

DairyCaB improves Colombian dairy sector

DairyCaB is to stimulate dairy sector development in Colombia. The 3-years project will establish a dairy business platform by initiating and supporting activities in business development and capacity building in the Colombian department of Antioquia. Key aim is setting up demonstration farms. These farms have to initiate, test, monitor and train on technical innovations and introductions by Netherlands and Colombian private partners. The project is implemented by Wageningen UR Livestock Research and private and public partners in both countries, and financially supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Short-term: education

On the short term the project aims to design and establish a Demonstration and Training Farm (DTF) in the Dairy North and Eastern Antioquia Conglomerate (DNEAC). On the farm private companies and knowledge institutions share experiences and knowledge by demonstrations to, and training of extension staff and farmers. The first DTF acts as a model for the development of more DTF's in the department of Antioquia.

Long-term: enhanced milk production

On the long term the project aims to increase the performance of dairy farms, and the local supplying and milk

processing industry. Equipping the DTF with appropriate knowledge, training and technology will support the Colombian dairy farmers to develop a sustainable, cost-efficient businesses in which they can produce high quality milk.

Best of two worlds

The project's approach is to adapt and disseminate Dutch knowledge and expertise to the local Colombian dairy production circumstances. Demonstration and capacity building are key components.

- Dutch technology and expertise is combined with local producer expertise and educational knowledge institutions. This has to lead to new innovations and make dairy technologies affordable and applicable to dairy producers in Colombia. Dutch products will be tested for their suitability under Colombian conditions, leading to innovations in the Colombian dairy sector.
- The DTF showcases and trains local farmers, and service and equipment providers on adapted technologies and practices to improve milk production and quality for sustainable businesses development. Dutch expertise will assist to develop curricula for farmers' training and the training of trainers.
- Wageningen UR Livestock Research shares experiences on the use of collected farmer experiences with the University of Antioquia and Saenz Fety; and on how to include this into training material and curricula. These materials can subsequently be replicated for regions with similar characteristics. During the project subject matter knowledge and experience will be exchanged between partners.

Regional inception phase

The project starts with an inventory of the regional network of the value-chain stakeholders involved in the dairy clusters in the DNEAC in Antioquia. This inception phase will identify the major knowledge and technical constraints of the dairy farming system, the stakeholders and their policies; and will subsequently define the training, and knowledge needs, products and service gaps in the DNEAC. Technical constraints can induce business opportunities. Based on entrepreneurship and collaborative actions, institutes will be provided with a framework of education and training curricula, and an improvement plan.

Upscaling

After the inception phase, the project demonstrates the possible innovations for small and medium-scale producers at the DFT for the target area appropriate farming systems.

The acquired knowledge is disseminated by publications and integrated in current vocational and scientific education, and regional training programmes.

Prioritised technical topics are so far:

- Animal housing;
- Animal management;
- Cultivation of different fodder and grass varieties;
- Fodder harvesting and conservation;
- Feed analyses and animal feeding according to the analyses;
- Milking methods;
- Storing techniques to handle good quality milk.



Implementing consortium

Wageningen Livestock Research (WLR) will, together with the University of Antioquia, Saenz Fety, Barenbrug and Eurofins Agro, conduct a 3 year project to strengthen the dairy development in Colombia by Dutch collaboration. The project 'Colombian-Netherlands Dairy Capacity and Business development project', acronym DairyCaB, will be conducted in the Antioquia Province of Colombia. DairyCaB is financially supported by the Transition Facility, administered by The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project consortium has been built with assistance from Wageningen International, after the presentation of the fact-finding study 'Moocooi, Dairy Opportunities for Colombia-Dutch Win-Win' by RVO.

For further information: Wim Houwers; wim.houwers@wur.nl ; +31 317 480509

