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Gujarat FDCA to start checking milk in villages

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Gandhinagar: The Gujarat Food and Drug Control Authority (FDCA) will embark on a state-wide drive to check the quality of milk at the village level before it is handed over to local co-operative societies. Action will be initiated against milk producers if samples of milk are found to be either unhygienic or adulterated, FDCA officials said.

In addition, FDCA will also launch a drive against unorganized dairies to check milk adulteration. "These dairies sell unpacked milk and they will be checked as well," the official said.

The drive will be conducted in association with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

H G Koshiya, commissioner, Gujarat FDCA said that while big milk processing plants like those of Amul have facilities to check milk according to FSSAI standards, there is no mechanism to check milk for adulteration or hygiene at the village level before milk producers deposit their milk with village co-operatives. "The state government has decided to start checking the quality of milk at source when farmers milk cows or buffaloes. Whether farmers draw milk in hygienic conditions or not or whether any adulteration is done will now be checked at the village level," he said. The official added that a database of all milk producers will be sought from the major milk cooperatives."