

CONTRIBUTION OF LATIN AMERICAN DAIRY SECTOR TO THE SDGS

NEW PUBLICATION OF THE FEPALE FEDERATION

In June 2021 the Pan American Dairy Federation (FEPALE) published the Document [The Dairy Sector of Latin America: its environmental, nutritional, social and economic contribution](#).

The Document is developed in four chapters that illustrate how the dairy production chain generates great benefits in Latin America, especially in four key areas: territories, communities and the progress of rural populations; environmental sustainability and animal welfare; human nutrition; the economy and the addition of value.

FEPALE underlines that the dairy sector is making progress in meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and contributes to them. The Document shows that in the Latin American region the production and consumption of dairy products have a very important role in the economy and food security, since they constitute accessible and economic components of the diet of the populations, with strong roots in local cultures and generating quality jobs.

The Pan American Dairy Federation (FEPALE) was founded in 1991 with the main objective of promoting the development of the dairy chain of the entire region. [FEPALE has partners from 20 countries](#) and is conceived as an integrated chain, open to the participation of all actors related to the dairy sector of any link in the chain: producer associations, industrial or commercial companies, research, control and training institutes, specialized government agencies. The Document has been prepared with the contribution of all these actors.

In addition to supporting the themes of the four aforementioned chapters with updated information and data, the document highlights the key aspects that refer to the contribution of the dairy chain to the development of rural territories and their populations from a perspective of economic and environmental sustainability.

For example, the document shows that the region has approximately 3.3 million milk producers, of which only about 700,000 correspond to a specialized dairy. For the smaller, peasant-type producers, the dairy activity provides a regular source of food and a stream of income. In fact, the process of making its by-products (such as cheeses and others) requires the immediate processing of milk close to the places of origin and the dairy chain is practically the only one that, in addition to generating primary jobs, contributes to strengthening rural areas through job creation in artisanal processing or in small and medium-sized enterprises, with a



positive impact on the development of the territories. The document also highlights the successful ongoing experiences that demonstrate the potential of milk production to generate integrated models of dairy chains involving small producers and private sector enterprises through associative schemes of commercial articulation, strengthening the sustainability of the sector.

In addition, the document emphasizes that the many successful pastoral and silvo-pastoral systems that are being developed in Latin America and the Caribbean countries contribute to protecting the rich environmental biodiversity of their regions and contribute to the conservation, restoration and maintenance of the environmental services provided by the ecosystems to rural and urban communities. In temperate areas where pastures are a fundamental component of agricultural-livestock rotations, these systems contribute to the conservation of soil properties. In the pastoral and silvo-pastoral systems that predominate in the region, the role of ruminant dairy cattle is critical, since they consume natural or implanted vegetation, largely composed of cellulose and lignin, and transform it into foods of high biological value. These systems, that develop in a natural situation, play an important role in the new circular economy, since cows are recyclers of grass, corn stalks, wheat straw and other by-products, converting them into high-quality proteins for human consumption.

The document also mentions the great impact of national programs for the distribution of milk to school children, carried out for example in Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Panama, El Salvador, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil and Chile. These programs, in addition to favoring the development of children and reducing school dropouts, represent at the same time a great opportunity of a new market for local producers, to place their milk providing a direct benefit to the country's population.

The Document, published in Spanish, presents in its final section an extensive bibliographic and scientific documentation on the contributions that the dairy chain of the region makes to society.

Through its Training Institute for Dairy Sector, FEPALE carries out a permanent activity of distance and face-to-face training to improve the production of milk and its by-products adopting sustainable methodologies in all the countries of the region, to strengthen their multiple contributions to society highlighted in the Document.

To know more

[El Sector lácteo de América Latina in FEPALE website](#)

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