

## USING THE MILK OF LOCAL PRODUCERS FOR MEALS AND SNACKS AT SCHOOL IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

In December 2017 a strategic agreement was established in Dominican Republic to give priority to the use of milk produced in the country to prepare meals and snacks at school.

This agreement aims at offering the students a fresh and good quality product meanwhile consistently giving strength to the national dairy sector.

The Agreement, promoted by the Presidency of the Republic, involves the National Institute of Student Welfare INABIE which manages the School Food Program PAE and the National Council for the Regulation and Promotion of the Dairy Industry CONALECHE.

The objective of the Agreement is to ensure that by the year 2020 all rations of the School Food Program performed by INABIE are nationally produced foods, replacing the use of imported milk powder. CONALECHE will provide the necessary technical assistance to the producers, processors and collection centers that supply dairy products to the PAE, with the purpose to improve the quality and safety of milk achieving sustainability in terms of quantity and quality of the raw material. CONALECHE will also be responsible for certifying the compliance with the purchase of national milk.

The economic impact of this Agreement for local producers is worth of attention because the Government yearly makes use of 57 million liters of milk, investing 3,746 million pesos to supply 1,800 rations of school's meals. According to estimates of the General Directorate of Livestock DIGEGA and CONALECHE, the national livestock production involves around 58,000 producers and among these around 17,000 are especially dedicated to the production of milk.

CONALECHE stressed the importance of the agreement signed with INABIE to support the breeders, so that they can acquire technologies and obtain a higher income in their production. This agreement is framed in a national policy firmly oriented to support the dairy production.

In 2017 FAO awarded the Edouard Saouma Prize to the project of reinforcement of small family dairies executed by the Ministry of Agriculture of Dominican Republic through



CONALECHE in the Provinces of Monte Plata, Hato Mayor, El Seibo and La Altagracia.

The project [Model to increase the level of productivity and access to markets of family dairy producers in the Dominican Republic](#) at the level of farms and collection centres of family producers has contributed to a 50% reduction of the expenses for the purchase of complementary foods for livestock and has increased the income of milk producing families between 15 and 20%, due to the access to better prices of up to 20%, effect of the quality improvement of the milk produced.

The news on the significant agreement established in the Dominican Republic is broadcasted by the [Panamerican Dairy Federation](#), the organisation that associates the actors involved in milk production across America.

### To know more

[INABIE website](#)

[CONALECHE website](#)

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[Article in proceso.com.do](#)

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