



**SWAZILAND  
DAIRY BOARD**

**SWAZILAND DAIRY BOARD**

**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**FINANCIAL YEAR 2015/2016**

**MANZINI**

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## **1. Introduction**

The Swaziland Dairy Board (SDB) is a public enterprise wholly owned by the Swaziland Government. It was established in 1971 under the Dairy Act No. 28 of 1968. As provided in the Act, the Board's primary function is to develop and regulate the industry. The SDB complements the Government's efforts through the provision of a supportive socio-economic environment for the development of the dairy industry aimed at achieving food security, poverty reduction, investment promotion, job creation and export promotion.

## **2. Vision**

We, the Swaziland Dairy Development Board perceive ourselves as a catalyst towards the total development and improvement of the dairy industry in Swaziland.

## **3. Mission**

We, the Swaziland Dairy Development Board are in the business of developing and promoting the production and consumption of quality dairy products by coordinating and harmonizing all activities in the dairy industry through the application of appropriate skills and technology.

## **4. Objectives**

The Board has the following long term objectives:

- a) To direct the development of the dairy industry in the Kingdom of Swaziland.
- b) To facilitate the production and consumption of quality dairy products in the Kingdom of Swaziland.
- c) To ensure the provision and sustainability of a technical capacity for the furtherance of the Board's mandate.
- d) To advise and consult the stakeholders on issues and matters which are related or incidental to the dairy industry.

## **5. Annual Operational Review**

The Board continued to support every development initiatives with an aim of improving the overall performance of the local dairy industry in the country in line with the Ministry of Agriculture's objective of improved agriculture sector productivity. Improved productivity and performance of the dairy sector remained a major priority in the reporting period. Provision of an enabling environment for all industry players to ensure growth and sustainability of the sector remained a priority in the organization core functions. Among the major activities undertaken in the reporting quarter was the development of dairy industry regulations draft. The purpose of the regulations was to clear set an industry best code of practices that will ensure long term growth and sustainability of the dairy industry through effective regulation. The industry regulations draft was circulated to all industry stakeholders for their input.

The board continued to engage with all dairy stakeholders in an endeavor to improve service delivery and effective coordination along the industry value chain. During the reporting period, the board continued to build capacity in the industry placing much emphasis on value addition. Through the value addition initiative, the board seeks to increase the range of dairy products manufactured in the country through empowering small scale processors to venture into value addition as a dairy related enterprise. To achieve these, the board collaborates with the Cedara College of Agriculture which offers a course in dairy processing.

With the increasing demand of hay in the country, the board has continued to produce and import hay bales for dairy farmers to ensure that feed was readily available throughout the dry season. A total number of two thousand five hundred and seven (2507) large round hay bales (250 kg) were produced in Lavumisa, KaLanga, Sihhoye, and Mpofu. Also, a total number of eight hundred and eighty (2480) large round hay bales (300 kg) were imported from the Republic of South Africa.

The Board in collaboration with industry stakeholders conducted a Dairy Month campaign to promote the consumption of dairy products in the industry. The campaign was conducted in the entire month of October 2015. The main aim of the

initiative was to create awareness on the nutritional value of milk and milk products consumption and create demand that will benefit all industry stakeholders.

There number of local dairy farmers grew to around 718 dairy farmers in 2015 compared to the 508 dairy farmers in 2014. This indicates a 41.34% increase in the number of local dairy farmers. A majority of the dairy farmers practise on Swazi Nation Land while the remainder practise on Title Deed Land.

To achieve its strategic objective effectively, the Board renders its services through its four departments, namely the Dairy Development Services, Finance and Administration, Information and Economic Analysis and Quality Control Department. For the purposes of this report the focus will mainly be on the dairy development services.

