Key messages

• DDF is positively influencing information sharing
• Established in 2013 as an informal forum for policy dialogue and platform to catalyze widespread innovation towards “an inclusive and sustainable development of the smallholder dairy value chain”, should it continue as such? ‘Quo vadis? or Inaelekea wapi?’ Stakeholders ask.
• Can a formalized registered private sector driven DDF be even more effective in catalyzing innovation?

Opportunities to invest and scale

• Public investments in consultations on where to go from here: to remain informal or formalize?
• If formalized: private members to agree on how to support its operations and enhance its effectiveness
• If formalized: Rationalize roles of TAMPA and TAMPRODA vis-à-vis the new DDF becoming a unified voice for the entire industry.

Objectives and approach

• Synthesis of previous DDF proceedings
• Reflections from Maziwa Zaidi (MZ) Theory of Change workshop in Nov 2016, 7th DDF in Jan 2017 and WhatsApp DDF Group discussions
• Collation of views by TDB

Key results

• DDF has potential to marshal stakeholders for impact in the dairy value chain; has succeeded in bringing together stakeholders
• Major success in crystalizing shared stakeholder views and concerns
• Nurtured or influenced formation of platforms in Morogoro, Manyara and Mara regions and in 11 districts in the southern highlands
• Has evolved from support by few MZ projects to become members-driven
• Vibrant discussions of challenges and potential solutions at meetings and through social media: Over 100 members interact regularly
• Increasing participation across all value chain actors
• Potential for stronger business linkages among actors TDB as DDF Secretariat is increasingly playing a visible role in facilitating members’ interactions but is restricted by its ‘statutory’ nature
• Cascading the DDF to local levels and strengthening communication between the national and local levels is still work in progress
• Members are now asking: can DDF formalization as a private-sector driven organization further enhance its effectiveness?