



Danish Farmers
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Resumé

Danish Farmers Abroad in India 2025 (25 October – 1 November 2025)

By Povl Nørgaard



“Whatever you can rightly say about India, the opposite is also true.”

Amartya Sen



About India

We were at the beginning located in New Delhi and then in Chandigarh, Punjab. We visited three states – Uttar Pradesh – east of New Delhi and then Haryana and Punjab west of New Delhi. There are 28 states in the country, which have 1,428 million inhabitants (in 2050: estimate: 1,640 million) and an area of 3.28 million km².

Uttar Pradesh: approx. 170 million inhabitants on an area of 243,286 km².

Haryana: 31 million inhabitants on an area equivalent to Denmark (44,212 km²)

Punjab: 78 million inhabitants and an area of 50,362 km²

Animal husbandry in India

Type	Numbers	Notes
Cattle	Ca. 300 mill. animals, of which 109 mill. buffaloes 191 mill. Diff. breeds	India has 30% of all cows in the world. 80% of cattle farms have 1-3 animals and supply 70% of the country's milk production
Goats	148 mill. animals	
Sheep	74 mill. animals	
Pigs	9 mill.	Mostly located in the north-east states
Poultry	851 mill animals	

Sunday 26 October. Tour of New Delhi with guide

Visit Temple in Mandir Marg area. A temple for all Indian religions. Built in the 1950s initiated by the country's first leader after independence from the UK in 1947 - Mahatma Gandhi. He wanted to have a place that could unite the country's many peoples and religions.





Hindi temple in Connaught area. A large temple for Hindus, which gathered many thousands of people this Sunday morning and also offered free food to the poor. The temple served food to about 15,000 people every Sunday and about 10,000 people on regular weekdays. The food was prepared by volunteers.



Photo: The Temple entrance and the hall with the dining of the many people

The water supply well in the Connaught area. An ancient structure with a well to supply the city's inhabitants with water.

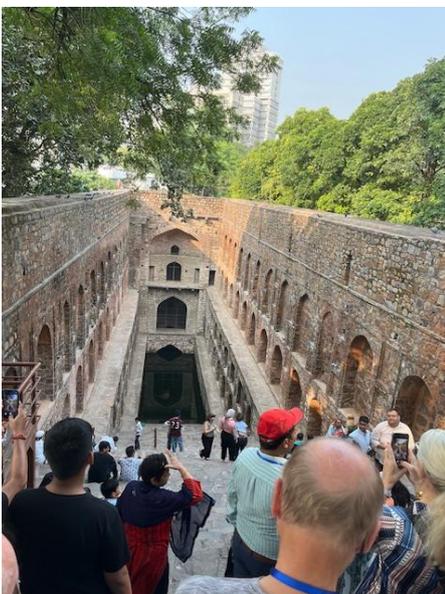


Photo: Water supply well and volunteers in Hindi temple preparing food

Visit the park with the Triumphal Arch at Augsut Krinti Maidan

The Triumphal Arch was built by the British in the late 19th century in memory of fallen soldiers. The memorial for fallen soldiers was subsequently moved after 1947 to a new memorial. Here, the names of all fallen soldiers are written in gold print on memorial plaques.



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Photo: Arc de Triomphe and Memorial for Fallen Soldiers

Monday, October 27 – morning

Meeting at the Danish Embassy in New Delhi: Sector Expertise Exchange Roundtable –

There was a welcome and presentations by the following:

Welcome by Siddhartha Das, Danish Embassy.



Photo: Meeting room at the Danish Embassy and Shri Ranjeet Singh, Joint Secretariat Ministry of Food, Processing Industries together with Tom Axelgaard

Speech during the morning

Shri Ranjeet Singh, Joint Secretariat Ministry of Food, Processing Industries



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Focused on the need for investments in food safety, traceability of food in the processing industry and the need for increased focus on sustainability and use of renewable energy. Wanted cooperation with Denmark.

There is a need for the development of cooperatives to improve market opportunities for small farmers. There is a need for major investments in agriculture. The latest major initiative has been the promotion of producer organizations. (We met such an organization in Haryana within milk)

Gaurav Sisodia, Vice President of Invest India.

Focused on the country's increasing need for food and that India is already a world-leading producer of certain foods - e.g. milk. He noted DK's strong position within the dairy industry, traceability and postharvest facilities.

India's food exports in 2024 were as follows: Grains: 12.4 billion dollars; Fish and seafood: 6.3 billion dollars; Coffee, tea and spices: 5.4 billion dollars.

