



WELCOME
TO
ZIMBABWE

Esada news

by Peter Ngaruiya, Esada programme manager



The Eastern and Southern Africa Dairy Association (Esada) would like to welcome the National Association of Dairy Farmers (NADF) as a corporate member of Esada. Zimbabwe's entrance as a corporate member, brings the chapters represented in Esada, to nine. The others include Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Malawi, Mauritius, Zambia and South Africa.

Esada's projection is that all the Comesa states will have joined up by the end of 2009. This will be a big stride in empowering Esada to better articulate the challenges facing the African dairy industry, and designing and implementing home-based solutions. Once again, it is a great pleasure to welcome Zimbabwe.

Cheese festival

The annual Eastern Africa Cheese and Wine Festival has been renamed the Eastern Africa Milk Festival. This year the festival will be held from 5 to 7 December 2008 at the Nairobi Railways Club in Nairobi, Kenya. The festival is a culmination of a month-long milk and milk products consumption campaign.

The three-day festival includes street ball games (basketball and football) and the cheese and wine festival. The festival coincides with the Kenya Dairy Board celebrating 50 years of existence and various activities are lined up, including School Milk Day which took place on Saturday, 15 November 2008 at Splash Water World in Nairobi.

Dairy conference

Esada would also like to inform the stakeholders that the 6th African Dairy Conference and Exhibition will take place from 5 to 7 August 2009 in Boksburg, South Africa. Preparations are underway and more information on the event will be made available to all the stakeholders as soon as it becomes available.

On behalf of Esada, we would like to wish the entire dairy fraternity in Africa and beyond, as well as all supporters and development partners, a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. DMA

For more information log on to
www.dairyafrika.com



From the **Executive Director's** desk

I would like to firstly welcome Zimbabwe's National Association of Dairy Farmers (NADF) as a corporate member of Esada, which brings the chapters represented in Esada to nine.

The question has been asked for several decades now whether Africa can replicate the Anand Pattern System. All indications are that the groundwork has been laid in various countries, through a multiplicity of projects run across the continent by both governments, and by bilateral and multilateral donors operating across the value chain.

In fact, the conditions in several countries are better than when Operation Flood started in India. In the case of Kenya, for example, there has been a steady growth of milk production continuously for a period of over five years now.

The ingredients for a successful milk programme include the empowerment of producers, attempts to collect and process all milk produced, establishing a cold chain in all production areas, establishing a national grid connecting to markets, a payment system based on quality, and the establishment of cooperatives based on sound principles.

In attempting to adopt a system, however, one ingredient is normally left out or not given the emphasis it deserves and that is the issue of leadership.

It is commendable that the World Bank has not just asked the question: "Can India's dairy revolution be repeated in Africa?" but also joined up with

others in what is called South-South Experience Exchange Facility. The Indian model has now been introduced to Africa, with the South-South Trust funding visits to India by Tanzanian dairy farmers and others from Ethiopia and Uganda.

This desk would like to encourage the African countries in our chapters to acquaint themselves with the South-South Initiative and join in the white revolution.

While focusing on development initiatives, we must remain vigilant of the fact that dairy products are food that requires the highest hygienic standards and adherence of best practice. The Chinese milk adulteration experience has given the industry a bad name. Esada will remain vigilant in monitoring any attempts that might be made by unscrupulous traders, to bring contaminated milk into the region. We congratulate the Kenyan authorities for accordingly putting in place a robust monitoring system.

We will continue our efforts to entrench the milk standards and hygienic practices in the region and look forward to extending and harmonising the Comesa standards with those of SADC in 2009.

Dr Kipkirui Arap Lang'at
Executive Director 