

# The Dairy Sector: Ready to Help Achieve The Sustainable Development Goals



## IMPROVING LIVES AND TRANSFORMING THE WORLD

While people inherently know about dairy's nourishing strength, the dairy sector contributes more than just tasty goodness to the world's population. Nearly one billion people globally earn their livelihood through contact with the dairy sector. It sustains and revitalizes rural communities in all corners of the world. It empowers women and helps children thrive. Family farmers care responsibly for livestock and make their land better for the next generation. And world food crises make dairy's ability to produce nutritious food, both safely and sustainably, a key to nutritional security.



## HEALTHY PEOPLE, HEALTHY LIVES

*Every day, billions of people receive important nutritional benefits from consuming milk and dairy products. Given its nutrient-rich package, dairy provides not just basic nutrition, but better nutrition – which means a healthier population. Ongoing research continues to provide a deeper understanding of the nutritional value people get from food.*



## GROWING INCLUSIVE AND TRANSFORMATIVE ECONOMIES

*The dairy sector makes a remarkable impact on improving livelihoods and social inequity throughout the social fabric of rural communities. Dairying has an active role in alleviating poverty and unemployment and is of particular importance to traditionally disadvantaged segments of society – small landholders, landless laborers and women.*



## SUPPORTING THE FOUNDATION FOR PEACE

*Milk production and consumption are the most important stable sources of year-round cash flow and nutritional intake of rural populations. Families, and specifically women, are empowered by their responsibility for cattle rearing and dairy production, resulting in food security at both the household and national level and income for farmers.*



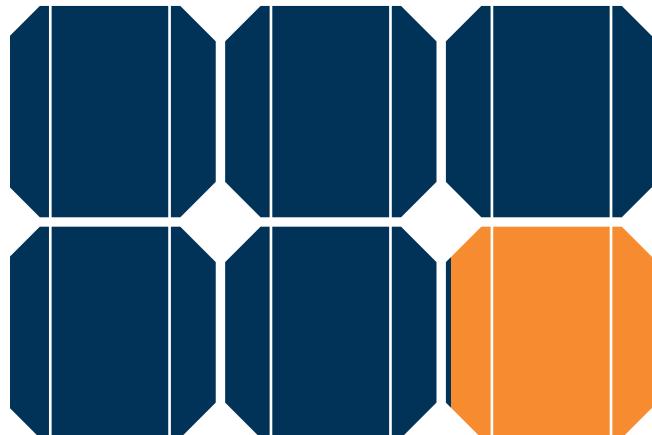
## COMMITTED TO CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

*Dairy farmers are proactive in reducing climate related impacts by addressing sustainability in its full economic, environmental and social complexity. Yield improvements, feed efficiencies, use of human food byproducts and manure as an effective fertilizer are important measures to reduce climate impact.*



## FOSTERING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

*The dairy sector brings society, sustainability and world nutrition together. Collaboration is a key driver within the entire dairy value chain, as well as with world bodies, non-governmental organizations and other sectors, for creating a future in which every person has access to the food they need for an active and healthy life.*



# 5 Things You Should Know About Dairy Sustainability

Sustainable agriculture practices are deeply important in today's world of seven billion people that is quickly growing. The dairy sector recognizes the environmental and sustainability challenges related to its use of natural resources and the impacts that are generated as a result of the production of milk and dairy products in the market place. Dairy farmers are proactive in reducing climate related impacts, recognizing that they must consider sustainability in its full complexity that encompassing all its pillars – economic, environmental and social. Here are five things you should know about dairy sustainability:

## 1 DAIRY IS COMMITTED TO REDUCING GHG

FAO studies state the average GHG from milk production, processing and transport is 2.4kg CO<sub>2</sub>-e per kg of milk – with a range of 1.3-7.5. The sector continues to explore all economically viable mechanisms that advances quantifying and reducing GHGs.

## 2 DAIRY ENGAGES IN ONGOING BEST PRACTICE RESEARCH

Recognizing that 85% of the emissions from dairy are at the farm level, the sector invests millions of dollars each year on research and communicating effective management practices aimed at reducing GHGs on the farm.

## 3 DAIRY IS RESOURCE EFFICIENT NUTRITION

Much of what goes into a cow's per day food ration is actually byproducts or plant material that humans cannot ingest. Cows, due to their powerful stomachs, are able to produce nutrient-rich milk by eating crops that would otherwise be useless to humans.

## 4 HEALTHY SOIL AND PASTURES = HEALTHY CLIMATE

According to a 2001 study, pastures have tremendous potential to store carbon from the atmosphere and help reduce GHGs. Farmers now have many tools and utilize proven practices that allow them to improve their soil nutrient management.

## 5 DAIRY IS INVESTED IN SUSTAINABILITY AT A GLOBAL LEVEL

The GDAA's Dairy Sustainability Framework currently represents 17% of global milk production, over half a million farmers and nearly 18 million cows. Participants track their own initiatives along a continuous improvement spectrum within 11 set criteria.

"The dairy sector takes sustainability seriously and with a commitment to building a better world."

## WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Global Dairy Agenda for Action (GDAA) is managed by eight organizations: Dairy Australia, European Dairy Association (EDA), Eastern and Southern African Dairy Association (ESADA), Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy, Pan-American Dairy Federation (FEPALE), Global Dairy Platform (GDP), International Dairy Federation (IDF) and Sustainable Agricultural Initiative Platform (SAI). Together, these parties represent over 80% of global milk production. The group provides leadership and guidance for the global dairy sector in identifying collaborative solutions to address the sustainability challenges faced by dairy.



The Global Dairy Agenda for Action

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