Xxx, Invest India (female)

Cooperation between DK and India in the years 2000 to 2025 has been 1.4 billion dollars. There has been a focus on the following: Shipping and marine conditions, renewable energy, food manufacturing, infrastructure, industrial machinery, pharma and biotech.

Xxx from Invest India

About opportunities for cooperation between DK and India. Invest India is available to help potential investors find partners, etc.

Tom Axelgaard, DFA

Pointed out the need for cooperation in the world and that we must respect each other as independent countries and individuals. Brief overview of food production in the EU and the possibilities for cooperation with India in the area. About the background for establishing the company Goodvalley in Poland and Ukraine and the experiences from this with building a "perfect production cycle" that recycles nutrients and utilizes surplus energy, and where the point is to produce food right where the market, labor, soil conditions and climate are suitable.

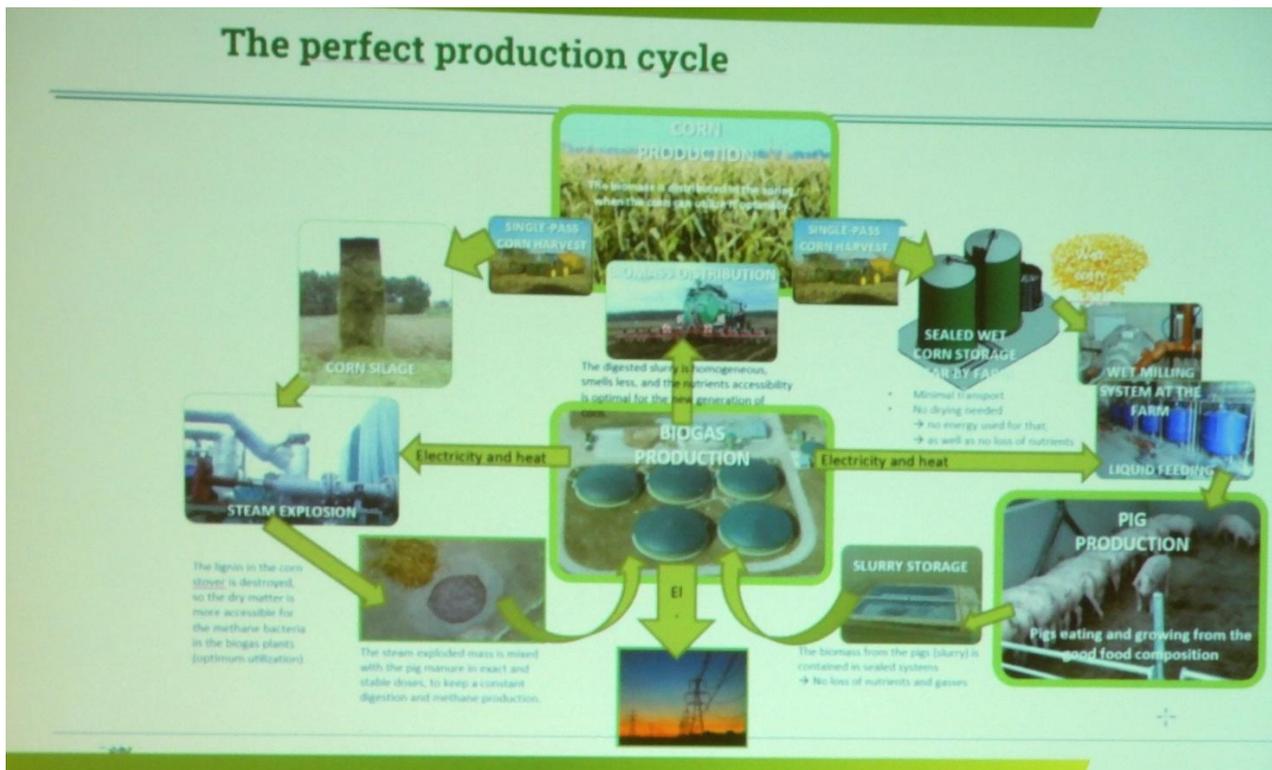


Foto: The perfect production cycle

Dr Ram Mchan M.K., Director of Marine Product Export Development Authority

Talked about the country's major investment in developing the fishing industry in the eastern coastal India, to promote the country's export of fish and shellfish.

Jesper Brunhøj, Chairman of DFA

Jesper presented DFA and gave an overview of its members. He continued with a presentation of his investment company AG Advice, which invests in agriculture and forestry.

