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FAO/WHO report on fats concludes there is no convincing evidence for significant effects of total dietary fats on coronary heart disease (CHD) or cancer

The recommendations in the Final report of the FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Fats and Fatty acids in Human Nutrition highlight that there is no clear evidence that dairy food consumption is consistently associated with a higher risk of CHD despite the contribution of dairy products to the saturated fatty acid content of the diet.

These conclusions are in line with the outcome of the IDF-facilitated symposium 'Scientific Update on dairy fat and CHD', held in Reading (UK) in 2008, the proceedings of which were submitted to the Expert Consultation.

The FAO/WHO report also recognizes the distinct biological properties and health effects of individual fatty acids, including the different saturated fatty acids, although these have not yet been translated in dietary advice.

However, the report does recommend a dietary intake for total trans fatty acids (TFA), which does not reflect the differentiation between trans fats from animal and industrial sources. This differentiation is justified on the scientific evidence presented in the report indicating harmful effects from industrially produced sources of TFA only. IDF formally remarked that the recommendation on trans fatty acids should reflect that the evidence about harmful effects is based on evidence on industrial TFA only. No such modifications have been made to date.

IDF will continue to stress that dairy products, which contain both saturated fatty acids and ruminant trans fatty acids, are part of a healthy and balanced diet. Given the contribution of dairy foods to nutrient intake within the population, recommendations to reduce dairy food consumption - irrespective of the nature of the dairy product - should only therefore be made with caution.

IDF World Dairy Summit, 15-19 October 2011

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Expert View



Interview with Thierry Philardeau,
Head of Dairy Strategic Business
Unit, Nestlé

You were recently appointed Head of Dairy for Nestlé. Could you tell us the priorities you are focusing on in this new position?

Today, Nestlé is the leading Nutrition, Health and Wellness company in the world. Dairy products are very often the “face of Nestlé” for the consumers from The Philippines to Ghana, or from Spain to Brazil or the USA. NIDO, BEAR BRAND, COFFEE MATE, CARNATION, IDEAL, LA LECHERA or NINHO are fantastic leading brands, highly regarded by our consumers and customers in all these geographies. My number one priority is to continue the excellent job that has been carried out by my predecessors. Which means: elaborate and drive the winning business strategies to develop our penetration and market share; make sure our dairy brands remain the preferred choice for local consumers, every day. In other words ensure our brands continue - day in day out - to be synonymous with trust and good nutrition for families across the world.

Sustainability was a key focus at the recent IDF World dairy summit in Auckland. What challenges and opportunities do you see ahead for your company and for the dairy industry in general?

The IDF World Dairy Summit has clearly outlined the importance for the dairy Industry - as a whole - to address the sustainability challenge in the context of a projected growing demand for milk solids in the world, and especially in Asia. Sustainability is not a fashionable topic anymore for our companies. It must be fully integrated into our business agenda, like the price of milk ...

We believe the dairy sector has to act. And Nestlé has been acting on that front for many years focusing on three priorities: agriculture and rural development, environmental sustainability and water.

1/ Our “Sustainable Agriculture Initiative” (SAIN), shared with IDF and the dairy industry at large, guides our engagement in farming systems to support agricultural practices, rural development, sourcing processes and practices that are sustainable over the long term.

2/ Regarding environmental sustainability, we apply a product life cycle assessment approach, involving our partners from farm to consumer to minimize the impact of our dairy products and related activities.

3/ Water is a particular area of focus for us. Nestlé is a founding signatory of the United Nations Global Compact CEO Water Mandate. We continue efforts to reduce the amount of water used in our operations, to ensure that our activities respect local water resources that the water we discharge into the environment is clean, and we engage with suppliers to promote water conservation, especially at farm level.

But of course, in parallel to developing all the sustainability initiatives mentioned at the IDF Summit, the dairy industry should never forget to promote the very positive role of our dairy products in enhancing the quality of consumers’ lives by offering great tasting, nutritious dairy food and beverages.

What is the most important type of support IDF provides for a company such as Nestlé?

IDF is not comparable to any other industry association since it represents not only the processing industry but the dairy sector as a whole. As such, it is much more listened to by Governments and, as a matter of fact, IDF is the only NGO which enjoys the enviable status of ‘technical advisor’ to Codex Alimentarius for all matters related to milk and milk products.

IDF has a unique network of dairy experts in all domains including dairy sciences and technologies, economics and farming practices, and provides a unique platform where all dairy stakeholders, in particular scientists, regulators, industry experts and farmers can exchange views and elaborate sustainable long-term policies.

All these specificities/facets of IDF make it a very useful partner for Nestlé as a global dairy leader. We believe IDF plays a fundamental role in facilitating the growth and sustainable development of the dairy business in general.

Thierry Philardeau,
Head of Dairy Strategic Business Unit, Nestlé
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IDF strategy to address sustainable food security as the core of a responsible global dairy industry

IDF builds global strategies and provides guidance and support to various stakeholders of the dairy supply chain to address key sustainability challenges.

