

**Press Release – Embargoed until 12pm, December 4 2018.**

## **Dairy Industry Curbing Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Gains in Efficiency**

Katowice, Poland (December 4, 2018) – New analysis from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) demonstrates a decrease in dairy emissions intensity. These findings were presented today in Poland at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 24<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP24) during an event hosted by the Dairy Sustainability Framework and the Global Dairy Platform.

The analysis calculates GHG emissions from the dairy sector over a ten-year period (2005-2015) and reports reductions in all regions of the world. On average, GHG emitted in the production of milk has decreased in ‘emissions intensity’ (emissions per unit of product) by almost 11% from 2.8 to 2.5kg CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents per kg of product produced.

Over the same time period, global dairy production has grown by 30% to meet consumers demand for high-quality nutritious food products. This growth has been achieved through increasing milk yields and numbers of cows. As a result of increased global output, absolute emissions rose by 18% globally. Importantly, the FAO notes that without the efficiency improvements made by the sector, total emissions from dairy would have increased by almost 38%.

The largest reductions in emission intensity occurred in low and-middle-income countries with traditionally low productivity. While developed dairy geographies also reduced the intensity of emissions, the FAO noted that the percentage improvement was not as substantial as these systems were already operating at much lower rates.

In presenting the analysis, Martial Bernoux, with FAO’s Climate and Environment Division commented “The analysis quantifies the progress of the sector in improving the efficiency of production while increasing output by 30% over the period 2005 - 2015. The report also recognises there is more for the sector to do to play their part in mitigating climate change. We encourage the dairy sector to build on the progress to date, by using this analysis and others like it to identify and implement appropriate and sustainable solutions that provide nutritious food for the growing world population”.

With 363 million dairy cows on 133 million dairy farms around the world, supporting the livelihoods of 1 billion people, the importance of dairying to socio-economic and nutritional outcomes must be balanced against the need for improved environmental outcomes.

Robin Mbae, Deputy Director of Livestock Production, State Department of Livestock, Kenya underlined the important role of the dairy sector in addressing climate change and other broader goals. “The Kenyan government is committed to meeting its climate change commitments which seek to reduce 30% of Kenya’s GHG emissions by 2030. As such, Kenya is moving ahead with the development of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) for its dairy sector because we recognize that investing in productivity improvements in smallholder dairy systems is an efficient way to simultaneously balance our national development priorities and climate change commitments.”

Mr. Donald Moore, Executive Director of the Global Dairy Platform and Chairman of the Dairy Sustainability Framework who commissioned the study noted “More than 6 billion people around the world regularly consume milk and dairy foods as an affordable, accessible, nutrient rich food, supplying energy and significant amounts of high-quality protein and micronutrients. Analysis from independent authorities such as the UN FAO, provide important guidance for the sector in its efforts to responsibly produce high quality nutrition in ways that respect the environment, the farmers that produce it and the animals it comes from. The dairy sector recognises the responsibility it has to continuously improve its performance. We are on the right track, but there is still more to do and the importance of timely, quality data to help track and manage performance cannot be under estimated.

“The work of initiatives such as the Dairy Sustainability Framework (DSF), established in 2013 as the vehicle for improving and quantifying the sectors sustainability performance, demonstrates that dairy is committed to continuously seeking ways to reduce GHG emissions from farms and businesses by all economically viable means, regardless of where they are operating or their stage of sustainability development” added Moore.

The results of the new study were presented at a side-event entitled “FAO Analysis of the Dairy Sector GHG Emissions 2005-2015”, that took place at 9:30am on December 4, at the Pacific and Koronivia Pavillion as part of COP 24 in Katowice, Poland.

**Media Contact:**

Brian Lindsay Development Director  
+44 (0) 7824 664526

[www.dairysustainabilityframework.org](http://www.dairysustainabilityframework.org)

**For more information on the Dairy Sustainability framework:**

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