Dr. Prarablda C. Badgujar, NIFTEM – a large educational institution within food, as well as a development and research center. He presented the university's education and incubation center, as well as some results from their R&D center regarding food-processing methods.

Frank Johannsen, member of DFA and manager of Striben Agro ApS

Frank talked about the company Striben Agro, which he runs together with Peter Christensen and his son.

Xx, representative from the Indian Biogas Sector

He presented opportunities for synergies and cooperation with the Danish biogas sector.

Risha Kapoor, sales manager at IMV India.

The company supplies equipment for artificial insemination in cattle, pigs, horses, chickens and fish. They have 90% of the market in India.



Monday, 27 October, afternoon

Presentation of Mahaan – a family-owned dairy – took place at a hotel.



Photo: the two representants of Mahaan Dairy

The company Mahaan is part of the ACE Group and was established in 1987 and in 1994 the first dairy was established with a daily weighing of 125,000 liters of milk. In 1997 they were India's leading pioneer in the production of whey protein, casein and milk lime. And since then, the capacity has increased, so that they can now weigh 0.5 million liters per day. The farmer's price is approximately 50-60 rubles per liter of milk. They have 12,000+ suppliers.

In 2025 they have established a "model farm" for the future stables for dairy cows and an R&D center. They have partnerships with 30+ companies in the world within the dairy sector, including Arla, Agropur, Lactalis and Fonterra.

About Indian Dairy Production

Women are key figures in India's dairy production. They are the ones who feed and milk cows and deliver the milk twice a day to the dairies' many collection points in the villages. They are organized in producer organizations, that have 62,000 female members nationwide. India's annual milk production is 254 million tons (equivalent to 25% of the world's production) and 38% of the production is used directly in homes - the rest is sold to dairies.

India's milk is supplied by the following 4 types of cattle and goats:

Buffaloes	Indian local breed	Cross breedings with genes from outside	Geder
49%	25%	23%	3%



About half of the country's milk is produced in the 8 northwestern states. 38% comes from the three states: Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. There is 70 Mn+ dairy farmers in India and an estimated 10 Mn people are directly or indirectly employed in the dairy sector.

Monday evening 27 October

Welcome event at the Danish Ambassador's residence in New Delhi. Here we met representatives from the morning's meeting at the embassy, as well as representatives from companies we visited later during the week.



Photo: Welcome event at the Danish Ambassador's residence

Tuesday morning, October 28th Visit to Ananda Dairy limited, Hapur, Uttar Pradesh

We received a warm welcome upon arrival. Everyone received a garland of flowers around their necks and a red dot on their foreheads, symbolizing the third eye – the mental eye.



Photo: Our arrival at Ananda with flowers and wreaths

Ananda is a family-owned business. The first visit was to their feed factory, and behind the factory we saw a barn for 100 dairy cows. The feed factory produces concentrate feed for its own cows, as well



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as for sale. They have facilities for mixing concentrate feed, and their own well-equipped laboratory for analyzing the feed.



Photo: Ananda feed factory and cow stable



Photo: The cows' feed consists of chopped sorghum and concentrate – the sorghum chopping machine



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They have bulls from which they collect semen and tap it onto straw, which they sell to local farmers. The insemination is done by inseminators who drive around to the farms. They take embryos from the best cows and fertilize them with good semen from the best bulls and put the embryos into other cows. They even use sex-sorted semen to reduce the number of bull calves.

The feed consists of finely chopped sorghum and concentrate from De Heus. The cows are buffaloes, which give 7-8 l of milk per day.

Meeting with the chairman and founder of Ananda: Dr. Radhey Shyam Dixit



Photo: Meeting with Dr. Radhey Shyam Dixit, Ananda

He talked about a new processing equipment that he had manufactured in Germany to automatically produce the fresh cheese Panini. It takes 8 hours to convert 5 kg of milk into 1 kg of finished Panini. The cheese is widely used in dishes instead of meat. They have made a new breed of cows – Gelange, from buffaloes using embryo technology. Its milk is excellent for making Panini. Buffalo milk, typically has 6.7 percent fat.

Tuesday afternoon, 28 October – visit to Ananda Dairy





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Photo: The welcome at Ananda Dairy and shelf with their product range and the dessert Rajbhog



Photo: Presentation of the organization

It is a very modern dairy. It has 250,000 suppliers and 50 collection points, where local farmers can drop off their milk. They manufacture 40-50 different products – Panini is one of them. They have 30% of the market for milk-based products in India. 30% of their milk is sold as UHT treated milk. There are 2,000 employees. They are present all over India. They export to at least 15 countries in Southeast Asia.



