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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL



Many of you will have heard about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are to be finalized by the UN in September 2015. They will replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) whose target date is the end of this year.

History will judge whether increasing the number of goals (currently there are 17 draft SDGs goals, each with up to 19 sub-goals, compared to the 8 MDGs) has been an effective strategy. What is already becoming clear is that intergovernmental organizations and governments are interested to know how the work of non-governmental organizations like IDF can help them implement the post-2015 sustainable development agenda and achieve the SDGs.

The SDGs will therefore provide a useful framework to demonstrate the important contributions dairy can make to food and nutrition security, healthy diets, poverty reduction, sustainable agriculture, climate change mitigation and economic development, including rural livelihoods. IDF is discussing this with FAO and its member country representatives, other livestock sectors and civil society stakeholders. We would like to encourage our National Committees to be alert at opportunities for aligning and leveraging their work with the SDGs at country level.

Since we are the 1st June 2015, I take this opportunity to wish each of you a Happy World Milk Day 2015.

Dr Nico van Belzen
IDF Director General

WORLD MILK DAY, 1ST JUNE 2015

The World Milk Day provides the perfect opportunity to spread the word about milk as an important part of a healthy balanced diet.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which actively encourages milk and dairy consumption as part of a daily diet initiated the World Milk Day, which is held on 1st June every year, in 2001.

Dairy and milk is celebrated in many countries all over the world, with more and more countries participating with additional activities each year.

We've compiled a few examples to give a taste of how IDF member countries around the world have celebrated in recent years. Take a look on the [IDF dairy nutrition website](#).

7TH IDF INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SHEEP, GOAT AND OTHER NON-COW MILK

23-25 March 2015, Limassol Cyprus

Over 130 experts from 16 countries gathered in Limassol, Cyprus this week for the International Dairy Federation's IDF 7th International Symposium on Sheep, Goat and other non-Cow Milk to discuss the latest developments in goat, sheep and other non-cow milk sectors.



Mr Nicos Kouyialis, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment

Origin PDO) / Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) status. The importance of precise dairy sheep farming for maximizing production was also highlighted as well as quality parameters of milk (i.e. Somatic Cell Counts). Data were shown regarding the Cyprus sheep/goat milk sector and an overview of the emerging sector of donkey milk production in the Mediterranean was also presented.

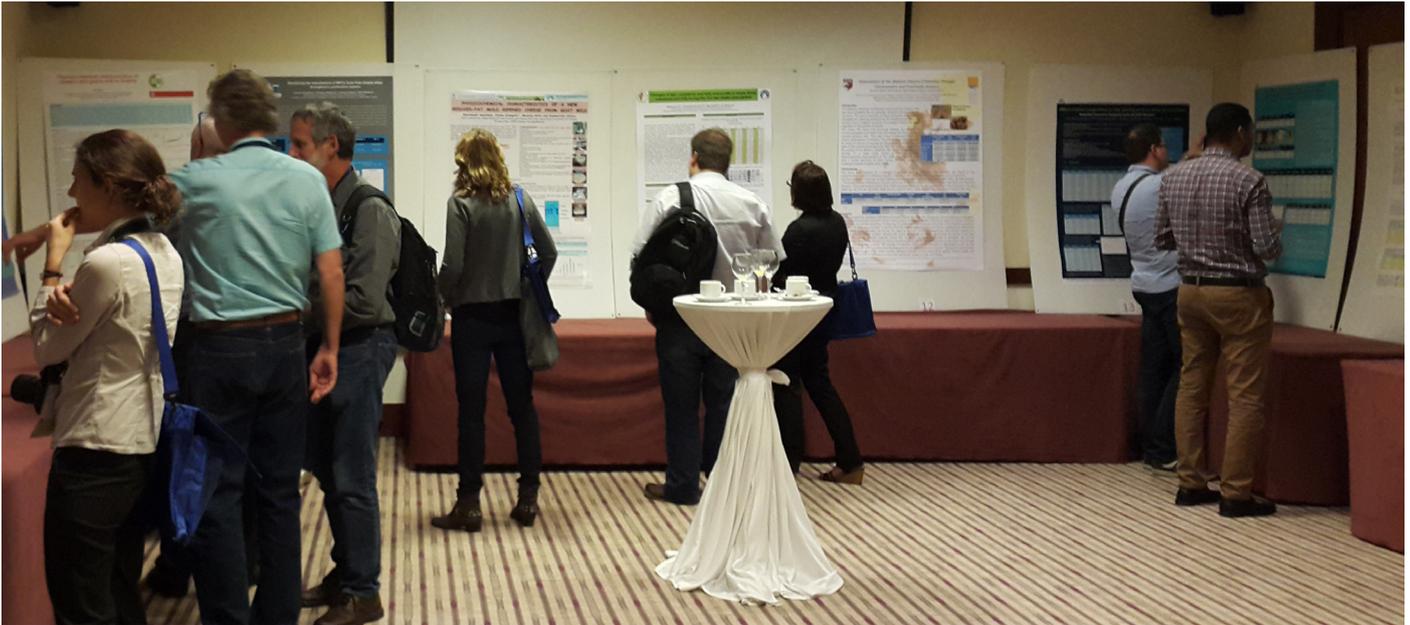
Session II focused on milk constituents and indigenous microflora that could have a beneficial health impact to human nutrition, although it seems that we have ways in bridging the gap between the milk technology and the actual impact on human health.

