



IDF SUPPORTS FAO IN DEVELOPMENT OF QUANTIFICATION MODEL FOR GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM ANIMAL FOOD CHAINS

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Berlin (DE), 25 September, 2009 - FAO is developing a standardized quantification model, with active support and assistance from IDF, to calculate all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of animal food chains ranging from feed production up to retail sale, including the ability to segregate emissions from milk, meat, eggs and many other functions of livestock. The model is set to assist the dairy industry in its on-going efforts and initiatives towards sustainability in the dairy production chain.

Pierre Gerber, Livestock Policy Officer of the FAO commented on the investigation. "The Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) methodology is what guides the project. Firstly, we defined a system boundary (from feed production to retailer) and then the second step was to develop a simulation model based on the IPCC guidelines and our knowledge of livestock production systems. Data collection of essential parameters in livestock production systems and appropriate allocation of emissions (e.g. between beef and milk in dual-purpose systems) remain key challenges to the process," commented Pierre Gerber, Livestock Policy Officer of FAO.

He adds, "The FAO work already undertaken has demonstrated that the 'one size fits all' approach does not work. It has become apparent that the options for intensive systems are completely different from those for extensive systems in developing countries."

The project has been assigned top priority by FAO due to the reliable forecasts predicting a rapid increase of demand and consumption of milk and meat in the coming decades. At the same time, natural resources such as climate, soil and water need to be preserved. Sustainable agriculture and livestock production is the logical consequence of this dual demand.

The FAO study runs in parallel and is complementary to an on-going IDF priority project on development of a standard methodology for carbon footprint for dairy products. FAO is actively participating in the IDF project group.

The FAO and IDF partner initiatives demonstrate the strong collaboration of FAO with the private agri-food sector aiming at achieving food security for all, raising levels of nutrition and improving agricultural productivity and the lives of rural populations.

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Note to editors:

- The project is benefiting also from the earlier work undertaken by the IDF which has resulted in a joint IDF / UNEP Guide on Life Cycle Assessment towards Sustainability in the Dairy Chain published in 2005..
- The International Dairy Federation is the pre-eminent source of scientific and technical expertise for all stakeholders in the dairy chain.
- Growing IDF membership accounts for about 86% of the world's total milk production.
- The IDF World Dairy Summit 2009 under the theme "United Dairy World 2009" takes place in Berlin, Germany, 20-24 September 2009. Environment, energy sources and technological innovation with regard to milk supply and dairy processing will be key elements addressed at the IDF World Dairy Summit 2009. More information and daily fresh news can be found at www.wds2009.com