Over the past few years, IDF has continuously expanded its portfolio of activities to address various key sustainability challenges such as animal health and welfare; good dairy farming practices and animal feeding; common LCA methodologies to assess environmental impacts, integrity of supplier's milk; novel technologies for sustainable dairy products; innovative analytical strategies; dairy nutrition and environmental sustainability to exploit the unique nutrient-rich package of milk and milk products; and development of new pioneering work in the field of dairy nutrition economics for sustainable public health. Tangible results of these efforts will be presented at the upcoming IDF World Dairy Summit (WDS) in Parma/Italy, 15-19 October 2011.

The WDS 'Summilk' in Parma will set a historical milestone for IDF as it is being developed in full collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Summilk will not only address the different sustainability challenges facing the dairy sector, but will also place dairy sustainability in the overall context of food security, which has moved to the top of the agenda in many countries around the world.

Don't miss the unique opportunity to be part of the IDF World Dairy Summit in Parma/Italy, 15-19 October 2011: <http://www.wds2011.com>

Key achievements for a sustainable dairy sector to be presented at the upcoming IDF World Dairy Summilk in Parma

In September 2009, IDF signed a joint commitment to address climate change with five other international and regional organizations representing various dairy stakeholder groups around the world: "the Global Dairy Agenda for Action on Climate Change."

A dedicated two-hour session will be held at the IDF WDS Summilk in Parma. It will focus on the progress and achievements made by the dairy sector in the area of sustainability. This major session will review the sector's initial commitments which are embedded in the Declaration on the Global Dairy Agenda for Action (GDAA) and the supporting Green Paper.

The Green Paper, the core section of the dairy sustainability web portal, is an online catalogue of the dairy sector's initiatives to meet its sustainability commitments. It demonstrates the positive activities that the dairy sector is undertaking globally in the area of sustainability, in particular environmentally, but also socially and economically.

As it is intended to demonstrate the strong continuity in the dairy sector's commitments, it is therefore crucial that the Green Paper is updated - not only to reflect new initiatives, but also to track and measure the sector's continuous progress.

In case you have not submitted your contribution to the Green Paper yet, you can do so now. If you have already posted your case study online, you can also review and update it to ensure that it quantifies all achievements made, in particular regarding a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

For more information and for online submissions, visit <http://www.dairy-sustainability-initiative.org>



The International Symposium Dietary Protein for Human Health and FAO Expert Consultation on Dietary Protein Quality

The IDF Standing Committee on Nutrition and Health (SCNH) has established a new working group on Proteins, in view of the upcoming international symposium on 'Dietary protein in Human Nutrition' (Auckland, New Zealand, 27 to 30 March 2011) and the related FAO Expert Consultation on Dietary Protein Quality (31 March until 2 April 2011).

<http://www.dietaryproteinsymposium.co.nz/>.

The Expert Consultation will review the effectiveness and use of the Protein Digestibility Corrected Amino Acid Score (PDCAAS) method for evaluating protein quality since its adoption in 1991, and review current concerns and limitations, advantages and disadvantages of other methods, to provide a framework and recommendations for modification, if necessary. A list of recommendations for protein quality assessments and applications will be provided and further research activities related to protein quality assessments would also be recommended.

Upon invitation by FAO, IDF will compile and submit relevant scientific papers evaluating the Protein Digestibility Corrected Amino Acid Score (PDCAAS) method to FAO. This compilation will include papers dealing with the issue of truncation of the PDCAAS scores for high quality proteins, such as dairy proteins, which have a higher than 100 percent score. The truncation does not demonstrate the benefit of high quality dairy proteins in complementing less nutritious proteins.

IDF expands strategic partnerships opportunities

In response to growing demand from dairy companies and other organizations, IDF has now created a wide range of new opportunities for collaboration to generate mutual benefits for both partners and IDF.

Sponsorship opportunities are now available for: IDF publications, Bulletins and Newsletters, IDF websites, IDF Award, participation and contribution at IDF events, amongst others.

Such exclusive association with IDF would enable partners to reach out to dairy experts, industry executives, top scientists and opinion-leaders around the world. Additionally, they will also be able to link their image to the well-respected reputation of IDF as a fact-driven organization grounded in sound science and reliable data.

This in turn would enable IDF to enhance speedy and timely delivery of its work and improve communications support on dairy sector priorities, key issues and achievements.

For more information, please contact Christian Robert, IDF Director General, e-mail: CRobert@fil-idf.org

IDF/ISO collaboration for developing internationally recognized standards for methods of analysis for dairy products

The French National Committee will host the **IDF/ISO Analytical Week in Lyon from 23 to 27 May 2011** as part of the well-established collaboration between IDF and ISO.

Around 150 experts from IDF and ISO member countries will meet to advance the ongoing 50 projects, most of which involved developing standards for methods of analysis and sampling for milk and milk products. The highlight of the week will be a half-day symposium on "How can analysis promote sustainability in the dairy chain."

Participation of experts from dairy companies, laboratories and local authorities has been essential in the achievement of 180 standards to date, of which approximately 60 are recommended by Codex for provisions included in Codex standards. This makes IDF/ISO standards the reference in terms of methods of analysis and sampling for dairy products – developed by the experts for the experts. Get involved! More information: www.idf-iso-analytical-week.org