



### **FAO assesses the impact of the dairy sector on climate change and reveals new opportunities to reduce emissions**

Brussels, 20 April 2010 - IDF welcomes the new FAO report on "Greenhouse gas emissions from the dairy sector" as a significant step to quantify the GHG emissions from the dairy sector and provide an informed basis to target emissions mitigation within the supply chain.

"For the first time, FAO reveals that the environmental impact of the dairy sector accounts for 2,7%. This figure includes emissions related to milk production, processing and transport. This study is a fundamental part of the process of understanding and continually minimizing the environmental impacts of the dairy sector as we have committed to do in the Global Dairy Agenda for Action signed by IDF and other partner organizations." explained Richard Doyle, IDF President. The FAO findings also indicate significant variations among the different regions and climate patterns of the world.

In the recent years, IDF has been particularly active in placing environmental considerations at the top of its priorities. Further to a strategic plan on environment in 2008, IDF identified the need to undertake a report of this nature and has encouraged FAO to do so. "The global dairy sector and its partners are implementing a global Agenda for Action in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the supply chain. Our sector is responsibly focused on providing consumers with the nutritious dairy products they want, in a way that is economically viable, environmentally sound and socially responsible." stressed Richard Doyle.

The dairy sector has already implemented a significant number of initiatives to mitigate GHG emissions. A Green Paper captures specific actions implemented in a number of key areas to address the environmental impact on climate change. It is an online catalogue of initiatives and improvements already made and those in progress as compelling evidence of the dairy sector's commitment. With more than 270 case studies, the IDF Dairy Sustainability Website is a transparent portal that shares best practices and actions taken by the global dairy sector to improve the overall performance of the dairy sector.

This interim FAO assessment provides us with a robust benchmark for our future targeted actions. It will help to identify the key areas of impact and work out practical and cost-effective adaptation options to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions from the dairy sector. "We will use this study as a significant contribution to existing knowledge and a strong incentive to achieve the objectives set out. We look forward to the wider study carried out by FAO and aiming at identifying low carbon development pathways for the livestock dairy sector. It is instrumental for IDF to continue to work with FAO and with the stakeholders of the dairy chain to move concerted global action programs forward. " added Christian Robert, IDF Director General.

Another important milestone will be the ongoing IDF work on Life Cycle Analysis / Life Cycle Management and Carbon Footprint in the Dairy Sector. The objective is to develop a common LCA standard methodology for carbon footprint as a consensus paper of the world dairy sector. This work is expected to be released in the coming months.

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#### Note to editors

- 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.dairy-sustainability-initiative.org](http://www.dairy-sustainability-initiative.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](http://www.fil-idf.org)