Introduction

The National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal, is committed to advancing sustainability through responsible financial and institutional decision-making. As a premier institute in dairy research and education, NDRI recognizes the importance of aligning its investment practices with environmental care, social responsibility, and long-term economic sustainability. This Sustainable Investment Policy establishes a framework to integrate Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) considerations into institutional investments, procurement, infrastructure development, and research funding decisions.

2. Policy Objectives

The key objectives of this policy are:

- i.* To integrate ESG principles into institutional investment and expenditure decisions
- ii.* To promote environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient initiatives
- iii.* To support ethical, inclusive, and socially responsible development
- iv.* To ensure efficient, transparent, and accountable use of financial resources
- v.* To align institutional practices with national and global sustainability goals, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

3. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to:

- Financial investments and fund allocations
- Procurement and purchasing decisions
- Infrastructure development and capital projects
- Research and development funding
- Institutional partnerships and collaborations

4. Guiding Principles

4.1. Environmental Responsibility

NDRI prioritizes investments that:

- i.* Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, particularly from livestock systems
- ii.* Promote renewable energy adoption (e.g., solar energy, biogas plants)
- iii.* Enhance water conservation and waste management systems
- iv.* Support climate-smart and sustainable dairy farming practices

4.2. Social Responsibility

NDRI ensures that investments that:

- i.* Contribute to farmer welfare and rural livelihood enhancement
- ii.* Promote gender equity and inclusive development
- iii.* Encourage ethical sourcing and fair labour practices
- iv.* Strengthen community engagement and extension services

4.3. Economic Sustainability

NDRI commits to the following aspects to ensure the economic sustainability:

- i.* Long-term financial prudence and risk management
- ii.* Efficient utilization of public funds and grants
- iii.* Investment in innovations that provide sustainable economic returns
- iv.* Transparency and accountability in financial operations

4.4. Ethical Governance

Decisions shall be made through transparent and accountable processes. Conflicts of interest shall be identified and avoided. Institutional investments shall adhere to Government of India and ICAR guidelines.

5. Institutional Commitments to Sustainable Investment

5.1. Public Disclosure and Transparency

NDRI shall ensure transparency in its financial and sustainability-related decision-making by publicly disclosing its Sustainable Investment Policy through official institutional platforms. The Institute will outline its governance framework, investment priorities, and sustainability integration mechanisms in alignment with Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles. The Institute commits to incorporating ESG considerations into investment planning

and decision-making processes, consistent with globally recognized frameworks such as the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI).

5.2. Responsible and Climate-Aligned Investment

NDRI is committed to aligning its financial practices with climate-resilient and environmentally responsible pathways. The Institute shall avoid direct or indirect engagement with entities or activities that are environmentally harmful or socially detrimental, including those associated with:

- Tobacco and harmful substances
- Environmentally destructive practices
- Unsustainable resource exploitation

This approach reflects the Institute's commitment to responsible investment and climate change mitigation.

5.3. Engagement with Financial and Institutional Partners

NDRI shall actively engage with financial partners, funding agencies, and implementing bodies to promote sustainability-oriented investment practices. The Institute will encourage the integration of climate-conscious and ESG-based criteria in financial decisions and collaborations.

5.4. Institutional Expertise and Governance

To strengthen sustainable investment practices, NDRI shall ensure that institutional decision-making bodies include members with relevant expertise in:

- Sustainable finance
- Environmental management
- Agricultural and dairy sustainability

These experts will guide investment planning, ensure alignment with sustainability goals, and support evidence-based decision-making. The Institute will promote interdisciplinary collaboration to enhance the effectiveness of sustainability integration.

5.5. Sustainability Reporting and Accountability

NDRI commits to maintaining accountability through periodic reporting of its sustainability-related investments and initiatives. The Institute will document and communicate its progress in integrating sustainability into financial and operational decisions through:

- Annual institutional reports
- Sustainability or environmental reports (where applicable)
- Documentation of climate and sustainability initiatives

These reporting practices will ensure transparency, enable continuous improvement, and demonstrate the Institute's commitment to responsible and sustainable development.

6. Sustainable Investment Strategies

6.1. Green Procurement

- Preference for environmentally friendly and energy-efficient products
- Procurement policies that reduce environmental impact

6.2. Sustainable Infrastructure Development

- Adoption of green building principles
- Investment in energy-efficient infrastructure
- Development of waste recycling and water conservation systems

6.3. Research and Innovation Investment

NDRI prioritizes funding for research in:

- i.* Methane emission reduction in livestock systems
- ii.* Climate-resilient dairy farming
- iii.* Nutritional strategies such as ration balancing
- iv.* Sustainable feed and fodder system development
- v.* Circular economy approaches in dairy production

6.4. Responsible Financial Practices

- i.* Alignment with the Government of India sustainability frameworks
- ii.* Integration of ESG considerations into financial planning
- iii.* Avoidance of investments that negatively impact the environment or society

7. Governance Structure

The implementation of this policy shall be overseen by an appropriate institutional body or committee designated by NDRI administration.

- Responsibilities include:
 - i.* Reviewing and guiding sustainable investment decisions
 - ii.* Monitoring ESG compliance
 - iii.* Ensuring alignment with institutional goals and national policies

8. Monitoring and Reporting

- i.* Periodic assessment of sustainability performance
- ii.* Integration of sustainability indicators in institutional reporting
- iii.* Documentation of investments in sustainability initiatives
- iv.* Continuous improvement based on feedback and evolving standards

9. Compliance and Alignment

This policy aligns with:

- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) guidelines
- National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)
- Swachh Bharat Mission
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

10. Review and Revision

This policy shall be reviewed periodically to ensure relevance and effectiveness in addressing emerging sustainability challenges and opportunities through development of appropriate committee for reviewing and revision

11. Conclusion

Through this Sustainable Investment Policy, NDRI reaffirms its commitment to responsible investment practices that promote environmental sustainability, social well-being, and economic resilience. The Institute aims to lead by example in advancing sustainable dairy systems and contributing to national and global sustainability goals.