The core functions of the dairy development services include provision of support, training and advisory services to milk producers. Services to farmers include, among other activities, resource assessment for starting dairy farmers, siting and construction of dairy structures, forage production and conservation, perennial, annual and winter pasture establishment and management, procurement of dairy cattle, production of round bales of hay, artificial insemination coupled with heat synchronisation, dairy cattle feeds and feeding, clean milk production and proper handling, calf rearing, record keeping, dairy herd health and its application, milk marketing, general farm management, formation of farmer groups; coordination of activities for farmer groups and management of communal milk collection centers.

#### **I. Artificial Insemination (AI)**

The Board has continued to render the AI service in an aim to improve the local dairy herd and breeding programme in all the regions in the country. The A.I. services included synchronisation of oestrus, breeding of cows/heifers and general dairy farm management to improve the overall performance of the dairy herd.

During the reporting period, 333 cows/heifers were bred with A.I. for farmers countrywide. Eighty seven (53) of the animals were oestrus synchronised.

## **II. Training and Extension**

### **a) Farm Visits Technical Advice to farmers**

The Board has continued to increase the technical service outreach to all dairy farmers in an aim to provide technical advice and services to dairy farmers on all dairy husbandry practices. This is in line with the board's mandate to build capacity in the industry that would enable a majority of dairy farmers to operate under minimal technical supervision.

During the reporting period, 2653 farm visits were carried out in the four regions of the country.

### **b) Workshops**

#### **i. Farmer Technical Meetings/Workshops**

During the reporting period a total number of twenty two (22) day-time farmers' workshop were held on diverse dairy production related subjects such as fodder production, dairy livestock breeding, calf and kids rearing, clean milking and milk storage, legal issues pertaining the dairy livestock, feeding of the livestock, disease prevention and control in all the regions. These also included all dairy farmer groups that are to benefit under the SADP pass on the Gift initiative. Overall attendance in the workshop was two hundred and eight (258)

Meantime, thirty eight (56) technical meetings were held in all the regions with a total attendance of 649.

#### **ii. Intensive Dairy course**

In an endeavour to build a continued long term skill in the industry, the Board has continued facilitating dairy training programmes for both aspiring and practising dairy farmers. During the period, a total number of 87 farmers were trained and completed the dairy cattle intensive courses which lasted for eight (8) weeks each.

### **III. Procurement of Dairy Animals**

To address the local scarcity challenge of dairy animals, the board has continued to assist dairy farmers in the procurement of dairy animals. During the reporting period, a total number of twenty six (26) dairy animals were procured from the Republic of South Africa. The animals were bought from Amersfoort.

The board has also introduced the management of dairy goats in the farm. During the reporting period, a total number of 45 dairy goats were procured Mooi River and have since arrived in the farm.

### **IV. Indigenous Cattle Dairying**

The Board has continued to promote and support dairy farming at grass root level. Indigenous dairying is one of the major initiatives the Board is currently pursuing to sensitise farmers about the value of dairy farming.

During the period, the Board continued to hold a number of meetings with Veterinary Assistants and farmer groups at community level in preparation for the milking season of the indigenous herd. Preparations to operationalize the milk collection centres (MCC) were made. The adverse effects of the dry season resulted in a number of MCC not operational because there was little milk to justify the operational of the centres. Only Mbalenhle and Gwayimane collection centres were operational opened but the volumes of milk resulted in the centres being closed again. The Board would continue working with the Veterinary assistance towards examining possible ways to full operationalize the centres.

### **V. Educational Tours**

In an aim to expose local dairy farmers to advance dairy practicing atmospheres for purposes of experiential learning and knowledge sharing, the Board organized an educational tour for local farmers to Marganzon Dairy Farm in the Republic of South Africa. A total number of 70 local dairy farmers participated in the field tour.

### **VI. Business Plan Preparation**

In an effort to assist farmers start and grow their businesses, the board has continued to assist dairy stakeholders in the development of bankable business plans for both planning and accessing financial services purposes.

During the reporting period twelve (12) business plans were developed for dairy farmers. All business plans developed were for small scale farmers.

