

April brings with it a sense of momentum -- new tools for compassionate education in classrooms, new capital for projects, and renewed conversations about humane food systems. Every one of these shows an expanding frontier of compassion and care for animals.

This edition of Connect the Dots brings you updates from four such fronts: a free, ready-to-use farmed animal awareness curriculum for schools; a summit for the Indian plant-based foods sector; a new guide for companies seeking to transition to cage-free eggs and a survey of GenZ by YouGov, where the findings point to a clear shift: young India is increasingly aware, concerned, and willing to act for farmed animals — but current food systems have not kept pace. Together, these updates represent the diversity of approaches that define this movement.

Farm Animal Awareness Curriculum for Schools

Building Empathy Across Primary, Middle & Secondary Schools



Farmed animal welfare is a sensitive subject and must be handled in an age-appropriate manner – from the perspective of how much a child can be exposed to at different ages. IAF and 321 Education have developed a **free, ready-to-use Farm Animal Awareness curriculum designed to be taught by any teacher** for children between the ages of 5 and 15.

- **Ages 5–8:** Foundational empathy-building through stories and guided play
- **Ages 9–12:** Exploring the lives of farm animals and the systems around them
- **Ages 13–15:** Critical thinking on food choices, ethics, and sustainability

The curriculum guides children to see farmed animals as sentient beings through interactive discussions and activities. It invites children to reflect on how everyday

choices affect animals, people, and the planet. Try out the curriculum in your schools.

Email shivani@indiaanimalfund.org with your feedback.



They Feel, We Care

70% of Young India Says Farmed Animals Are Sentient Beings

Findings from a YouGov Survey Commissioned by the India Karuna Collaborative (2026)



They Feel, We Care - Report of a survey of 3010 GenZ by YouGov

The [India Karuna Collaborative](#) commissioned a survey of 3,010 adults aged 18–30 across India. The results tells us is that young India already understands something profound -- 70% of young Indians recognise that farmed animals are sentient beings. **Four in five young Indians have already taken a pro-animal action in the past year.** Nearly half say they would avoid a brand if they discovered it was involved in poor animal treatment. For more such insights, read the full report [here](#).

Fourth Plant-Based Foods Summit 2026

India's Plant-Based Sector Gathers in New Delhi

Presentation by Dr. DD Wadikar, Defence Institute of Bio-defence Technologies (DIBT), Mysore, DRDO on Plant-Based Meat Alternatives

WHY ALTERNATE PROTEINS ?

- To meet global meat demand; increasing by 50% by 2050.
- Enhanced/ trending popularity of vegetarianism in Services
- Concern about rising meat prices
- Animal agriculture contributes substantially to climate change
- Sustainable food system.
- Plant proteins use 47-99% lesser land than conventional meat
- Plant proteins emits 30-90% less greenhouse gas.

The production of 1 kg of chicken meat generates 1.1 kg CO₂ equivalents, pork (1.8 kg CO₂ equivalents) and beef (14.8 kg CO₂ equivalents).

Fast (plant) → [Chicken] → Slow (meat)
 Harvest, breed, raise, grow, process, sell, etc. → [Meat]

"We have pushed protein to the biological limit!"

Datta, P. H., In Plant Designers, J. C., Lerman, A., Chyral, P. M., & Liu, S. Y. (2020). *Animal*. 158. 178. <https://doi.org/10.1002/9781119450000.ch178>



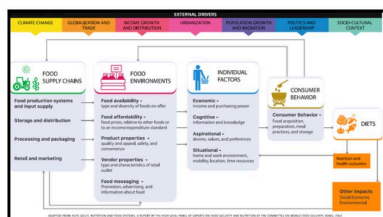
Presentation by Dr. Dev Kumar Yadav, Defence Institute of Bio-defence Technologies (DIBT), Mysore, DRDO on Plant-Based Dairy Alternatives

Comparative Technical Profile of Plant-Based Milks

Parameter	Soy Milk	Almond Milk	Coconut Milk	Oat Milk	Plant-Based Milk (Pea/Chicken)
Protein (%)	3-4%	0.5-1.5%	1-2%	1-1.5%	3-8%
Fat (%)	1.5-2.5%	2-3%	15-20% (high fat)	1-2%	1-3%
Carbohydrates (%)	2-3%	1-2%	2-3%	6-8%	3-5%
Energy (kcal/100 ml)	40-60	30-50	150-200	50-70	50-80
Major Nutrients	High quality protein, isoflavones	Vitamin E	Medium chain triglycerides	Beta-glucan	High protein
Lactose	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Digestibility	Good	Moderate	Moderate	Good	Very good
Allergenicity	Possible (soy allergen)	Not allergen	Rare	Low	Low
Shelf-life potential	High (3HT)	High (3HT)	Moderate	High	High



Presentation by Dr. Supreet Kaur, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) on India's Journey Towards Food Systems Transformation and the Role of Plant Based Foods



On 10 March 2026, the Plant Based Foods Industry Association (PBFIA) organised the 4th Plant-Based Foods Summit in New Delhi supported by leading institutions including the Ministry of Food Processing Industries MoFPI, MSME, FSSAI, APEDA, ITPO, and FAO.

With the theme "Rooted in Tradition, Engineered for Tomorrow", the Summit convened over 35 Indian and international speakers, hosted six panel discussions, and launched two reports: Gen Z and the Plant-Powered Plate: Trends & Insights (a collaboration between PBFIA and Ipsos), and India as a Global Manufacturing Hub for Smart Protein Processing Equipment (published by GFI India with NIFTEM-Thanjavur). Read more [here](#).

Transitioning to Cage-Free

A New EY–People For Animals (PFA) Guide



Hundreds of millions of hens in India's egg industry are housed in conventional battery cages — where space per bird is less than an A4 sheet of paper, and where natural behaviours like perching, dust-bathing, foraging, and nesting are entirely impossible. Over 2,600 companies globally have made cage-free commitments as of 2024, many with Indian operations.

A new resource, *Transitioning to Cage-Free: A Roadmap for Corporates in the Egg Supply Chain*, has been developed by EY in collaboration with People For Animals detailing transition pathways including sourcing, funding models, and certification. The guide cites a survey with stark numbers: **nearly 72% said they do not want hens to suffer, and 64% prefer to buy eggs from hens not kept in cages.**

As demand grows and infrastructure develops, the transition to cage-free is no longer an aspiration but an opportunity. To access the full guide or explore how to begin a cage-free transition, [please get in touch](#).

Opportunities

Apply to the Kickstarting for Good Incubator Program

Do you have a powerful idea to transform food system towards a plant-forward future, or are you an early-years organisation that has the potential to scale? If you answered yes to either of these questions, the Kickstarting For Good incubator program with in-person sessions in Berlin might be a good fit for you. Find out more details [here](#).

Sign up for an online [Ask Me Anything](#) session on 27th April at 08:30 p.m. IST.

Looking Ahead

April's stories share a common thread: the recognition that animal welfare is not a single issue, but a fabric of interconnected concerns. India Animal Fund continues to work at these intersections — supporting awareness, catalysing capital, building ecosystems, and amplifying the efforts of organisations working on the ground.

Write to rekha@indiaanimalfund.org for collaborations or partnerships.

"It's not enough to love animals; we must actively protect and preserve them. It's our duty and responsibility as custodians of this planet." - Daphne Sheldrick

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