

# Improving environmental performance

How the International Dairy Federation contributes to sustainable development



## Background – setting the scene

The International Dairy Federation (IDF) is a non-profit private sector organization representing the interests of various stakeholders in dairying at the international level. To date, IDF is represented in 56 countries and its membership, which counts for about 86% of the world's total milk production, is growing.

IDF is a science-based organization, which represents the dairy sector worldwide by providing the best global source of scientific knowledge and expertise in support of the development and promotion of quality milk and dairy products to deliver consumers with nutrition, health and well-being.

IDF aims to identify and disseminate best practice at the international level, in order to guide and harmonize members' work on issues including climate change, nutrition and food hygiene at the national level.

## Tackling the environmental issue

Climate change and greenhouse gas emissions are crucial environmental issues for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

In recognition of the growing importance of environmental matters, IDF, the representative of the dairy sector worldwide, puts a high value on the development and promotion of initiatives to demonstrate the industry's responsible approach.

Supported by its network of experts, IDF builds dialogue throughout the entire dairy chain and is committed to ensuring that the industry develops products with improved environmental profiles, encourages integrated farming systems and engages in voluntary initiatives in the interests of environmental protection and more general sustainability issues.

IDF already has a set of publications addressing a variety of environmental sustainability issues and strategies on how to minimize and control environmental impact throughout the dairy production chain. Key IDF Publications featured in this leaflet address the biggest challenges such as reduction of methane emissions, reduction of energy and present the promising tool, Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) to promote sustainability in the dairy industry. They are available free of charge on the IDF Website at <http://www.fil-idf.org>



IDF expands its commitment to sustainability and sustainable growth of the dairy sector by providing a dedicated website on environmental matters. It aims at sharing best practices, promoting environmentally focused initiatives and improving overall performance of the dairy sector.

For more details visit our website at

[www.dairy-sustainability-initiative.org](http://www.dairy-sustainability-initiative.org)

## IDF's contribution to global environment

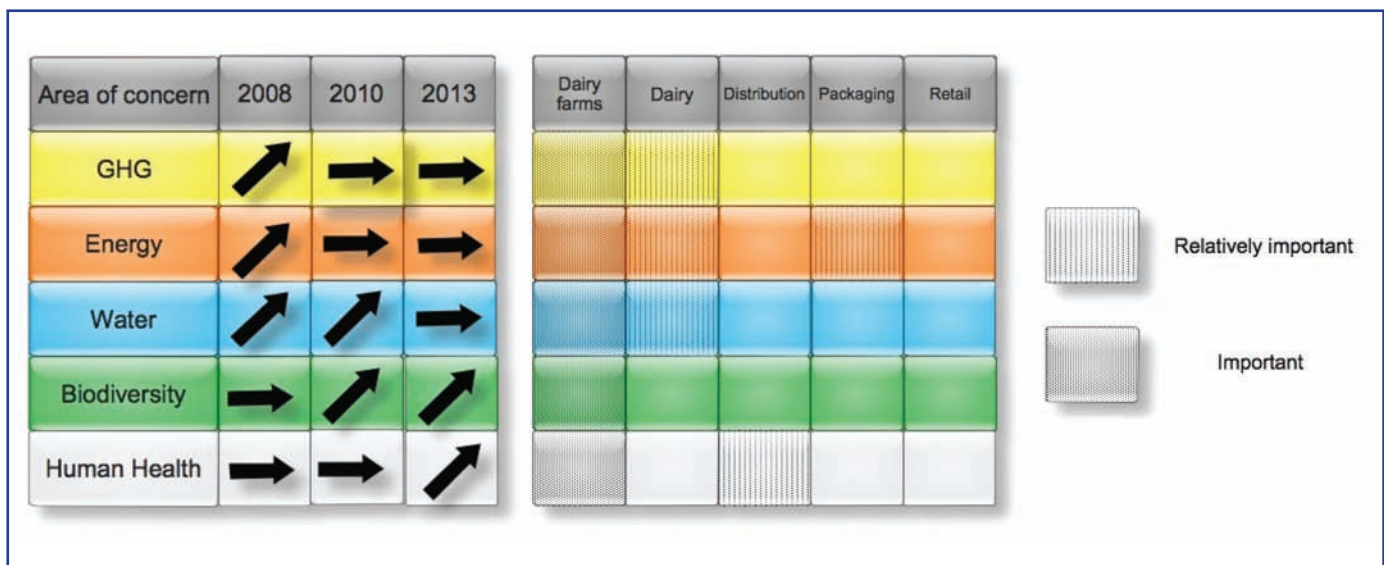
### Bulletin of the IDF no. 436/2009 “Environmental / Ecological Impact of the Dairy Sector”

The dairy industry has made significant reductions in its energy use and strives to take positive action in achieving further reductions to its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

This bulletin consists of a study, commissioned by IDF, to provide an analysis of the key issues in the dairy sector based on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and an inventory of environmental initiatives that have an influence on this sector.