Session's III Keynote Speaker Dr K. Papadimitriou gave a detailed insight on how genomic analysis of bacteria isolated from milk or milk products could give evidence for safe use of lactic acid bacteria as possible starter cultures. The use of analytical techniques on protein analysis and biomarkers for the authentication of high mountain products were also demonstrated.



Dr Photis Papademas, chair of the organizing and Scientific Committees

During the 4th Session of the Symposium, keynote Speakers (T.Huppertz, B.Malmgren), demonstrated the need for innovative technologies to produce long-life products from non-cow milk, particularly because of the unique composition of these milks (i.e. camel, buffalo or donkey).



Poster session

During the final Session, the primary production systems of sheep/goat milk were thoroughly presented while the importance of the animal diet, different breeds, in-breeding, cross-breeding was highlighted for milk quality and milk yield.

“It was a great pleasure to welcome international experts during this Symposium. The feedback on the speakers, and on the general organization has been excellent,” said Dr Photis Papademas, chair of the organizing and Scientific Committees. “The feedback on the social aspects of the Symposia was also very positive, and it was great delegates were able to enjoy a taste of the Cyprus life while presenting or learning from others research,” he added.



Networking



Technical tour at the Antoniadis Family Farm, established in 1929. Located in the south of the island, its main business activities include breeding and exportation of Cyprus Shami Goats, and project consultancy for commercial farms.

IDF/ISO ANALYTICAL WEEK 2015 IN NAMUR

The IDF/ISO Analytical Week 2015 took place from 13 till 17 April in Namur, Belgium.

Standards development is one of IDF's key priorities, and the recent IDF/ISO Analytical Week, this time in association with the Final OptiMIR Scientific and Expert Meeting, provided an attractive meeting point for the world's foremost experts in methods of analysis and sampling for the dairy sector.

The first part of the event, the IDF business meetings, welcomed over 140 analytical experts from twenty different countries, who came together to evaluate and progress the IDF/ISO work programme. The OptiMIR Symposium, which presented "New tools for a more sustainable dairy sector", welcomed 220 top dairy experts.

How to become involved?

Most proposals for new work come from active analytical experts, who thereby initiate the development of internationally accepted methods of analysis & sampling for the dairy sector. Their proposals are subject to approval by IDF National Committees and ISO Member Bodies.

IDF is always keen to see new experts join the work. Interested experts should contact their IDF National Committee to be nominated in one or more of the analytical Standing Committees.

Visit www.fil-idf.org for further details.

As mentioned by Harrie van den Bijgaart, the new Chair of the IDF MSSG and ISO TC34/SC5, in his introduction, the long-standing collaboration between IDF and ISO is important to enable the development of standardized methods. These are essential for limiting the hurdles in global dairy trade. "The willingness to jointly explore and to collaborate is our leading motto. The contacts made and built at Analytical Weeks create real value, for the organizations we work for and for ourselves. May that go hand in hand, also in the coming years."



