



A sustainable dairy industry in a protected environment

In recent years, the International Dairy Federation (IDF) has actively put environmental concerns at the top of its priorities, through scientific research and a close dialogue with various stakeholders worldwide. The objective is to work to satisfy the needs of the marketplace and to contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production, collection and processing of milk and delivery of dairy products.

The global dairy industry has a shared interest with governments and the global community to produce nutritious food for today and for future generations in a sustainable way. IDF calls upon a supportive regulatory policy environment that recognizes the important economic, social and environmental contributions of the dairy industry. We hope that participants at the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen will take decisions and provide a framework based on robust science to cut carbon emissions.

A Global Dairy Agenda for Action

In an effort to empower the dairy sector and reward the benefits to society, seven international and regional organizations, including IDF, have agreed to a common position and statement of commitment “The Global Dairy Agenda for Action”. It showcases actions taken by the dairy industry around the world to provide solutions to minimize its impact on the environment.

Signed by IDF and six other organizations¹ on behalf of the world’s dairy associations and companies on 24 September 2009 during the World Dairy Summit in Berlin, Germany, the Global Dairy Agenda for Action is an industry pledge to reduce carbon emissions as part of its contribution to help address climate change and builds on past performance.

An online catalogue of sustainable initiatives

As part of its continued contribution to help address global warming, IDF, on behalf of the signatories, launched the sustainability web portal on www.dairy-sustainability-initiative.org, a tool that shares information on various initiatives taken to empower the sustainability of the dairy industry. There are currently 260 initiatives from 40 countries in this catalogue, showcasing a wide range of efforts to tackle climate change by dairy farming and industry organizations, national and regional dairy associations, and companies throughout the dairy supply chain.

This IDF web portal can be an extremely useful tool to improve environmental performance throughout the dairy world.



¹ The Eastern and Southern African Dairy Association (ESADA), European Dairy Association (EDA), Pan American Dairy Federation (FEPALE), Global Dairy Platform (GDP), International Federation of Agriculture Producers (IFAP) and Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Platform (SAI Platform) joined IDF in signing the Declaration.



Pooling resources and efforts for a better future

Besides this global initiative, IDF is also engaged in several partnerships aiming at environmental protection and general sustainability issues.

IDF collaborates with FAO on development of a quantification model for greenhouse gas emissions from animal food chains. The model is set to assist the dairy industry in its ongoing efforts and initiatives towards sustainability in the dairy chain.

The study runs in parallel and is complementary to an ongoing IDF project to develop a standard methodology for carbon footprint for dairy products. IDF expects to publish a report on this standard methodology by the end of the year 2009. IDF and the SAI Platform Dairy Group have also enhanced their collaboration on the development of an international approach and a reference guide for Life Cycle Analysis and Life Cycle Management (LCA/LCM) - an update of the existing IDF /UNEP Guide on Life Cycle Assessment towards Sustainability in the Dairy Chain.

What practical actions is the Dairy Sector taking ?

- Undertaking and supporting research globally into methods for reducing the methane and nitrous oxide emissions from farming operations.
- Developing new technologies to improve energy efficiency on farms, particularly in relation to milk cooling, hot water production, milking machinery and water pumping as well as using renewable energy supplies on farm and in manufacturing plants.
- Increasing the efficiency of fertiliser use to reduce nitrous oxide emissions.
- Developing wastewater treatment technologies that capture methane from wastes and use the methane as an energy source.

Creating a more sustainable IDF World Dairy Summit 2010

In addition to a conference focused on sustainability in dairy, Summit organizers are exploring ways to reduce the environmental impact of the next IDF World Dairy Summit 2010 in New Zealand. Sustainable initiatives are being undertaken at the venue as well as regarding transport and hotels. For more information on these actions and progress updates, check out the conference website www.wds2010.com



www.dairy-sustainability-initiative.org