



*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 has also been actively engaged in creating an enabling environment for dairy processors in the country in all scales of production, the board is also in active facilitation of investors investing in the processing of dairy products. In this quarter the board's activities included the, sourcing of milking and processing equipment for

farmers and processors, the training of dairy farmers on principles of dairy sciences and management, both regionally and centrally, the sourcing of dairy stock and for local farmers, and assisting the establishment of pastures by local farmers.

The Board continued to focus on assisting farmers over the persistent drought period, the industry was hit by a shortage of feed and fodder for optimum production to assist farmers the SDB has continued the production and procurement of hay bales both locally and from South Africa. The board also found it very important to focus on activities that were targeted at improving the herd management, the dairy stock, and supplementing the feed shortage as well as maintaining animal health over the reporting period.

To assist the farmers over the drought period, a total number of one thousand four hundred and sixty five (1465) large round hay bales (250 kg) were produced in Mlindazwe, Gege, Mpofu, Masundwini and other private farms. Also, a total number of eight hundred and ninety six (2896) large round hay bales (300 kg) were imported from the Republic of South Africa.

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 which has seen aspiring processors trained on small scale dairy processing during the reporting period, and as part of capacity building initiative the board also facilitated exposure tours for aspiring and existing dairy farmers to visit operating farms in South Africa and be exposed to other methods and dairy practices.

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 of 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, 165 cows/heifers were bred with A.I. for farmers countrywide.

### **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, while achieving optimum milk production.

During the reporting period, 1630 farm visits were carried out in the four regions of the country. In the mean time 12 resource assessments were done over this period.

#### **b) Workshops**

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

During the reporting period a total number of four (4) day-time farmers' workshop and technical meetings 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. Overall attendance in the workshop was fifty seven (57).

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

In an effort to build a continued long term skill in the industry and to assist farmers in strengthening their dairy farming and agribusiness skills as well as their understanding of the dairy industry. The Board has continued facilitating dairy training programmes for both aspiring and practising dairy farmers. During the period, (twenty seven) 27 aspiring dairy farmers were trained and completed the dairy cattle intensive course which lasted for eight (8) weeks.

#### **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 three hundred and forty two (342) dairy animals were procured from various farms in South Africa.

#### **IV. 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 76 local dairy farmers participated in the field tour.

#### **V. Business Plan Preparation**

The SDB 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 twelve (12) business plans was developed for dairy farmer for a medium scale business.

Apart from developed business plans, four (4) existing dairy farmers were assisted with detailed business advice on how to improve their businesses through value addition and other business practices.

## VI. Centralized Dairy Projects

The Board continued to promote formation of farmer groups by producers. This is to assist the farmers in the mobilizing markets and to help reduce production and distribution costs. The board is also actively involved in the promotion of the establishment of MCCs by the farmer groups and facilitates equipment as well as trainings to all groups that are ready. The SDB encourages the development of centralized projects to increase the beneficiaries in the local communities through dairy farming. The SDB seeks to increase the number of farmer groups in all the regions of the country as well as increase the reach of her services to these groups. Below is the list of dairy farmer groups in the country and their status in the reporting period.

### Hhohho Farmer Groups

Farmer Group's Name	Region	Location	Membership/Beneficiaries	Status
Sengani Dairy Farmers Ass.	Hhohho	Mayiwane	30	The group is currently operating their MCC and sells to the market at Buhleni and Ngonini. They produce an average of 90L milk per day, they sell 60L as milk and 40L as emasi daily.
Hhukwini Dairy Farmers Ass.	Hhohho	Hhukwini	13	Registered and group has established 2 MCC which are however farmers in the group still produce milk for community.
Phumelela Dairy Farmers	Hhohho	Ntfonjeni	28	This group currently has 8 cows received

Ass.				through SADP programme. And an additional 4 cows bought individually by the members. The group is operational and currently produces an average of 56L/day. Yet to start operating their MCC.
Lidwala Dairy Farmers Ass.	Hhohho	Hawane	8	Registered and group seeking fund to establish a milk collection centre, farmers currently operate individually.
Gedlingula Dairy Farmer	Hhohho	Maphalaleni	13	The Group supported by World Vision currently has 15 cows which are kept at Gege dairy farm, while farmers prepare to receive them.

## ii) Manzini Farmer Groups

Farmer Group's Name	Region	Location	Membership/Beneficiaries	Status
Lamgabhi Dairy Farmers Ass.	Manzini	Bhunya	4	Group formed however unregistered and has seen a reduction in membership.
Luyengo Dairy Farmers Ass.	Manzini	Luyengo	12	Registered and operating a milk collection center, farmers currently produce 185L/day of milk and sell 100L of emasi in Mahlanya

				and surrounding areas. The group has seen a huge increase in production over the rainy season.
Chubekani Dairy Farmers Ass.	Manzini	Dwalile	21	Group formed and benefited from SADP pass on project, currently the group has 6 dairy cows, all healthy, the cow in milk produce an average of 26L/day. The cows are improving in production through advice from the board.
Mkhiweni Dairy Farmers Ass.	Manzini	Ngonini	30	Group still unregistered
Velezizweni Dairy Farmers Ass.	Manzini	Velezizweni	9	Registered but most members are not active, active member operate individually and group is not progressing
Epilepsy Dairy Farmers Ass.	Manzini	kaBhudla	10	This project is for epileptic farmers, and they benefit financially the group currently has 7 dairy animals with 2 in milk and produce an average of 9L/day. Cows are in fair condition.