The study comprises of an in-depth analysis of the existing scientific and technical literature, including IDF publications, and a review of existing country positions and regulations, standards and guidelines.

Available free of charge from the IDF website at: <http://www.fil-idf.org/WebsiteDocuments/436-2009.pdf>



*Anticipation of importance of areas of concern.*

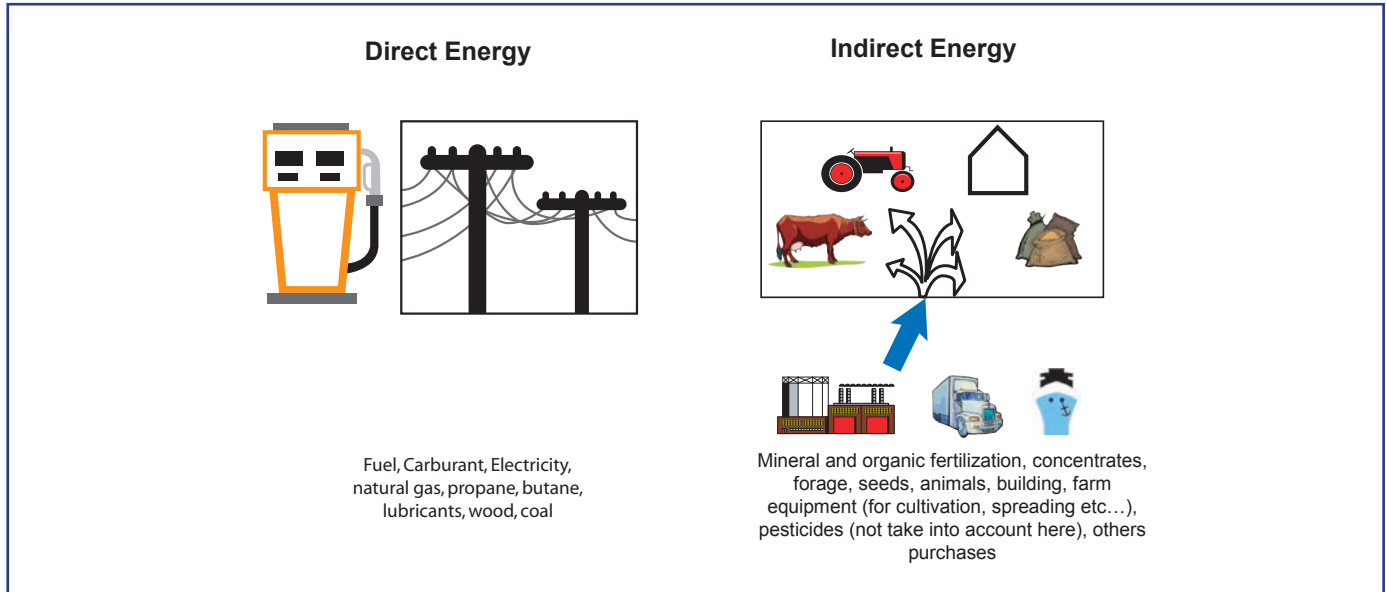
### Bulletin of the IDF n° 422/2007 Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions at Farm and Manufacturing Levels

This issue of the Bulletin presents ways to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions at farm and manufacturing level.

This publication reviews the Kyoto protocol, the generation and sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the dairy industry, and some of the strategies to mitigate emissions either at farm level or at manufacturing level in different parts of the world.

At this time when climate change is starting to be addressed as a global challenge and mitigation strategies sought to be found in the context of sustainable development, these proceedings provide insight into one of the dairy industry's greatest challenges over the coming years.

Available free of charge from the IDF Website at <http://www.fil-idf.org/WebsiteDocuments/422-2007.pdf>