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Mission statements posted in the office

They have implemented Japanese management philosophy organizationally (Lean and Hoshim Kanri planning.) They have visible SOPs placed everywhere in central places inside the factory. There seems to be a strong focus on people and a willingness to share respect for each other.

We ended the visit by planting 4 trees in the garden at the factory.



Photo: Ananda trucks being loaded at the factory – and planting trees

Ananda Dairy has made a cool real video about the visit to their YouTube channel

<https://youtube.com/shorts/k1pjV9Q8rlk?feature=share>

Wednesday 29 October – Visit in the state Haryana



Photo: Our reception with the Chief Minister's Secretary for Haryana - at the Haveli restaurant in Sonnipat-Ganuar,

A large group of people were ready with music, flower garlands and neckwear for everyone, when we arrived.

Then we drove to the first farm visit of the day.

DS. Pig Farm, owned by Prop. Dharm Singh in Panipat-Bapoli. The farmer has 6-7 hectares of land and a herd of 60 sows and 10 boars. The herd was established in 2018. The feed consisted of three different mixtures supplied by de Heus, who was represented at the visit. He obtains 25 pigs per yearling sow. Pigs are sold for approx. 167 rupees/2 dollars live per kg). The slaughter pigs are driven approx. 2,000 km north, where they are slaughtered. The owner had learned how to care for pigs via a YouTube video.

Approx. 80% of the Indians in the area are vegans, so they don't eat pork or beef, but when we talk about the 80% of the population who are Hindus, they have no problem eating chicken or pork, while beef is forbidden. The cow is considered to be their mother, and is therefore sacred.



Photo: Visit to pig farm

Rice production in the area

The soil was very fertile in the area – it was close to a large irrigation canal. There are pumping stations distributed around the area to pump water for rice and wheat cultivation.

Rice is planted in May-June during the monsoon rain period and harvested in October/November. Wheat is then sown and harvested in April. There is also sugarcane in the area, which is only harvested once a year.

The rice is managed and harvested manually. The harvest is done with a sail and after a drying period in the field, it is threshed manually in the field. The yield in rice is approx. 6 tons – in wheat 5 tons per hectare. The average area size is 0.4 ha.



Photo: Harvested rice and threshing of rice, as well as trucks with rice sacks loaded by hand.

Mushroom production

In this area we saw bamboo huts covered with rice straw. They are used to grow edible mushrooms. In the dark rooms the mushrooms thrive excellently during the humid 4-month period in the middle of summer, when the monsoon rains fall. It is a production, that the local farmers started 5-6 years ago at the advice of local extension agents.

Wednesday afternoon 29 October – Rajbir Arya Dairy Farm outside Karnal

As before, we were welcomed with flower garlands by the owner and representatives of the feed company De Heus.



Photo: The owner and his father, and the stable

The owner had established the herd in 1998 and it had 100 dairy cows – of which 50 cows were currently being milked. They had a yield of 9-10,000 l of milk per cow per year. (excluding barren cows). In 2003, they invested in milking machines and a milking barn.

The feed is grown both themselves and also purchased from neighbors, who grow the roughage, where they have been given seed by the owner. The cows are fed corn silage and grass silage. De Heus supplies concentrate feed. It is mixed into complete feed in a feed mixer.

The herd is bred from purchased Holstein-Friesian cows. They have subsequently used imported semen to fertilize embryos from the best cows. They currently now put in approx. 30 heifers each year. They have established a biogas plant and the degassed cow manure is taken out to the field together with the ajl.

The farmer has a contract with Nestlé to sell the milk. He is a respected farmer in the area and many farmers want to hear his advice on caring for dairy cows.



The chairman of the regional Producers' Association was also present. The association has 6,000 members and was established in 2016. It looks after the farmers' business policy interests and negotiates milk prices with the dairies. It holds animal shows and organize study tours.

The land price in the area is approx. 1 mill. DKK per hectare - depending on the location of the infrastructure and irrigation facilities.

Wednesday afternoon, 29 October - visit to the Mill and feed trade in Nissing, Gondar

The company was located in a small town, where there was a warehouse for feed, as well as an oil mill for pressing mustard seeds. The company was established in 2013 and had experienced good growth every year since then. The sale of concentrate feed to farmers with few cows was growing - people prefer to buy ready-made feed rather than mix it themselves. There were 7 employees.