### iii) Shiselweni Farmer Group

Farmer Group's Name	Region	Location	Membership/Beneficiaries	Status
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Mpakeni Dairy Farmers Ass.	Shiselweni	Mpakeni	11	Registered and group and currently operate individual dairy enterprises. The group has 1 milking cow which was close to drying off and produces and average of 5L/day.
Mashobeni South Dairy Farmer	Shiselweni	Mashobeni	14	This group benefited from the SADP project, currently has 6 cows, 4 milking and currently produces 57L/day of milk, reportedly in good condition.
Asibemunye Ngudzeni No1 Dairy Farmers Ass.	Shiselweni	Ngudzeni	17	The group benefited from a world vision fund, currently has 4 dairy animals with 2 milking; they have started planting pastures like kikuyu which is doing well during the rainy season.
Kubuta Dairy Farmers Co-operative	Shiselweni	Khubuta	21	The Group was trained on dairy production and is in the process of registration. The have an interest on establishing an MCC.

#### iv) Lubombo Farmer Groups

Farmer Group's Name	Region	Location	Membership/Beneficiaries	Status
Malindza Dairy Farmers Ass.	Lubombo	Malindza	15	At group formation and still seeks finance to start operations
Moyamunye ex-miners Dairy Farmers Ass.	Lubombo	Malindza	7	The project was established by ex-miners, currently has 3 cows with 2 in milk producing an average of 15L/day. The board assisted the group on A.I to improve their herd, and the board has advised the group to improve management as cows were not in good condition.
Imphumelelo Yemntfwana Livestock Project	Lubombo	Sithobelweni	8	The project currently has 6 dairy animals, the cows currently produce 18L/day, and the group was encouraged to establish pasture to produce hay for dry season.
Mgambeni Dairy Farmers Ass.	Lubombo	Maloma	17	This group owns dairy goats, due to feed and management issues the goats are currently kept at Uniswa for breeding and to improve their condition
Letsakuphila Multipurpose	Lubombo region		16	The group benefited from the SADP heifer programme,

association				currently has 8 cows producing up to 48L/day, the animals are in good condition, The group has 14 dairy animals all inclusive. The board continues to assist in all their technical needs.
Bakhiciti Multipurpose dairy farmers association	Lubombo		15	The group benefited from the SADP heifer programme, currently has 7 cows with those in milk producing an average 60L/day, the cows are in good body condition. The group has showed improvement in their herd management skills.

## VII. Semi-Intensive Grazing

The Board has continued to provide technical assistance to farmers in this grazing system which has also seen farmers 'production increase over the rainy season. The board continues to efficiently increase her reach to all dairy farmers in different scales of production and production systems. There are currently six (6) dairy farmers practicing this production method with a combined production of up to 415L/day, the Board is actively engaged in assisting them technically and facilitates

an enabling environment for finding a formal market. The Board has also assisted the projects in the establishment of pastures over the rainy season, procurement of dairy stock A.I, and all technical expertise for intensive grazing system.

### **VIII. 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 sending technical information to dairy farmers in the industry through the use of e-dairy sms, this information included alerting farmers about the vaccination of the black quarter disease and encouraged all dairy farmers to vaccinate immediately to prevent an outbreak.

### **IX. 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 baling programme in which suitable baling site belonging to farmers were balled to produce hay bales To assist the farmers over the drought period, a total number of one thousand four hundred and sixty five (1465) large round hay bales (250 kg) were produced in Mlindazwe, Gege, Mporu, Masundwini and other private farms. Dairy farmers were encouraged to produce or buy hay bales in preparation for the winter season.

With the increasing demand of hay in the country during the dry season, the Board continued to import hay bales from the Republic of South Africa to ensure access to fodder for local livestock farmers. During the period under review a total number of eight hundred and ninety six (896) large round hay bales (300 kg) were imported from the Republic of South Africa.

To ensure easy access of the hay locally central strategic locations have been identified so farmers can easily access hay. Malkerns, and deliveries were made to all regions for farmers' access.

## **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 continued to assist and advice farmers in pasture development and establishment. The Board has also continued to promote venturing into haymaking as a business and in this regard has also developed hay making business models to assist farmers wishing to venture in this business.

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

## **X. Milking Machines and equipment**

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 quarter under review the board facilitated the procurement of three (3) milking machines, two (2) point milking units, and one (1) dairy goat milking machine, the board also assists farmers in the procurement of milking equipment. The board also assists farmers in servicing the milking machines. During the reporting period, the board facilitated four (4) services of milking machines for different farmers.

