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2008 IDF World Dairy Summit

This year's International Dairy Federation (IDF) World Dairy Summit will be held in Mexico City, Mexico, from 11-14 November. This is a major opportunity for local, regional and international dairy delegates to discuss the challenges facing today's dairy sector – be it as a result of climate change or globalisation, or from a producer or processor's point of view – and to hear and discuss the views of the world's top scientific and technological experts. Online registration can be done at <http://www.wds2008mexico.com/e-reg.html>. For more information, e-mail Monique Lebeau at MLebeau@fil-idf.org.

Botswana needs new technology

Batshwari Dintwa, a prominent dairy farmer in Kanye in the southern district of Botswana, says that milk production will remain forever low in his country, until the government helps dairy farmers with appropriate technology to determine the genetics of calves. Dintwa said the current dairy farming trend in Botswana is not cost-effective and can be a deterrent to potential dairy farmers.

Dintwa, owner of Dairy Farm House near Molapowabojang, regretted that the ministry of agriculture has given a cold shoulder to farmers' suggestion to bring this technology to Botswana, saying it was too costly for individual farmers.

"As individuals we do not have the financial muscle to afford such technologies and we believe government could rescue us in this regard," he added. He said to acquire the technology, farmers could be charged a nominal fee for the service once the programme was up and running. – *Daily News*

Dairibord spreads its wings

Zimbabwean milk processing giant, Dairibord Holdings, has bought a 61% majority share in

Uganda's second largest dairy firm, Alpha Dairy Uganda. The Dairibord Group announced that it was investing US\$6 million into the Mbarara-based plant.

The deal was sealed last month and the company has effectively taken over the plant's management and operations. Dairibord chief, Anthony Mandiwanza, said the acquisition was part of the company's regional expansion drive. Officials at the Uganda Dairy Development Authority confirmed the acquisition.

A statement from the Dairibord Group indicated that Uganda was important because of its strategic location and its equatorial climate, allowing for all-year-round milk production. It also pointed out that the country has an abundant milk supply of over one billion litres per year. Currently, only 10% of the milk is processed in Uganda. – *AllAfrica.com*

Production too low in Nyanza

The Nyanza region in Kenya has the potential to produce 5 090 million litres of milk per year, states a report by the production officer in the region, Raphael Kitonga. Currently the region manages approximately 300 million litres per year. According to records from the Department of Livestock, milk production in 2007 was 249,5 million litres, compared to 284 million litres in 2006 – a drop of 36 million litres.

Kitonga says they have written an audit report on the number of livestock in the province. Most farmers in the region rear local dairy animals which produce only one litre of milk per cow per day, compared to high-grade cows that produce up to eight litres of milk in the same period.

According to the report, there has been a record decrease in production from low-grade cattle from 101 million litres in 2006, to 85,5 million litres in 2007. – *Business Daily Africa*

Uganda milk prices skyrocket

Low production, long dry spells in the cattle corridor, and the escalating fuel prices have pushed up the price of milk, a Ugandan industry official says. The farmgate price of milk has gone up by 150 shillings a litre from 250 shillings, to between 380 and 400 shillings.

Timothy Agaba, a field officer with the Uganda Crane Creameries Cooperative Union, said the cost of producing one litre of milk is 280 shillings, up from 160 shillings, due to climate variations. He said the rising fuel prices have hiked transportation from 30 a litre to 45 shillings a litre, with the cost of cooling at collection centres also having risen.

In Kampala supermarkets, the prices of pasteurised milk went up from 600 to 800 shillings for half a litre and from 1 100 to 1 700 shillings per litre. Unprocessed milk costs between 700 and 1 000 shillings a litre, depending on the location. Urban consumption has gone up by 20% due to continued encouragement by health workers for people to consume dairy products. – *The Nation*

Namibia gets mega farm

The Ohlthaver and List Group's planned super dairy farm at the Hardap Irrigation Scheme in Namibia, will accommodate 1 520 cows, according to new details released by the government. The cows will be accommodated on 698,73 ha of land and will be kept under roof, since reduced temperatures increase milk production by up to 10%.

Cabinet recently granted the group 300 ha of land, bringing the total needed for the project to 698,73 ha under a 99-year lease. The group will pay N\$130 000 per annum to lease the land. The group, through its subsidiary Namibia Dairies, intends to restructure the milk value chain to secure the future supply of locally produced milk at competitive prices.

The project is expected to be officially launched by the end of August. Around N\$54,8 million will be spent on developing the farm. – *Economist*

Accolades for Blue Nile

Sudan's Blue Nile Dairy Company and Cicero & Bernay, recently won the International Stevie Award in the 2008 International Business Awards in the division, best marketing campaign, for their "Capo Captures Sudanese Hearts and Minds" campaign.

The campaign has also been highly commended at the 2008 Dairy Innovation Awards in the division of best marketing campaign. Blue Nile Dairy Company Ltd is a subsidiary of DAL Group Food Division, which markets all its dairy products under the Capo brand and is the principal dairy company in Sudan.

The Capo campaign was an initiative designed by Cicero & Bernay Public Relations and Blue Nile Dairy Company, to help Capo retain its position as the number one dairy company in Sudan, increase sales of UHT milk and strengthen brand loyalty. – *Press release* 