Participants of the the IDF/ISO Analytical Week 2015 in front of the venue – Palais des Congrès of Namur, Belgium

NEW TOOLS FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE DAIRY SECTOR

The Final OptiMIR Scientific and Expert Meeting brought together experts from scientific research, from different types of organizations working in the dairy value chain and experts in analytical methods from around the world to present and discuss the recent advances and future prospects in the development of advisory tools for the dairy sector. The meeting not only provided results obtained in the frame of OptiMIR, but also results obtained elsewhere to ensure knowledge exchange beyond the frontiers of the European, INTERREG IVB funded OptiMIR project. All posters and presentations of the Symposium - From milk analysis to advisory tools - are available on the website: www.namur2015.be

The six sessions of the symposium focused on the question 'How can additional information from mid-infrared (MIR) analysis of milk be used to support dairy farmers in making profitable decisions?'

For the last 30 years MIR spectrometry is the major technique applied in measuring the main components of milk in the frame of milk recording, milk payment to dairy farmers and for process control in dairy plants.

Recent technical advances have made it possible to exploit the full spectrum, which is in fact a milk fingerprint. This allows extracting much more information than just the traditional compositional parameters fat, protein, lactose and urea. The list of new MIR-based applications is rapidly growing at present.

In the First Session, the participants learned about the solution for spectrum standardization, which has been developed within OptiMIR. Spectrum standardization is key to ensure a compatible outcome on different instruments.

The Second and Third Session gave a valuable insight into how MIR analysis of milk could

serve as a phenotyping tool (e.g. to provide information on methane emissions by dairy cows or body energy traits). Some MIR-based tools are already integrated as farm management indicators while others are still subject to further validation with field data. Further research and development of MIR-based tools aims at obtaining indicators for animal health status, fertility, and energy balance.

Beside the prediction of phenotypic traits for individual cows or at the herd level, MIR milk analysis can also help in achieving more general breeding objectives and could facilitate genomic selection. The Fifth Session presented new innovative developments in this area.

The Satellite Session focused on the effective application of the new tools, particularly on the farm. The eight invited experts agreed that the development of farm management tools should be based on the needs of a farmer and on the specific farm environment. An attractive value/price ratio will be decisive for adoption as farm management tool. The experts also agreed on the fact that data is valuable for both researchers, farmers and other stakeholders in the dairy sector. The discussion amongst experts in the Satellite Session pointed out that communication between the different parties involved is key, both in the phase of development as well as during implementation of the resulting tools.

"Altogether, nearly 220 of the top dairy scientists from all over the world were here for both the IDF/ISO Analytical Week and the OptiMIR Symposium. Feedback on the speakers, papers given and research findings has been excellent. Delegates were also able to enjoy the rich and varied cultural activities in



Participants exchanges with exhibitors at coffee break

Related Links

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Optimir: <http://www.optimir.eu/en/index.php>

Namur, capital of Wallonia, a gateway to the Belgian Ardennes known for its wonderful restaurants and beautiful citadel. The feedback on the social aspects of this event was very positive, and it was great that delegates were able to enjoy a taste of Belgian life while presenting or learning from others research.” explained Frédéric Dehareng, from the Belgian organizing committee (Walloon Agricultural Research Centre, Belgium).

“It has been an exciting and successful week of meetings, professional exchange and social interaction.” concluded Dr Nico van Belzen, IDF Director General. “The success of the conference was not only a result of the organizers’ work. It was also a result of the engagement of all participants, speakers and experts at the meetings as well as the contributions of the sponsors and exhibitors who all played a crucial role to make this event a true success.”

THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DAIRY POLICIES AND ECONOMICS (SC DPE)

The Standing Committee on Dairy Policies and Economics (SC DPE) held its annual Spring Meeting on 12th and 13th May in Berlin, Germany, on invitation of Mr Eckhard Heuser in the name of the Milchindustrie Verband and of the German National Committee of IDF and. A full-day meeting chaired by Gilles Froment (CA) with 21 members and observers was followed by a technical tour the next day.