The oil mill could press 100 kg of mustard seeds per hour. The oil was sold as cooking oil in bottles. The residual product - the cake was included in concentrate feed mixtures.

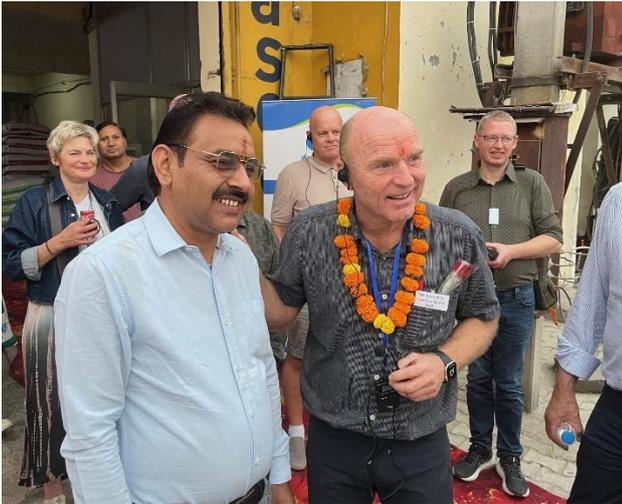


Photo: The oil mill owner with Tom and the oil mill for pressing mustard seeds

Thursday morning, 30 October – Visit to the De Heus factory in Patiala, Rajpura

We were received by the Dutch director of De Heus and he presented the company together with his two trusted Indian employees.



Photo: The Director and Tom, as well as the group in the meeting room. Factory tour and decorated trucks



De Heus is a family-owned Dutch feed company – originally started in 1717, but the expansion of the company only began 100 years ago with the establishment of feed mills. Today it is a global company with sales in 75 countries. They have 11 feed factories in the Netherlands. They also own slaughterhouses and have chicken production on contract. In size, De Heus is no. 4 on the world market.

In 2017, they began establishing in India in collaboration with a local partner. And in October 2025, they inaugurated their own feed factory, which we visited. They have sales departments in three states: Punjab, Assam and Maharashtra. The goal is to have factories in all three states. Right now, they use trains and trucks for transport. The nearest port is 2,500 km away.

They only use locally produced raw materials for feed products. 60% consists of rice and grains, as well as by-products. They have space for 6,000 tons in the warehouse. The farmers' crop prices are set by the state as guaranteed minimum prices. In reality, this means, that the system favors those who can store their crops after harvest and sell them later.

Thursday afternoon, 30 October - visit poultry farmers in Nagar - dera Bassi

The poultry company was established in 2010 and has 49 employees. It consists of a breeding flock of laying hens, and the eggs are incubated in incubators - the chickens are used to raise broilers - some are sold - others are raised by the owner himself.





Photo: The owner and family, our reception, egg cabinets with eggs for hatching chickens, and the hen- and broiler barn

We saw the barn with hens, and how they manually inseminate the hens with sperm from cocks. Every 4th day, each hen received a small portion of sperm placed in the hen's oviduct. The hens start laying eggs at the age of ½ year and deliver eggs for about 1 year. He sold chickens to other farmers as raised broilers. He had a barn himself, where he raised chickens. They had three different slaughter ages – some at almost 30 days, others about 10 days later at 2.5 kg weight. They get about 130 rubies per kg of chicken meat.

He has borrowed money from the bank for the establishment – the interest rate is about 9.5% p.a.

Thursday afternoon, 30 October – Visit pig producer in Ambala Cantonment

The owner – a lawyer, established the herd in 2019. He has built a stable for 60 sows and a total of 200 pigs. The piglets are sold to others at 2 months of age (20 kg). And they cost 5,000 rupees per pig. The breed is Indian Landrace. They vaccinate against common swine fever. His plan is to expand the herd to 4-500 pigs in total within the coming year. There were already several gilts in the herd ready for expansion. It was his father who looked after the pigs. The feed was provided by De Heus. There was 4 hectares of land attached to the property.



Photo: The owner and his father, who look after the pigs in the relatively newly built pig barn

Thursday late afternoon, 30 October – visit to a poultry farmer

The farmer had built two large barns for laying hens. The eggs were sold in New Delhi via a contractor. The production was 8,000 eggs per day. The feed was supplied by de Heus. With fans he could maintain an acceptable temperature most of the year - however, there were many critical days during the 4 months in the middle of summer.

He spoke English and was very outgoing. He spent a lot of time in Germany, where his two children lived. His trusted employee also had his children abroad – Canada.