## **VII. Large Scale dairy Farmer – Swazi Milk**

In an effort to assist large scale dairy farmers to start and grow their businesses, the board has continued to assist Swazi Milk dairy farm at Sidvokodvo in the Manzini Region in the development of a farm that will milk over 3000 animals once it operates at full capacity around 2018-2019

The project is funded by Old mutual, Public Service Pension Fund and Swaziland National Provident Fund through the Agriculture.

## **VIII. Centralized Dairy Projects**

### **a) Ngudzeni Multipurpose Cooperative**

During the reporting period, the board continued to render technical support to the group. Currently the project has ten (10) dairy animals which included six (6) cows, three (3) calves and one heifer. The Board has also conducted a training course on principles of dairy cattle farming and group management dynamics in collaboration with the Department of Cooperatives for the group.

### **b) Sithobelweni Dairy Cattle Project**

The Board has continued to provide technical support to the project to ensure it remains sustainable. Currently the group is milking three cows and the total number of cows is eight (8). The board also assisted the group in the procurement of hay bales for the animals and in breeding two of the heifers using artificial insemination. During the reporting period, the group was preparing to plant pastures so to fully utilize the summer rains.

### **c) Chubeka Zandondo**

To ensure the sustainability of the project, the board continued to offer technical support and advice to the group in addressing all the operational challenges. During the period under review, one cow gave birth to a female calf. The Board assisted the project with the preparation of winter pastures to ensure continuous fodder flow throughout the dry season.



Also the Board assisted the group in preparation for summer pasture establishment. Preparations to plant Rhodes grass were currently underway. Currently the project has six (6) dairy cows and one dairy bull.

**d) Mgambeni Dairy Goats Project - GEF**

During the period reported upon, the Board continued to provide both business and technical advice for the project in an aim to improve the project sustainability. The board has also assisted the group in sourcing of a buck in Tisuka TakaNgwane in preparation of the breeding season. The board has assisted the group in the setting up of camps. Currently the Project has a total number of 27 goats.

**e) Epilepsy Dairy Project**

During the reporting period the Board continued to provide technical support and advice to the project. The project currently has six (6) dairy cattle animals. Preparations to plant pastures were underway. The Board assisted the group in the construction of a milking shed and procurement of hay bales. It was reported that one of the cows gave birth to a female calf.

**f) Moyamunye Ex-Miners Dairy Project**

The Board has continued to provide technical assistance to the group to ensure the project thrives. The total number of dairy animals on site was five (5) inclusive of the calves. Preparations to plant pastures are currently underway. The Board conducted a training workshop for all group members in Dairy Farming Management. The board has also assisted the group in the procurement of dairy animals and fencing equipment.

**g) Gedlingula Dairy Farmers Cooperative Society**

Preparation to establish the necessary infrastructure is currently underway. The dairy animals are still temporally kept at Gege dairy farm. The board has continued to work with the group to ensure that it becomes ready to receive the dairy animals. The board has also assisted the group in the procurement of a mobile milking machine.

**IX. Semi-Intensive Grazing**

During the past reporting period, the Board continued to assist dairy farmers utilizing Semi-intensive grazing production system to explore ways to efficiently utilize the system. The Board continued to provide technical assistance on how farmers can be efficient under each production system. There are currently six (6) dairy farmers practicing this production method and the Board is actively engaged in assisting them technically. The Board has also assisted these projects in the procurement of hay bales during the dry season.

#### **X. Information Sharing and Dissemination**

The Board continues to provide support through the collection, analysis and dissemination of information to the industry stakeholders and potential stakeholders with the aim to increase access to information flow in the industry.

During the reporting period the board facilitated the process of buying and selling dairy cows in the industry through the use of e-dairy sms. Information about cattle sales were sent to all dairy farmers who intend to buy dairy animals locally. Also the board was able to send information to all dairy farmers about the availability of hay bales and encouraged all dairy farmers to buy them in preparation for the persisting dry season.

