

IDF Press Release



Scientific expertise for the dairy sector worldwide

IDF and Livestock Sector Partners Committed to Addressing Hunger and Malnutrition

Rome, 21 November 2014 - With more than half the world's population adversely affected by malnutrition, the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) has endorsed the Rome Declaration on Nutrition, committing countries to eradicate hunger and prevent malnutrition. Held in Rome from 19-21 November and jointly organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), the goal of this high-level intergovernmental conference was to improve nutrition through national policies and effective international collaboration. The International Dairy Federation (IDF), together with its livestock sector partners, supports the shared vision to end all forms of malnutrition, and highlights the important role of livestock in nutrition security.

Global population growth will continue to drive demand for responsibly produced foods and nutritionally adequate, healthy and affordable diets. IDF is committed to help nourish the world with safe and sustainable dairy. As part of its commitment, IDF has been involved in a series of key partnerships, including the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, which drives innovative food system solutions. IDF has also been active in the ICN2 preparatory meetings and the conference itself, providing scientific and evidence based information about the nutritional value animal-source foods including milk and dairy products.

"We have an important role to play in creating not only a sustainable future for the dairy sector but, through our highly nutritious products, a more sustainable future for everyone. Through the work of IDF and our partners we need to help the world see that our sector is not part of the problem but a critical partner in providing sustainable, safe, nutrient rich and enjoyable diets," explains Dr Nico van Belzen, IDF Director General.

The livestock sector has expressed its willingness to collaborate and strengthen sustainable food production and processing to contribute significantly to dietary quality and nutrient adequacy around the world. IDF has united efforts with the International Meat Secretariat, the International Poultry Council, the International Egg Commission and the International Feed Industry Federation to jointly represent the global livestock sector in ICN2. This livestock consortium has collaborated with the Private Sector Mechanism of the UN Committee for World Food Security and the Scaling Up Nutrition Business Network to provide private sector input into ICN2.

In its comments to ICN2, the livestock consortium has highlighted five opportunities for public-private partnerships, including enabling environments, building sustainable food systems, addressing wasting, stunting and anemia in women of reproductive age, improving access to healthy, diversified diet and nutrition education. The relevant opportunities were reinforced by Dr Stefanie Oude Elferink, Chair of the IDF Standing Committee on Nutrition and Health, speaking at a side-event on addressing overweight and obesity on 20 November at ICN2.

In its statement, the livestock sector also spoke positively about the role of the private sector. *“Innovation, research, education and trade are essential to improving access to quality foods. Our sector encourages governments to create a policy environment that enables food systems to ensure food safety, conserve natural resources, and improve the lives and livelihoods of everyone involved in the food value chain,”* continues Dr van Belzen, who also acted as representative of the livestock sector at ICN2.

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Note to editors:

About IDF

The International Dairy Federation (IDF) provides science-based information to its National Committees as well as to international organizations, governments and legislators. IDF places great emphasis and importance on ensuring that the work conducted by its Standing Committees and Task Forces is of the highest scientific quality and integrity and is relevant and applicable to the entire dairy sector and industry worldwide. For more information, visit www.fil-idf.org.

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