

IDF Press Release



Positioning dairy farming for a sustainable dairy

Brussels, 2 July 2010 - Main complex environmental challenges at dairy farm level and possible solutions are being presented in this new IDF survey. Agriculture plays a crucial role in providing the ultimate solution to feed, to provide clean water and to fuel the world within a managed global but changing climate according to the latest IDF Bulletin entitled "Environmental issues at dairy farm level".

The global dairy sector, and IDF as its global representative, has placed environmental considerations at the top of their priorities. *"IDF is taking a proactive approach to support sustainable agriculture by identifying best practices and sharing international experiences. Our objective is to ensure the production of safe and high quality nutritious dairy food for human consumption, undertaken in harmony with the environment."* commented Richard Doyle, IDF President.

There are a number of examples from around the world that show how dairy farming is working to improve its environmental footprint. The IDF Guide to Good Dairy Farming Practices sets out a number of measures to ensure a basic level of protection.

The "First IDF Dairy Farming Summit" under the theme "Climate Change - The Heat is On?" debated thoroughly global warming, its impact on dairy farming and how dairy farming affects the environment.

IDF recently participated with 6 other international organizations in the launch of the Global Dairy Agenda for Action; a declaration of the industry's commitment to making positive contributions to global action in addressing climate change. The declaration also includes the Green Paper, a compilation of 299 international initiatives where dairy industry stakeholders from over 40 countries have addressed environmental practices and impacts. One tool facilitates the access to best initiatives is the IDF website www.dairysustainabilityinitiative.org which is open and available to all.

In parallel, IDF will soon release a carbon footprint methodology presenting harmonized practical recommendations in the calculation of a dairy product carbon footprint.

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Note to editors

- The Bulletin of IDF “Environmental issues at dairy farm level” is available free of charge on the IDF Website.

- In a joint effort to tackle climate change and further increase sustainable practices, the International Dairy Federation and De Laval jointly organized the “First IDF Dairy Farming Summit”. For more information, visit www.sustainabledairyfarming.com

- Founded in 1903, The International Dairy Federation represents the dairy sector worldwide by providing the best global source of scientific expertise and knowledge in support of the development and promotion of quality milk and dairy products to deliver consumers with nutrition, health and well-being.

- IDF has a dedicated website on sustainability which aims at sharing best practices, promoting environmentally focused initiatives and improving overall performance of the dairy sector. It is a transparent portal to action to contribute to mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions.

More information at www.dairysustainabilityinitiative.org

- IDF 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.

- Guide for Dairy Managers on Wastage Prevention in Dairy Plants (Bulletin of the IDF n° 382/2003)

- Energy Use in Dairy Processing (the Bulletin of IDF n° 401/2005) - available free of charge on the IDF website

- Guide on LCA Towards Sustainability in the Dairy Chain (Bulletin of the IDF n° 398/2005) - available free of charge on the IDF website

- Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions at Farm and Manufacturing Level (the Bulletin of IDF n° 422/2007) - available free of charge on the IDF website

Further information on these publications is available on the IDF website at www.fil-idf.org

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