



Esada news

by Fidelis Zvomuya



Esada Executive Director, Dr Kipkirui Lang'at, Kenya's Livestock Development Minister, Dr Mohamed Abdi Kuti, and his Assistant Minister, Aden Duale

Thumbs up for Kenya!

Kenya Dairy Board Managing Director, Machira Gichohi, says Kenya's dairy sector has grown by 194% over the past five years.

Addressing a breakfast launch of the Esada 4th African Dairy Conference and Exhibition to be held in Nairobi in Kenya, Gichohi said: "Despite this development, milk supply to the formal market decreased during the months of January, February and March, and has since started picking up during April.

"In November last year we recorded a high milk supply of 37 million litres. This went down to 36 million in December and down to 29 million in January due to the post-election violence. In February we recorded 26 million and in April milk supplies went up to 29 million. We do hope it is going to increase during this flash period," Gichohi said.

He said that 45% of the milk produced in Kenya is consumed at home including consumption by calves, while 55% is marketed. Kenya has 34 milk processors with an installed capacity of 2,9 litres per day. Only 45% of the installed capacity is currently being utilised.

It is projected that Kenya's milk demand will be five billion litres by 2014 and that projected

consumption will grow up to three billion litres by the same year. Addressing the same gathering Livestock Development Minister, Dr Mohammed Abdi Kuti, said his country was ready to host the 4th African Dairy Conference and Exhibition.

Dr Abdi Kuti said his ministry is at the forefront to ensure that the event is a success.

"This event is going to be a business link and platform for the dairy industry in Africa. Participants will take the opportunity to meet, network and share the latest information on the dairy industry."

Dr Abdi Kuti said the dairy subsector is very important to the Kenyan economy. "It forms a significant part of the rural economy in the country accounting 14% of the agricultural GDP and 3,5% for the total GDP.

"It is a profitable growth industry, which has potential to contribute greatly to employment and wealth creation," he said.

Kenya has over 800 000 smallholder dairy farmers generating an estimated 400 000 jobs. Milk production is currently estimated at four billion litres, of which over 70% is derived from dairy cattle. **DMA**