*Direct and indirect emissions on the farm*

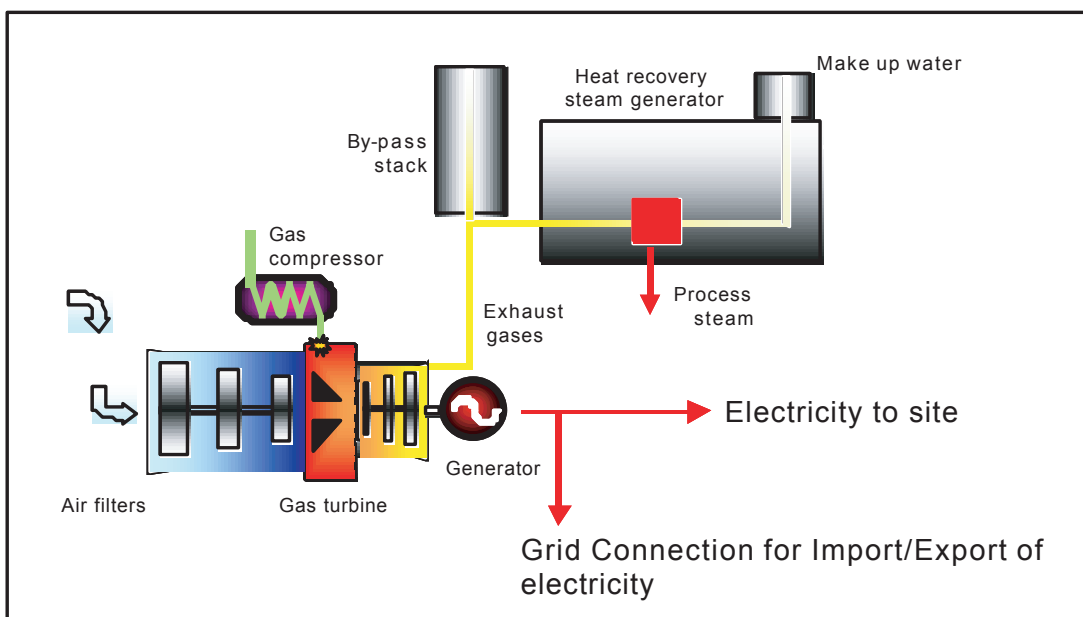
## Bulletin of IDF 401/2005 Energy use in Dairy Processing

The dairy sector is concerned to minimize its use of energy to save cost and to play a responsible role in the world-wide effort to control the effects on the global environment.

Operators of dairy processing facilities have also become increasingly aware of the significance of energy use. For many processors this is one of the larger cost components and one of the processing cost components that is most amenable to reduction by improved technology and closer management control.

Several aspects of minimising energy use, and reducing the environmental effects of energy use are presented in this issue of the Bulletin of the IDF.

Available free of charge from the IDF Website at <http://www.fil-idf.org/WebsiteDocuments/401-2005.pdf>



*Operation of combined heat and Power*

## Bulletin of the IDF n° 398/2005 Guide on Life Cycle Assessment towards Sustainability in the Dairy Chain

Life cycle analysis (LCA) is a method of environmental analysis that assesses the impact a dairy product has on the environment. The impact comes not only from producing milk, the raw material, but also from the process used in making the product, the packaging, the transport, refrigeration, and any waste.

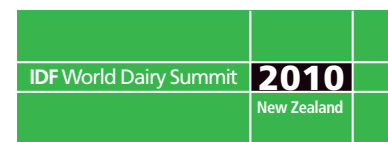
This Guide, jointly prepared by IDF and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 2005, introduces and defines the concepts involved in life cycle analysis and life cycle assessment in the dairy context and their relevance to sustainable development. It describes a methodology for life cycle assessment applied to the dairy chain and illustrates it with the results of LCA on packaging Systems, on dairy farming Systems and on milk products.

It presents the environmental impacts of energy consumption and the effect of the Kyoto Agreement on the dairy industry, together with a series of case studies on the use of LCA in the dairy industry in Australia, France, North America and Scandinavia. It also reports on discussions regarding the future of LCA as a tool to promote sustainability in the dairy industry.

Available free of charge from the IDF Website at <http://www.fil-idf.org/WebsiteDocuments/398-2005.pdf>



## Top of the year IDF World Dairy Summit 2010!



IDF is pleased to invite you to the World Dairy Summit 2010, which will be hosted in Auckland, New Zealand from 8-11 November 2010.

Join us to discuss topics surrounding the theme “Discover...Natural Inspiration”. Leading experts, world-renowned leaders, top scientists and decision makers from across the globe will gather in Auckland to share ideas and findings surrounding the most important issues in the dairy sector today.

Don't miss out on this opportunity and join us in making this year's summit as successful as in previous years!

Details can be found at [www.wds2010.com](http://www.wds2010.com)



### International Dairy Federation

Diamant Building - 80, Boulevard Auguste Reyers - 1030 Brussels - Belgium

Tel : +322 733 9888 - Fax : +322 733 0413 - E-mail : [info@fil-idf.org](mailto:info@fil-idf.org)

<http://www.fil-idf.org> and <http://www.idfdairynutrition.org>

**The scientific expertise for the dairy sector worldwide**