The participants were informed that the question raised by the SC ENV regarding a new Carbon allocation methodology had been adjourned, after some contributions of the SC DPE and SC Nutrition.

As usual, an update on the activities of other international organizations was made thanks to representatives of the EDA, IFCN and OECD. Also, Véronique Pilet (FR) presented the current situation and an update of the preparation of the World Dairy Situation report 2015. The objective this year will be to improve sales and circulation of the bulletin. Further discussions regarding the market situation was made possible thanks to the traditional Country Reports, prepared by each member country prior to the SCDPE meeting and then compiled and commented by Peter Dawson (UK). These country reports are summarized on a Factsheet available on the IDF intranet.

The work conducted by the SC Marketing regarding Global Marketing Trends was presented for information, as it gives a vision of the current dairy product consumption trends. The participants noted the interest of such a study but suggested it should be completed by other country contributions.



IDF Standing Committee on Dairy Policies and Economics spring meeting

As far as World Dairy Summits economic conferences are concerned, the Lithuanian organizing committee congratulated the SCDPE for a very well advanced programme, and a new action team was put in place for the Rotterdam 2016 summit.

The second day of meeting was dedicated to a visit to Hemme Milch Dairy, in Brandenburg, not far from the Polish border, where the Hemme family processes local milk directly from the adjacent farm. <http://www.hemme-milch.de>. The visit took place in the presence of Udo Folgart, vice-president of the German Farmers Association, who is also a dairy farmer in the region.

83RD GENERAL SESSION (83SG) OF THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE)

24-29 MAY 2015, PARIS, FRANCE

Considering the tripartite agreement between FAO, OIE and WHO to address antimicrobial resistance (AMR) as a priority, the OIE 83SG adopted a resolution to develop a procedure and standards for annually collecting data from OIE member countries on the use of antimicrobial agents in food-producing animals.



OIE83 General Session

This would result in a database to be managed in parallel with the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS). To provide these data, OIE member countries are to establish an official harmonized national system, based on OIE standards, for the surveillance of AMR and the collection of data on the use of antimicrobial agents in food-producing animals. Research should be encouraged to explore alternatives to antimicrobial agents, including animal vaccination. These OIE activities will support the recommendations of the WHO action plan on AMR, which was adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2015 and which will require WHO member states to have a national action plan on AMR in place by May 2017.

The 83SG adopted the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code Chapter 7.X, “Animal welfare and dairy cattle production systems”, to which IDF provided input during the entire drafting process. In particular, during 2014 and 2015, members of the IDF Standing Committee on Animal Health and Welfare’s Action Team on Animal Welfare participated actively in the drafting and review process by providing science-based comments and proposals. The adopted standard is a relatively detailed one, which covers all the steps of dairy cow rearing and management. It is mainly outcome-based and provides public and private organizations with a framework for implementing good practices and monitoring activities to ensure dairy cow welfare. As a follow-up on remarks expressed during the 83SG, the chapter will be discussed during the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group meeting in June. It is expected to be available in the three official OIE languages in mid-July. This standard will be taken into consideration as IDF experts discuss updating the IDF Guide on Animal Welfare (2008).

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RECENT EVENTS ON LIVESTOCK SUSTAINABILITY

IDF recently represented the global dairy sector in meetings of the Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance (LEAP) Partnership and the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL), both at FAO’s headquarters in Rome. Aiming to reduce confusion due to the proliferation of environmental assessment methods, these multi-stakeholder partnerships are working to develop harmonized methodologies and improve the environmental performance of livestock.



Source: FAO, Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance (LEAP) Partnership.

At LEAP’s second Annual Meeting on 23rd April 2015, the Partnership released version 1.0 of the guidelines for small ruminants, poultry and feed, the drafts for public review of the guidelines for large ruminants and the principles to assess biodiversity

(<http://www.fao.org/partnerships/leap/resources/resources/en/>). The feed and ruminant guidelines are aligned with IDF's forthcoming revised guide to life cycle assessment in the dairy sector (IDF Bulletin 445/2010), which is scheduled to be published in June 2015. Feedback on content and usability is also sought on LEAP's draft database for greenhouse gas emissions from feed (www.fao.org/partnerships/leap/activities/ghg-feed-database/ghg-crops/en).