## **XI. Milk Collection Centres**

The Board has continued to promote and support dairy farming at grass root level. The milk collection centres initiative was aimed at improving market access at community level. The board assist a group of dairy farmers at grass root level in establishing a milk collection centre and provision of a milk cooling facility. The board provides both technical and business advice on how to successfully run the milk collection centres.

During the quarter, the Board assisted Chubekani Dairy Farmers Association in the Manzini region in setting up a milk collection centre. This is to improve market

access for the association. The members of the association were also trained on how to operate an MCC and maintain hygiene. The board also continued to monitor operational MCCs, the Luyengo Dairy Farmer's association and Sengani Dairy Farmers in their operations and sourcing of market.

## **XII. Promoting local dairy processing**

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

The Board continues promoting small scale processing in the industry. During the quarter reported upon, the Board continued to assist small-scale dairy businesses with resource sourcing (Milk), capacity building, procurement, input supplies, finding markets and technical advice. Currently there were 3 operational small scale processors that the board continues to assist in their venture and in sourcing milk, or providing a market for producer.

Small scale processors status during the reporting quarter.

<b>Name of Processor</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Status</b>
Derbon Dairies	Matsapha	Operational and currently processes up to 2000L of milk per day which they receive from local producers.
Eliz Industries	Matsapha	Operational and currently processes up to 2800L of milk per week which is also bought from farmers
Gibela Farm	Manzini	Ice Cream Processing Produces up to 4500L of ice cream per month.

### **XIII. Collaboration**

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

In an aim to create 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 six (6) Animal Science Dairy Option graduates started their dairy internship programme, attached at the Dairy Development Department to execute extension services duties. There are 8 new graduates waiting to start their internship programme before the year ends. These graduates are to be attached in the different farms locally.

### **XIV. Initiatives**

#### **a) 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, Emvimbeko High School, Lulakeni High School, Motshane High School, Matfuntini Primary School and Shewula High School. During the reporting period, one school has approached the board on their intention to start dairy projects. The schools primarily keep the dairy animals to feed the pupils and for training purposes. The main challenges are inadequate feed and general dairy management costs.

#### **b) Schools Dairy Projects Status Report**

<b>Name of School</b>	<b>Location/Region</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Status</b>
Motshane High School	Hhohho/Motshane	For Vocational training, and feeding.	197 pupils	The school already has one (1) cow, that has a male calf, and is currently in milk
St Manettus Catholic Primary School	Hhohho/Malanti	For feeding children.	421 pupils	Business Plan has been developed, school still seeks

				funding.
Mvimbeko High School	Manzini	Prevocational education and equipping pupils with dairy skills, feeding	429 pupils	The school currently has 7 dairy animal, 3 cows, 2 heifers and 2 female calves. The school is producing and operating.
Mbalenhle Primary School	Lubombo	Prevocational education and equipping pupils with dairy skills, feeding	295 pupils	Project had five (5) dairy animals all inclusive. The school is operating and is looking to increase herd.
Lulakeni High School	Shiselweni	Feeding pupils	371 pupils	The project currently has eight (8) dairy animals all inclusive, the project continues to grow.
Shewula High School	Lubombo	Feeding pupils	334 pupils	The schools recently bought on pregnant cow and are yet to begin operations.
Matfuntini Primary school	Hhohho	Feeding pupils	219 pupils	A business plan for 1 cow has been developed for the project. They are still awaiting funds.

### I. Lulakeni High School

The board has continued monitoring the school feeding project with the objective of feeding pupils. The school is currently milking five (5) cows. The board continued to

provide technical assistance to the school to help improve the health of the animals and for sustainability of the project. The cows currently produce an average of 40L/day. The pupils are fed sour milk once a week, 1 cup per pupil. The board facilitated the delivery of 20 hay bales for the school to meet the current feed shortage being experienced in the country.

## **II. Emvimbeko High School**

The board continued to provide technical expertise and advice to the school to aid in the sustainability of the project. During the report period the project had (3) milking cows. The project is currently used as a prevocational activity to equip pupils with skills however pupils are fed milk once a week. The board facilitated a training on dairy business to the students of the school during the reporting quarter. Due to the conditions of the cows, the school was advised to include protein block on their feed.

## **III. Mbalenhle Primary School**

The board has shown continual technical support to the project for its sustenance. During the reporting period the project had five (5) dairy animals all inclusive. Pupils are currently being fed one (1) cup of sour milk once a week, as the project is targeted for orphans and the pupils. The school was advised to feed cut grass and procure hay bales to supplement the feeding of the animals.

## **IV. Motshane High School**

The board has provided continual technical and prevocational support to the initiation of this project. The project objective is to equip the pupils with the technical dairy and entrepreneurial skills. During the reporting period, the school had two (2) dairy animals, 1 milking cow and a male calf. The cow was producing an average of 12L/day. The school feeds the cow on hay mix with molasses. The construction of a milking shed is currently underway.

## **V. Shewula High School**

During the quarter under review, the board facilitated the purchase of dairy cow for the school; the cow is to start producing in the next quarter due to its condition of being heavily pregnant. The school's objective is to feed the pupils and equip them with technical dairy skills.