#### **XI. Feed Production**

##### **A. Hay Making and Procurement**

Due to the scarcity of fodder flow during the dry season, the board has continued to produce hay bales for dairy farmers to ensure that feed is available throughout the winter season. The board embarked on a balling programme in which suitable balling site belonging to farmers were balled to produce hay bales. A total number of two thousand five hundred and seven (2507) large round hay bales (250 kg) were produced in Lavumisa, KaLanga, Sihhoye, and Mpofu. Dairy farmers were encouraged to produce or buy hay bales in preparation for the winter season.

The Board has continued to import hay bales from the Republic of South Africa and neighbouring countries as a result of the shortage of fodder locally due to the dry season. During the period, a total number of eight thousand eight hundred and

eighty (8480) large round hay bales (300 kg) were imported from the Republic of South Africa.

### **B. Pasture Establishment**

With feed supply becoming one of the major challenges in the industry, the Board continued to support developmental initiatives that would address the feeding challenge. The Board has been actively engaged in supporting farmers to produce their own feed so to enable continuous fodder flow even through the dry season. During the reporting period, the Board assisted a total number of 148 dairy farmers in pasture development and establishment. This included demonstrations and technical advices on what type of pasture to plant, when and how to manage it. The Board continued to facilitate training workshops on pasture establishments and management to enable farmers to produce feed for their animals. The Board has also continued to promote farmers to venture into haymaking as a business.

It is envisaged that such an initiative will improve fodder flow throughout the year and reduce heavily reliance on hay bales which became scare of dry season.

### **XII. Milking Machines**

To encourage the use of technology and efficient production techniques in the industry, the board has continued to encourage farmers to utilize mobile milking machines. During the year under review eleven (11) milking machines were imported from the Republic of South Africa for dairy farmers. Nine of the milking machines were single point and one was a two point mobile milking unit.

### **XIII. Gege Dairy Farm**

In an endeavour to improve the production performance of Gege Dairy Farm, the board has continued to effectively implement the resuscitation plan as the cropping season was approaching. Among the major activities undertaken in the reporting period was the establishment of fodder pastures and yellow maize pastures. Also the baling ground was top dressed with LAN fertilizer to encourage re-growth.

A total of 15 ha of land was tilled and planted with Rhodes grass, White buffalo grass, millet, Kikuyu and Eragrostis Curvula. About 20 ha of land have been planted with yellow maize. The Board aims to fully utilise the summer rains in ensuring

continuous supply of fodder throughout the year for the dairy animals. At the end of the reporting quarter, the total number of dairy cattle was 164 (all inclusive).

The board has also introduced the management of dairy goats in the farm. During the reporting period, a total number of 45 dairy goats were procured Mooi River and have since arrived in the farm. At the end of the reporting quarter, six kids have been kidded making a total number of 51 dairy goats (all inclusive).

#### **XIV. Dairy Industry Regulations**

To ensure that the industry grows and remains sustainable, the Board has been constantly working with industry stakeholders in the development of the dairy industry regulations. The industry strives to be amongst the best global dairy industry through providing an enabling environment for all industry stakeholders to ensure continuous growth in the local industry. During the quarter under review, the Board developed a first draft of dairy industry regulations which was circulated to all industry stakeholders for their input. The aim of this initiative is to clearly articulate the industry best code of practices in an endeavor to protect all industry stakeholders and ensure future sustainability of the industry.

#### **XV. Dairy Month**

To promote the consumption of dairy products in the industry, the SDB in collaboration with dairy industry stakeholders conducted a Dairy Month campaign in the entire month of October. The main aim of the initiative was to create awareness on the nutritional value of milk and milk products consumption and create demand that will benefit all industry stakeholders. It is believed that such an initiative will go a long way in stimulating the consumption of dairy products which in turn will increase the demand of dairy products and create enormous market opportunities for all industry stakeholders.

