

A bumpy ride ahead

Is the recession going to see all the froth coming off agricultural commodity prices, leading farmers almost back to the levels where they were two to three years ago?

This is not going to be a good year for most farmers, due to the global economic melt-down. Farmers have started questioning analysts as to how they will fare if the economic slowdown hits their profits, just as they begin to emerge from drought.

Some farmers are already wondering whether the financial turmoil would further weaken demand for agricultural commodities, as the world heads into a recession. Commodity prices have dropped from the historic highs of earlier last year, as investors desert the market and demand moderates.

The dairy industry has almost been the one agricultural enterprise that continued to exist through the early years of depression, riding on its own momentum and forging ahead without aid. It has also been the very last of the great agricultural commodities to feel the effect of changed social and economic conditions.

Dairy in Africa, just like agriculture of the past, has gone through its expansive production age and, like the agriculture of tomorrow, is now on the doorstep of some new directions.

In our main feature we bring you some interesting lessons from India, which Africa can definitely benefit from.

Despite all the fears, the dairy industry is expanding in Africa, with new ventures in countries such as Mozambique. In this edition we bring you the story of the first cheese factory in that country. Land O'Lakes is also expanding



its work to Mozambique and we take a peek at what the cooperative plans for the country.

In our technical section we look at calf-rearing and include some handy illustrations on how to take care of calves.

The Esada conference's dates and venue have been set. We encourage you to register online and become part of Africa's largest dairy gathering.

We will be running a special Esada-supplement in our June edition, and I would like to call upon companies and service providers throughout the continent to take this opportunity and advertise their work and products.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tommyah'.

Editor