

IDF

DAIRY SUSTAINABILITY OUTLOOK

Research progress | Global insights | Expert opinion

Sustainable development is a collective effort that depends on collaboration between governments, international organisations and the private sectors, along with individuals. The International Dairy Federation (IDF) recognises the challenges and opportunities and is committed to contributing relevant scientific information and good practice to the discussion. The second IDF Dairy Sustainability Outlook aims to provide a viewpoint on sustainable development of relevant importance for the dairy sector. It offers an opportunity for those involved in the field to share ongoing projects and new research on sustainability of importance for the dairy sector.

International Dairy Topics takes a look at some of the research and new initiatives that are taking place around the world.

The IDF Dairy Sustainability Outlook can be downloaded for free from the IDF website: www.fil-idf.org

China:

The important role of quality education in the sustainable development of dairy in China

Meiju Liu
Vice Chairman, China Dairy Industry Association • cncidf@163.com

Quality education is fundamental to ensure highly professional people throughout the dairy value chain, and guarantee the sustainable development of the dairy sector in China.

In recent years, the dairy sector in China has made great progress, thanks to high quality dairy products and growing market demand. However, per capita consumption of dairy products is still quite low. In addition, it has been identified that there are opportunities for the dairy processing sector to further reduce its environmental impact.

Research indicates that providing quality education on i) nutritional value of dairy products, ii) the range of measures that can be taken to reduce environmental impact in dairy production, is essential to ensuring the long-term sustainable development of the sector in China.

The aim is to address unhealthy consumption and production concepts and transform them into responsible and sustainable production concepts.

There are multiple advantages to this approach.

Firstly, quality education provides employees with professional technical knowledge, increasing their knowledge of environmental protection measures and product quality and safety. Quality education can also serve as a guide to consumers and farmers of the health benefits of dairy.

The aim of this initiative is to carry out systematic and whole-industry quality education for farmers and employees in all aspects from raw materials, processing to sales, thereby promoting the healthy, stable and sustainable development of the Chinese dairy sector. ■

India:

Fortune at the bottom of the gobar (manure) pyramid

Shri. Dilip Rath
Chairman, National Dairy Development Board, India
drath@nddb.coop

For some time, cattle have been part of Indian society, providing nutrition to its people as well as fertilisers and transport. Dairying is practised by smallholder farmers in India, with between 1-5 animals.

While a lot of time and energy go into managing the milk economy, little is done to manage the country's manure (gobar) economy.

It is high time we ensure fair returns to farmers through efficient manure management.

According to the 20th Livestock Census in India, cattle and buffalo population is 302.79 million, owned by small and marginal dairy farmers, which generates around 1,630 million tons of manure per annum.

Scientific use of this manure, rich in organic matter, gases and nutrients can help the country in saving enormous national resources.

The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) of India, being the premier organisation to promote India's dairy sector and having successfully helped establish a milk value chain through a network of cooperatives across India, can contribute immensely to establishing a sustainable manure

value chain for smallholder dairy farmers across the country.

To establish an efficient manure value chain will fulfil the cooking fuel needs of dairy farmers and provide them with a source of stable income through the sale of bio slurry, while helping to mitigate the adverse climate impact of dairying.

The initiative has the further aim of manufacturing of slurry-based bio fertilisers and selling them to farmers at reasonable costs.

2,302 domestic biogas plants were provided to smallholder dairy farmers, all of them women, across the country for demonstration and to understand farmer response.

The main beneficiaries of the initiative were female dairy farmers who could save on cooking fuel requirements to the tune of Rs.25,000 – in 1.5 years equivalent to the cost of biogas plants.

Use of bio slurry in their own field is reducing the requirement for chemical fertilisers and related expenses, showing positive results on productivity.

The sale of slurry at around INR.2/litre has provided them an additional income of Rs.100/day. ■

The Netherlands:

Action plan for a climate resilient dairy sector

Bregje van Erve (ZuivelNL); Tjitske Bolt (NZO - Dutch Dairy Association)
ZuivelNL, Sustainable Dairy Chain Program, The Netherlands
vanerve@zuivelnl.org; bolt@nzo.nl

Following the Paris Agreement, the Dutch Government approved a Climate Act in which the Netherlands' climate goals were set.

In the National Climate Agreement, a nationwide agreement between governments, NGOs and private sector parties, the dairy sector played an active role by submitting a detailed and tailor-made action plan.

The dairy sector committed to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases significantly towards 2030.

The goal of the dairy sector is to take the necessary steps across the total production chain to be as effective as possible to reduce the emission and to avoid unwanted transfer of issues to other

important topics. Becoming more climate resilient is a license to operate for any economic sector and especially for the Dutch dairy sector.

The aim of the dairy action plan is to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases in the dairy chain by initiating collective actions of dairy processors and farmers' organisations and to accomplish a joint and structural dedication to this important goal.

Long-term commitment and responsibility at individual farm level are the main drivers as well as supporting the farmers and other stakeholders in the dairy chain (feed industry, genetics etc) by taking mitigating actions. ■