## **XVI. Establishment of a revolving smallholder dairy heifer/cow supply scheme (Pass on the gift)**

The Board has continued rendering technical assistance to all the groups that benefited from the SADP Heifer Scheme. Capacity building, breeding services, mentorship programs and animal health services are among major undertakings the board has rendered to the group beneficiaries to ensure the project thrives and animals are well managed. The board in line with the project monitoring and evaluation plan has continued to ensure that relevant data on the status of the animal is collected on a regular basis to ensure effective monitoring of the project. Pregnancy diagnosis test are conducted on a regular basis to ensure that all animals get pregnant and give birth to calves.

The Board officers have continued to work close with the benefiting groups in order to assist them in all challenges they come across. The board has been strict in the monitoring of the project and members are regularly checked on a forth night period to ensure continual good management of the dairy animals. During the reporting period female calves that were born were passed on to the next beneficiaries.

## **XVII. Promoting local dairy processing**

### **a) Small-scale Processing**

The Board has continued to promote value addition in the industry. Assistance rendered to small scale processors included resource sourcing, capacity building, procurement of input supplies and technical advice. The Board has continued to enhance capacity of both aspiring and practicing small-scale processors in collaboration with the Cedara College of Agriculture in South Africa.

During the reporting period, a total number of eleven (11) aspiring small-scale dairy processors undertook a course in dairy processing at the Cedara College. This was in line with the Board's objective of value addition promotion.

### **b) Large Scale Processing**

The Board has continued to promote value addition in the industry. During the reporting period the board has initiated a process of designing and costing a building layout or plan for a large scale processing plant in Matsapha to be leased out to dairy plant operators.

## **XVIII. Collaboration**

### **a) Internship Programme in Animal Science (Dairy Option)**

The Board has continued to build capacity in the industry with an aim of creating an increased pool of skilled and experienced dairy practitioners. The board has continued to collaborate with the University of Swaziland in the production of qualified dairy graduates. During the reporting period a group of ten (10) Animal Science Dairy Option graduates commenced their one year internship programme within the local dairy farms. The graduates were all stationed at Gege dairy farm and are yet to be posted in the other large scale commercial dairy farms in the next reporting period.

A group of fourteen (14) third year Dairy Option students have since completed their 13 week internship programme. The students have been attached at Gege Dairy Farm, Arrow Feeds, Feed Master and Dalcrue. The Board makes regular visits to ensure the interns get the relevant exposure and experience in their various stations.

## **XIX. Initiatives**

### **a) Siyandzisa Community Development Project.**

Siyandzisa Community Development Project is a country wide development initiative project aimed at improving the standard of living for poor unemployed households through enterprise development. This involves empowering beneficiaries to venture in AI service provision businesses that would enable them to generate revenue for their families. It is envisaged that this initiative would increase the service outreach to all farmers in their respective regions.

During the period under review, the Board continued to explore cost effective ways to implement the project. This included exploring AI equipment that could be possible used and the total equipment cost.

## **b) School Milk Feeding Programme**

The School Milking Programme initiative has been one of the major programmes supported by the Board in an aim to promote a dairy consumption culture among the youth and stimulate local dairy consumption demand. The board in partnership with relevant stakeholders continued to work closer towards the development of School Milk Programmes that would be integrated in the current running school feeding programmes to enhance academic performance, school attendance and health eating habit among scholars.

During the reporting period, a School Milk Feeding Scheme committee comprising of key stakeholders was appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture. The committee was tasked to produce a national concept paper for the project. The project concept paper was finalized and awaits for feedback from the Ministry of Agriculture.

## **c) Dairy School Projects**

The board continues to work closer with schools that currently have dairy projects. The board provides technical advice and regular monitoring to these projects to ensure they become sustainable. Currently schools with dairy projects include Mbalenhle Primary School, Envimbeko High School, Lulakeni High School and Dinane High School who is yet to start. During the reporting period, the board has continued working Motshane High School, Malunge High School and St Manettus Primary School on preparations. The board has also developed a business plan for school dairy projects to assist them source funding.