On 24th April, the LEAP Steering Committee discussed a potential follow-up to LEAP, and mandated the LEAP Secretariat to further develop plans for governance and funding after LEAP ends in December 2015.

The GASL (<http://www.livestockdialogue.org/>) held a workshop from 27th-28th April to discuss the future of the Agenda after its first phase ends in 2015. One way forward would be for the GASL to become one of the multi-stakeholder processes for the implementation of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on those goals that relate to livestock. The GASL Guiding Group meeting of 29th April agreed to further develop the workshop output into a work plan.

Global food security cannot be addressed without involving livestock. IDF will continue contributing to the work of FAO and other intergovernmental organizations, aiming to help nourish the world with safe and sustainable dairy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

IDF WORLD DAIRY SUMMIT 2015

Under the theme of **Closing the Nutritional Gap with Sustainable Dairy**, this year's Summit features rich scientific programme with 9 conferences, each covering the most important issues of interest to dairy farmers, producers, scientists, policy makers and other professionals. You are invited to explore the [programme](#) and find out more about the conferences.

DAIRY POLICIES AND ECONOMICS

Global and Regional Challenges to Economic Sustainability of the Dairy Supply Chain

September 22, 2015 | Tuesday

The conference will provide the state-of-the-art of the dairy sector from a global and a regional perspective. In-depth analysis, trends and forecasts of milk production will be presented for debate on dairy policy developments, industry restructuring and other measures in the context of dairy sustainability from economic and policy perspectives.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH

Dairy and Health – the Connection

September 22, 2015 | Tuesday

The conference will discuss the essential role dairy can have in contributing to nutrition security. It will also address the latest research on bioactive components in dairy, and how these contribute to human nutrition and health.

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

Sustaining Animal Health and Animal Welfare in Milk Production

September 22, 2015 | Tuesday

The conference will present current and future challenges to increasing milk production at global and regional levels with regard to animal health and welfare. Related management strategies and action plans will be debated.

DAIRY FARMING

Dairy Farming – Challenges and Risk Management

September 23, 2015 | Wednesday

The conference will focus on milk production issues, structure and newest tendencies in dairy farming, application of innovations in dairy farms, risk management of dairy farms and other related issues.

DAIRY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Biologically-Active Components in Dairy: Technology and Applications, Now and into the Future

September 23, 2015 | Wednesday

The conference will provide a comprehensive update on relevant technologies for the isolation of biologically active components (bio-actives) from milk and whey, noting the focus on protection of biological activity, together with those technologies on and over the horizon. The characteristics of and applications for these bio-actives, both current and projected, will also be a feature of the conference.

MARKETING

Current and Future Challenges and Approaches in Marketing the Values of Dairy

September 23, 2015 | Wednesday

The aim of the conference is to address current and future marketing challenges and practices and to emphasize the use of social media to communicate the treasures of dairy for delivering nutrition and health to the consumer.

ANALYTIC TOOLS

Integration of Analytical Systems into the Milk Control Chain

September 24, 2015 | Thursday

The purpose of the conference/session is to address how analytics are integrated in a whole sustainable raw milk control chain and to present good practices in different countries. The keynote presentation will cover examples relating to demand being ahead of analytics and the other way round and explore how to achieve the optimal analytical result. Three different countries, including Lithuania, will provide case studies on how laboratory systems are implemented to increase efficiency of official controls and to enhance consumer confidence.

FOOD SAFETY

Food Safety Modernization

September 24, 2015 | Thursday

The aim of the conference is to address food safety in the dairy sector as a whole integrated approach, while addressing emerging risks or new aspects in microbiology and chemical safety.

ENVIRONMENT

Increasing Resource Efficiency in Dairy Production: Analysis Along the Supply Chain

September 24, 2015 -| Thursday

The conference will analyse environmental sustainability along the dairy supply chain, from the perspectives of emerging as well as industrialised sectors, and different regions of the world. Various aspects of resource efficiency, including waste transformation along the supply chain, will be cross-cutting themes throughout the conference. In addition, the link between environmental sustainability and nutrition will also be discussed.

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