

A partnership for growth

It has been a very difficult year for most farmers. The recession and economic melt-down has been a major headache for most farmers. Mostly the input costs were high, but at the same time farmgate prices were not all that favourable in most countries.

The continent's economies are still shrinking, as others are emerging from the recession. This is a negative on the part of most farmers, as consumer spending is being reduced. The recession has spelled disaster for most dairy brands. Raw milk and dairy product prices are continuously dropping. This includes skim and whole milk powder, whey and cheese.

It is our hope that with the situation now slowly returning to normality, demand for dairy products will also increase, as will farmgate prices.

In line with *Dairy Mail Africa's* (DMA) mandate of informing and educating the farmer, Agri Connect Communication Media, the publishers of the magazine, went into partnership with East Africa Dairy Development (EADD), one of the biggest dairy development projects in Africa.

This partnership will see DMA focusing more on educational and technical material for the smallholder sector. Farmers will receive more technical information on genetics, nutrition, herd management and improved animal welfare.

DMA and EADD will make sure that this partnership assists farmers in adopting management practices and technologies to produce sufficient high-quality food from a finite resource supply, while minimising effects upon the environment. This partnership will also see the growth of DMA's readership and distribution across the continent.

In this edition we look specifically at artificial insemination, taking into account technical stories written by our partners and supplementing



them with easy-to-read graphic information. We also look at how the perfect dairy cow should look.

We look at EADD's milk hub model, which brings together input suppliers closer to farmers and develops rural areas into areas of employment creation.

African dairy farmers are taking climate change head-on and are ready to implement "green" milk production. We look at this daunting challenge and the initiatives taken to address climate change in Africa.

Enjoy this edition and please feel free to write to us with your suggestions and proposals.

Editor