Photo: The two hen stables, and the owner in Shik clothing, and his partner

Friday noon, 31 October – visit to the Governor of Haryana in Chandigarh

The meeting was arranged at short notice with the help of the ambassador at the Indian Embassy in Copenhagen, whom Tom Axelgaard had met with prior to the trip.

The meeting at the ministry was attended by the Governor and the state's Minister of Agriculture, as well as the Head of Department and other ministry employees.

Tom presented the Danish group and their activities in Eastern Europe.

It was the Head of Department who took the floor and spoke about the state and its areas of focus primarily within the agricultural sector. Dr. Prem Singh, the Director General of Animal Husbandry in Haryana, presented figures for the state's agricultural production – see below.

Emne	Indien	Denmark	Haryana
GDP per inhabitants Doll.	4.187	449,94	4.240
Milking cows numb, mill	192,5	0,55	4,26
Total milk per year, mill t	239,3	6,2	12,22

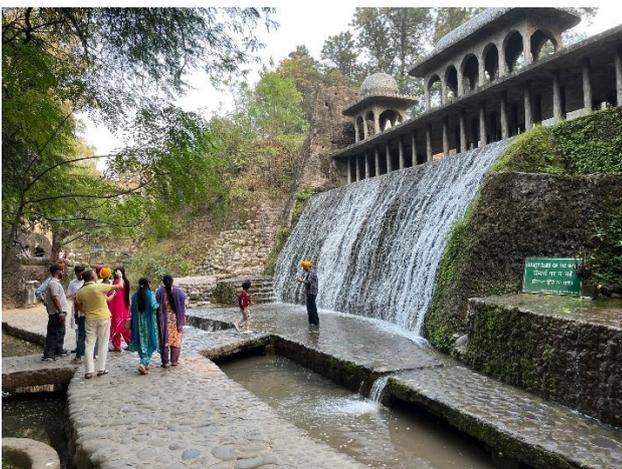


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Photo: From the Ministry-garden in front of the meeting hall, as well as the Governor and the Minister of Agriculture

Friday afternoon 31 November - Visit to Rock Park, Chandigarh



Saturday 1 November – Bus transport back to hotel in New Delhi

Visit village near Ambala south of Chandigarh

Talk to three consultants from the State Plant Breeding Board about rice cultivation.



Photo: Reception of the village residents – and farewell to the three consultants

Rice, wheat, sorghum, millet and mustard are grown in this area. The rice is of the Basmati variety with good taste and is exported in large quantities. The climate and access to water provide good growth opportunities for this type of rice variety. India, Pakistan and Nepal are the major suppliers of the rice variety to the world market.

The rice is sown directly or planted. During the growing period, fungicides are used against fungus and herbicides against thrips. The rice is hand-harvested and hand-threshed in the area and the yield is 3-5 tons per hectare. They occasionally use catch crops between wheat (harvested in April) and the sowing of the rice (June)

The farmers pay a small fee to access irrigation. There are wells all over the area, which are powered by electricity. The wells are typically 80 meters deep. The rainfall is 1-2 meters/year. The authorities provide subsidies for the payment of electricity for the operation of pumping stations.

Land costs approx 1 mill. DKK per hectare. And lease costs approx. 60,000 rupees per acre.
(4,300DKK)

The village is affected by depopulation, so the number of cows is falling – 50% over the last 10 years. A family cannot live by cultivating 2 hectares, so they supplement with part-time work or a small shop.

Visit to a cow old age home in Harewali, North Delhi

The Cow Old Age Home is run by a Hindi organization. There are 2,400 cows on the premises, which are looked after by permanent employees, as well as with a lot of help from volunteers, who bring a little feed to the cows every day. The government provides a subsidy of 20 rupees per cow per day.

Some of the cows are milked and the milk is sold. The younger cows are put into bulls, so that they can continue to give birth to calves and give milk. They have veterinarians attached to the herd. The cows typically die at the age of 16-18 years and the authorities drive them away. Blind cows are kept to themselves.



They receive cows from owners, as well as those abandoned on the roads. If an owner wants his abandoned cow back, he has to pay a fine. They sell cow dung for fertilizing fields. And they press dried cow dung into sticks, which are used for cremation instead of wood.



Photo: The entrance portal to the cow retirement home, as well as the manager and his assistant

Saturday evening, 1 November

We arrived late at the hotel in New Delhi and then left for home at different times. A group of 10 visited the Taj Mahal palace outside Delhi.