

Pro-poor dairy development takes regional hold in Eastern Africa: ILRI outcome story 2006

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Through ECAPAPA, dairy policy-makers and regulators in Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda have adopted new institutional approaches and appropriate technologies to harmonise standards and improvement of informal milk markets across the region.

This research was first planned in the 2004-2006 MTP and achieved in 2006. The outputs included development and application of risk assessment methods, testing methods for improving hygiene by informal milk traders and pilot testing of training programmes. These outputs led to regulatory changes allowing improved informal milk markets in Kenya.

ASARECA's policy programme, ECAPAPA, supported by ILRI, used these results to:

- negotiate with dairy policy-makers across East Africa common standards for the East African dairy industry.
- facilitate a process of regional dialogue by policy makers across eastern Africa resulting in an agreement to promote movement of certified milk traders across borders,
- develop and publish training materials for milk quality standards and the certification of smallscale milk traders and accreditation of their trainers and,
- piloting the concept of training and certification of informal milk traders by involving business development service (BDS) providers. ECAPAPA recently facilitated dairy BDS market assessments in Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda to determine areas of viability and pilot projects are expected to follow. The requirements emphasize the use of common training materials and approaches for capacity building of informal milk traders, who provide 90% of the marketed milk in the region. Until these policy changes, informal market agents did not have formal recognition in national policies throughout the region.

Evidence provided to the CGIAR:

Agreement on the East African dairy sector regulators found at <http://ilrinet.ilri.cgiar.org/defaultframe.asp>;

An endorsement of training guides for use in training and certification schemes available at: <http://ilrinet.ilri.cgiar.org/defaultframe.asp>; two synthesis reports (Hooton, 2006; Kurwijila and Omore. 2006) being finalized by the institutions involved.

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