



Please forward this newsletter to any dairy leader you believe may be interested

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Recent Symposium Highlights Decade of Research Into Health Benefits of Milk Fat

Milkfat continues to be one of the top priorities of the IDF Nutrition & Health Program (see article on p. 4). In June 2008, the IDF Standing Committee on Nutrition and Health organised and facilitated the symposium 'Scientific Update on Dairy Fats and Cardiovascular Disease (CVD)' which was hosted by the University of Reading (UK).

The proceedings of this Symposium have recently been published in a supplement to the December issue of the Journal of the American Journal of Nutrition. The content of these reviews are available for free download on the IDF website (<http://www.fil-idf.org>).

The information in this supplement highlight that despite the contribution of dairy products to the saturated fatty acid composition of the diet there is no clear evidence that dairy food consumption is consistently associated with a higher risk of CVD. Given the diversity of available dairy foods of widely differing composition and their contribution to nutrient intake within the population, recommendations to reduce dairy food consumption irrespective of the nature of the dairy product should be made with caution.

IDF will continue to highlight the important contribution of dairy products and dairy nutrients to a healthy and balanced diet.

IDF World Dairy Summit 2009

Call for posters

Deadline:

15th April 2009

More information at:

<http://www.wds2009.com>

Read the interview with
Managing Director of the
Danish Dairy Board,
Michael Stevns on
page 2.



United Dairy World 2009

SAVE THE DATE

IDF World Dairy Summit,
20-24 September 2009, Berlin, Germany
<http://www.wds2009.com>

Expert View



Michael Stevens, Managing Director of the Danish Dairy Board, shared his views with us on the challenges ahead and looks at the strategic role of IDF in today's global environment.

What are the main challenges facing the global dairy sector? How to tackle them? Is there a role for IDF to play?

At the moment, the main challenges facing the global dairy sector can be narrowed down to a few items. The mother-of-it-all is about trust in milk and dairy products. Unscrupulous people challenged our gold position last year by adding melamine to milk in China, killed several children and made many more ill. The only positive outcome of this criminal act was that the global dairy industry within a few months realized how vulnerable the image of milk is. How easy outsiders and insiders can ruin what generations of brave men and woman have created. And the result will now be that milk will be safer to drink. The quality will increase, and hopefully, more consumers will be recruited in the long run.

IDF will have an important role to play in the mission of protecting the image of milk. Fast and accurate analysis of milk composition is a key and here we are in need of more science and technology on future procedure.

Another big threat is to avoid intruders and parasites to our industry. The greatest competition is from soft drinks and from soy juice. We need as an industry to unite and fight back all kinds of challenges. When the competitors try to profit on the image of milk by adding some of our ingredients and claiming too much; or when they try to persuade legislators to change the value of milk protein to a lower one, we simply must fight back, no matter the cost. And here again, IDF has a very important role to play as an authority for instance within the composition of milk and dairy products.

The third but not least important challenge is how the dairy industry positions the products in the right place on the price curve. Questions like "Are we cutting costs or are we increasingly adding costly value?", "How do we price the products towards competitive products from other industries like water, meat, cosmetics, etc, since we all compete for share of stomach or share of the health and beauty dollar", "How do we secure enough profit to pay the dairy farmers a fair share of the profit in order to keep them motivated to stay alive and happy". Here too IDF has a role to play as a provider of trustworthy dairy science.

Which are the key benefits you got from your relationship with IDF?

IDF is an interesting organization. If you step aside a little and really take the broad view on IDF, its purpose and role, then I would define the core of IDF being its ability to unite the global dairy community including researchers, industry and legislators on standards and definitions in all aspects of the qualities of milk and dairy products. Through this outstanding creation of 'one voice', IDF actually defines the platform from which our great companies are built and prosper.

The Danish Dairy Board is and has always been a very active member of the IDF. This has been our approach because only through involvement and responsibility, you are able to move forward and contribute to solve our challenges. IDF provides our organization with a valuable network of competent dairymen from around the globe, and these personal contacts are invaluable, when you need good technical advice.

My biggest dream regarding IDF is to increase the pace at which the actual results are created and disseminated to the members. I am fully aware of the procedure and ways of working within IDF. The horsepower is closely linked to single persons within and outside the limited, but very competent IDF staff. Maybe we focus on too many items. Maybe not always on the ones that really drive value in the industry. But I am convinced that a focus on speed without compromising the quality of the results is the key to increasing the image and support from the dairy companies around the world.

Michael Stevens, Managing Director, Danish Dairy Board
mls@mejeri.dk





IDF Confirms Food Safety Commitment to Deliver Quality Milk and Dairy Products

IDF Inventory of indicators to monitor the integrity of suppliers' milk

IDF has established a Task Force further to the recent regional case on adulteration of suppliers' milk with melamine. This case has emphasised that there is an inherent weakness in the traditional procedures to ensure and monitor the integrity of suppliers' milk.

