



## PROMISING INNOVATIVE RESEARCH UNVEILED AT THE IDF/INRA SYMPOSIUM

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Brussels, 3 October 2008 - At the IDF/INRA First Symposium on Minerals and dairy products, in Saint-Malo, France, this October, international experts gathered not only to address the status of knowledge about dairy minerals, but also to identify unsolved problems and come up with solutions.

The event attracted 215 participants from 32 countries around the world, among which industry representatives and academics including researchers, teachers and students. "IDF is pleased that this event makes the link between science and its industrial application. It has triggered fruitful dialogue between researchers and industrials on the properties of milk, on calcium and phosphates, and also on trace elements such as iron and zinc. It is a unique opportunity to benefit from new insights and to build and strengthen international knowledge transfer and partnerships" commented Christian Robert, IDF Director General.

The enthusiasm of the attendees and the participation of 45 speakers from 16 countries demonstrate the importance of the minerals fraction of dairy products. "One of the preliminary conclusions of the symposium is that there is a need to investigate more projects in the area of dairy minerals. The scientists have now demonstrated a better understanding of minerals equilibrium in dairy products. There is an opportunity for the industry to develop innovative dairy products" said Frédéric Gaucheron, symposium organizer.

Highlights include methods and technologies to identify, understand and use the functionalities of minerals regarding their role in the physico-chemical properties of dairy products, such as rheology and texture, addition of a nanofiltration step in the process to enrich fresh cheese from the calcium present in the whey, or the importance of different forms of calcium phosphates aiming at supplementation. It is thought that these advances in different dairy technological fields will prove vital in expanding product development.

"The outcomes of this symposium look very promising. Key presentations have enlightened the valorization of the mineral fraction of dairy products such as whey through the scientific knowledge, the development or adaptation of technologies, and innovation supported by the dairy sector. We now have to intensify further work on the nutritional aspects linked to the use of the minerals" added Frédéric Gaucheron.

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Note to editors:

- The International Dairy Federation is the pre-eminent source of scientific and technical expertise for all stakeholders in the dairy chain.
- IDF is represented in 53 countries and membership is growing: IDF accounts for approximately **82%** of the world's milk production at present.
- IDF aims to identify, elaborate and disseminate best practice at international level in order to guide the dairy sector and to harmonise members' work on a variety of issues along the dairy production chain including animal health and welfare, protection of the environment, nutrition, food safety and hygiene and food standards.
- The manuscripts of the symposium will be submitted to the peer-reviewed journal Dairy Science and Technology (formerly Le Lait) for publication early 2009.