

# Briefly • Africa

## Lusaka International Agricultural Show 2005



Tiger Animal Feeds launched a new product range for beef, dairy and sheep production at the Lusaka International Agricultural Show held at the end of June this year



Holding the Tiger Animal Feed's trophy for best dairy cow at the Lusaka International Agricultural Show 2005, is the local winner, Dai Harvey. To his right is Aggie Mulunga, secretary of the Herd Book Society. The cow was the supreme champion Guernsey (four years old), as well as the winner of the Best Udder Class (all breeds) on the show

## Huge milk losses reported

A groundbreaking study by the FAO in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Syria reports significant post-milking losses due to spillage, at farm level and during transport and marketing. It is estimated milk to the value of \$90 million is lost annually.

Anthony Bennett of the FAO commented: "There is a lot of spilt milk and it adds up to a significant amount of money. If you think about it in terms of what it costs to run a school milk programme in Eastern Africa, you could feed six million kids for a whole year." – *Dairy Week*

## Regional association in the pipeline

Dairy processors in Eastern and Southern Africa have agreed to form a regional processors' association to improve milk quality and attract a bigger market, Radio Uganda reported.

According to executive director of the Uganda Dairy Development Authority, Nathan Twinamatsiko, the region's dairy processors recently formed a steering committee with counterparts in Kenya, to promote trade in milk products.

Twinamatsiko stressed that there is a need to improve the processing capacity, so that Uganda's milk is allowed into neighbouring countries. He said Uganda produced one billion litres of milk per year, but only 10% of it is processed. – *Food & Beverage Reporter Online*

## Assistance for Gambian dairies

The FAO project in Gambia was designed to improve the safety of milk and milk products in the Greater Banjul area, by assisting with Lactoperoxidase trials, as well as and the appropriate collection, processing, marketing and management systems.

During the project period, some 200 herds-men, women processors, members of dairy co-operative societies, and core group trainers attended the training.

A functional pilot dairy training and demonstration facility was established. Five dairy co-operatives were formed and registered. This year, five societies plan to collect, pasteurise and process 80 000 litres of milk and yoghurt. The increased availability of safe, hygienic dairy products has also contributed to Gambia's food security. – *FAO/IDF-Dairy Development Newsletter*

### Kenya Dairy Board restructured

The Kenya Dairy Board's (KDB) stakeholder service and information priorities were identified through a consultative process. Four working groups were set up to address key issues and knowledge gaps. The FAO allocated resources to update quality standards, to equip a central laboratory and six key field stations, and to train KDB staff and stakeholders.

Almost 600 KDB directors, staff, and dairy stakeholders took part in 22 project-sponsored workshops and training courses. The project succeeded in advancing the process to transform KDB into a more pro-active, cost-effective organisation that meets the diverse needs of stakeholders in the dairy sub-sector. – *FAO/IDF-Dairy Development Newsletter*

### Help for Namibian dairy farmers

The FAO launched a project to improve the income and livelihood of livestock keepers in the Northern regions of Namibia. One of the aspects that the project will focus on is training.

The FAO will provide the Namibian Government with a comprehensive technical and economic analysis of the dairy sector in the poorest parts of the country. It will train extension officers, teachers and students of the Agricultural College, as well as and farmers in hygienic milk handling, processing and marketing.

The FAO also aims to establish an appropriate dairy processing model for on-farm and village milk processing that can be duplicated in other parts of the country. – *FAO/IDFDairy Development Newsletter*

### Irish charity opens Malawian dairy

An Irish charity that exports farm animals to third world countries to encourage self-sufficiency, has opened its first dairy plant in Malawi.

The Limerick-based aid agency, Bóthar, has exported over 300 in-calf heifers to a dairy project in Mweru Mkaka. The plant, run by local families, is already producing pasteurised and cultured milk, as well as yoghurt. This is the first dairy plant established by Bóthar. – *Food&Beverage Reporter*

### Dairibord Zimbabwe invests in suppliers

Dairibord Zimbabwe Ltd (DZL) is investing in increased milk production/cattle training centres, community development, and social responsibility with a \$40 million donation package.

Spokesperson, Business Chirdore, says that, while they are aware that the Zimbabwean Government has a responsibility towards agricultural development (which includes dairy production), they believe that, with the strategies they have drawn up, the DZL is well-placed to play a meaningful and complementary role in Government's efforts. – *Dairy Week*

### Only processed exports

The Ugandan government will introduce a law allowing the export of only processed and value-added primary products, President Yoweri Museveni has said.

He said this would create jobs and enable farmers to profit from the higher prices for processed products.

Said Museveni: "For example a kilo of unprocessed coffee goes for \$1 and the processed one for \$10. Our farmers are poor because they sell their products as raw materials, giving developed nations huge avenues for profits and jobs for their citizens. We want to change this so that our farmers take the benefits." – *Food & Beverage Reporter*

### Nigeria woos SA investors

A three-day conference held in South Africa highlighted the possibilities of increased trade between South Africa and Nigeria.

Nigeria is currently South Africa's biggest trading partner in West Africa and its third largest on the continent after Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

In an effort to attract investors, Nigeria may offer a five-year tax holiday to firms that are prepared to set up shop in the country, and a seven-year tax holiday to companies that locate themselves in under-developed regions. Such initiative has yet to change the perception that Nigeria is a risky destination for foreign capital, however. *DMA*