

A GLOBAL DAIRY AGENDA FOR ACTION – CLIMATE CHANGE

DAIRY SECTOR POSITION:

Dairy products promote the good health and wellbeing of people in all countries of the world. The global dairy industry helps to sustain the lives of people and their communities, through the supply of products that deliver essential nutritional building blocks and through the provision of employment in both rural and urban communities.

The global dairy industry is a user of natural resources. At the same time it has a long history of providing stewardship of the land, air and water. The three dimensions of economic, environmental and social sustainability underpin a common approach by the industry, even though expressions of the concept of sustainability may vary.

The industry is committed to providing consumers with the nutritious dairy products they want, in a way that is economically viable, environmentally sound and socially responsible. Accordingly the industry has a shared interest in addressing the impact of climate change and in addressing the challenge presented by consumer demand and regulation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the supply chain.

Studies to date have estimated that for milk production, cradle-to-farm gate emissions globally contribute up to 3¹ percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. A significant source of emissions in the dairy supply chain is methane, produced from the natural digestive process of cows (known as enteric fermentation). Nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide are also by-products of dairy production.

There are many challenges associated with reducing emissions from ruminant animals and quantifying these reductions. The industry has invested substantial resources in research and development projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from dairy production. This investment is beginning to pay-off and opportunities to effect reductions are on the table. Many of these opportunities relate to improving efficiency of production. The industry is continuing to invest and will continue to identify new and innovative mitigation technologies and practices.

DAIRY SECTOR COMMITMENT:

Members of the dairy industry are committed to making a positive contribution to global action to address climate change. This is evident from the many initiatives established both on a domestic and international basis and reflected in the specific commitments of this Agenda for Action. In order to facilitate the industry's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote the long term sustainable supply of milk and dairy products, the global dairy industry will:

- Promote the development of a standard methodology framework for assessing the carbon footprint of milk and dairy products based on robust science;
- Promote adoption of world's best practices within the global dairy sector and actions that:
 - lead to the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions from dairy production on a per unit of production basis
 - promote the use of technologies and methods that improve the processing and distribution efficiency of dairy products;
 - optimise economic, environmental and social outcomes for global dairy stakeholders,
 - recognise different levels of development and local conditions,

¹ "A Sustainable Dairy Sector, CE Delft, October 2008. It is expected that by the end of 2009 the current international study being carried out by FAO will bring greater precision to this measurement.

- build on existing frameworks and knowledge, including for scientific advancement and technology transfer,
- promote decision making based on robust science, and
- complement initiatives in other areas of sustainability.
- Seek to advance the establishment of tools to facilitate measurement and monitoring of emissions both on-farm and in dairy manufacturing.
- Promote improved farmer understanding of agricultural emissions and opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on farm.
- Support sharing information and aligning research efforts to develop cost effective mitigation technologies for both on farm and manufacturing application.

This Agenda for Action has brought together the global dairy industry and its partners who are committed to pooling available resources, cooperating and working together to realise our goal of a more sustainable future. The industry is committed to engaging with all stakeholders in the dairy supply chain.

CALL FOR ACTION FROM POLICY MAKERS:

We seek the support of policy makers to provide a supportive regulatory policy environment in which the sector can deliver the above outlined commitments, without compromise to the dairy industry contribution to global nutritional, economic and social wellbeing. Climate change policy frameworks must balance the need for emissions reduction with supplying nutritional outcomes for the world's population. The importance of this balance is recognised in the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (Article 2).

We call on policy makers to:

- Recognise the nutritional, economic and social contributions of the dairy industry;
- Ensure that the intent of Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – to avoid threats to food production - is appropriately reflected into future climate change frameworks;
- Maintain the use of robust science – both physical and economic – recognising the need to achieve long-term climate stabilisation in an economically optimal way;
- Recognise investments in science to develop mitigation tools as a contribution equal to emissions reduction

PARTIES:

Commitment to this Agenda for Action comes from a broad and representative group of global dairy sector participants and stakeholders. This recognises the role that all sector participants have in contributing to industry-wide and 'global-good' outcomes.

The following international and regional dairy organisations are signatories to this Agenda for Action:

- *IDF*
- *SAI*
- *GDP*
- *IFAP*
- *EDA*
- *FEPALE*
- *ESADA*

SPECIFIC ACTION:

In addition, industry stakeholders have made individual commitments to participate. Future participation remains open to, and will be welcomed from, other dairy sector stakeholders.

In support of the global dairy sector objectives, and in the spirit of co-operation and coordination, participants will undertake specific actions in a number of key areas as set out in the table below. An extensive list of actions and initiatives undertaken to date and planned for the future are set out in Appendix: The Green Paper: Catalogue of Dairy Sector Initiatives in GHG reductions.

Key Areas	Examples
Emissions Reduction	Agricultural Emissions Research Optimising animal feeding Optimising use of fertilisers Optimising manure management
Energy Efficiency	On-farm energy use in milking and refrigeration Optimised processing Investing in renewable energy
Transport Efficiency	Optimised milk collections Optimised product distribution Optimised engine performance and driver training
Reduction in loss of milk and milk products	Shelf life improvements for fresh products Working with retailers and consumers to reduce household waste Energy capture from waste product
Resource Efficiency	Increase recycling of packaging Use of packaging with the lowest environmental impact Increase recovery of waste
Life Cycle Analysis and Management	Development of a global standard for measuring monitoring and reducing GHG emissions Working with FAO and ISO

Future Reporting:

Signatories and participants in this Agenda for Action acknowledge that this declaration of commitment is the first stage in the delivery of the above mentioned outcomes. We therefore commit to reporting progress on a regular and transparent basis. The first such report will occur 24 months from the date of signing and biannually thereafter.

This Agenda for Action is intended as a living document that will evolve with the industry and with current science. As such reporting will include not only measurable and verifiable progress against existing commitments, but also new commitments and acknowledgement of new participants.