This Task Force on methods and procedures to monitor the integrity of suppliers' milk comprises 16 experts from 9 countries nominated by the IDF membership.

Its aim is to provide an inventory of means (tools, procedures, methods, including screening techniques, etc) that can be used, alone or in combination, to indicate systematic adulteration of suppliers' milk and which are internationally recognized as effective and appropriate. The inventory is intended to assist the dairy sector in selecting the most feasible approach without specifying a prescriptive approach.

The drafting of the document will now be initiated in accordance with the following outline:

- Introduction, purpose, use and scope
- Maintaining the integrity of the food chain
- Assessment of the vulnerability for adulteration of milk
- Measures suitable for the purpose of counteracting possible adulteration
 - Preventive measures
 - Benchmarking and trend analyses
 - Intelligence gathering



Development of an internationally accepted method

IDF, and in particular, the IDF/ISO Methods and Standards Steering Group, are coordinating the efforts of international scientists to develop and publish analytical methodologies to test the presence of melamine in milk and milk products.

The task of developing a standardized confirmatory (reference) test is well underway and scientists in various countries are refining and validating a draft procedure. The method under consideration is based on liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS-MS) and is capable of quantifying both melamine and cyanuric acid in liquid and powdered samples. The ability to test both of these analytes is of significant importance in light of the evidence supporting co-toxicity.

Because analytical instrumentation differs among laboratories, the sample preparation and clean-up procedures will be standardized and the detection procedures by mass spectrometry will be based on specific performance criteria, which will be defined and included as part of the analytical method. This two-step approach should allow more users to utilize the protocol.

While method development and validation can be time consuming, all parties involved recognize the urgent need for quick action in this area. The intention is to publish a joint IDF recommended method ISO Technical Specification in the very near future. Screening methods and techniques will be addressed as part of the work of the Task Force described above dealing with "Integrity of Suppliers Milk".



Priority projects in the area of Nutrition and health

- **Dairy fats including trans-fatty acids:** IDF provides science-based input on dairy fats to ongoing deliberations in FAO/WHO and disseminates the outcomes of the 2008 Reading meeting on Scientific update on Dairy fats and cardiovascular disease.
- **Coordination of Codex nutrition matters.** IDF provides science-based input into the Codex discussions on the implementation of the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, e.g. input in labeling provisions and nutrient reference values.
- **Development of a communications plan** to promote positive dairy-related nutrition and health messages. The communication plan will be centered around the theme of nutrient richness/nutrient density.



IDF confirms environmental commitment

IDF has recently enhanced its work programme with various new projects and action items in the area of sustainability. This commitment follows several IDF publications and events on identified issues as well as best practices aiming at ensuring dairy production with lowest environmental impact.

IDF and the SAI Platform Dairy Group, the leading organization within the commercial dairy sector in addressing sustainability issues, have worked out a roadmap for IDF-SAI collaboration from 2009 onwards. It comprises the development of an international approach and a reference guide for Life Cycle Analysis and Life Cycle Management (LCA/LCM) - an up-date of the existing IDF/UNEP Guide on Life Cycle Assessment towards Sustainability in the Dairy Chain.

IDF will also work closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). This collaboration with the two leading UN agencies in the field of food and agriculture and environmental sustainability aims at producing a joint IDF/UNEP/FAO international reference guide.

IDF and SAI are also jointly working on the findings of an on-going SAI Platform study on comparing existing methodologies to estimate GHG emissions to define a methodology for the dairy sector. The forthcoming SAI Platform Principles and Practices (P&P) for Sustainable Dairy Farming will be considered for an up-date and extension of the existing IDF/FAO Guide to Good Dairy Farming Practice.

Successful negotiations between IDF and FAO have led to an FAO project titled "FAO reference figure for greenhouse gas emissions for global milk production". The objective is to review and revise the methodology that has led to the earlier FAO statement according to which "The livestock sector is a major player, responsible for 18 percent of greenhouse gas emissions measured in CO₂ equivalent." and presenting a break down of the resulting figure by different sub-sectors. The ultimate goal is to provide an FAO reference figure for GHG emissions from livestock producing milk.

IDF will support the FAO project on the basis of contributions from IDF National Committees and other dairy stakeholders.

If you are interested in receiving this newsletter electronically, please send your e-mail address to info@fil-idf.org

International Dairy Federation – Diamant Building – 80, Boulevard Auguste Reyers – 1030 Brussels – Belgium
Tel : +322 733 9888 – Fax : +322 733 0413 – E-mail : info@fil-idf.org – www.fil-idf.org or www.idfdairynutrition.org