PARTICIPATION AND ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE LATIN AMERICAN DAIRY SECTOR

STUDY PUBLISHED BY FEPALE

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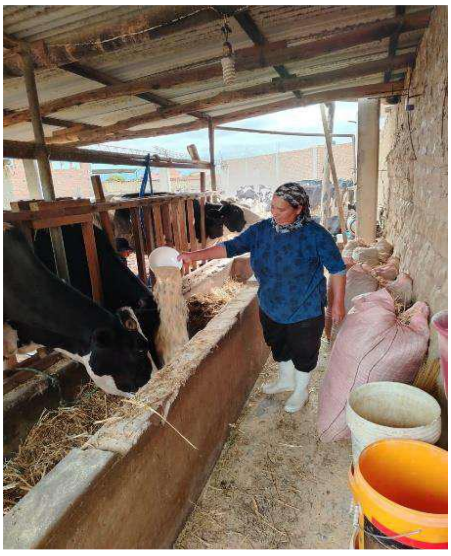
The Dairy Training Institute of the Panamerican Dairy Federation (FEPALE, in collaboration with the U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC), carried out the study *Participation and Role of Women in the Latin American Dairy Sector* and published its findings.

The regional study, which is part of the International Year of the Woman Farmer, highlights the strategic role of women throughout the dairy value chain in Latin America and calls for continued efforts to strengthen their recognition and leadership.



The study was conducted by a team of researchers and was based on a comprehensive methodology that included interviews with women leaders in the dairy sector, focus groups, regional surveys, and interviews with industry associations, as well as an extensive review of literature and documentation. The research, carried out across the region, gathered information from 511 women involved in the dairy sector. These women represented dairy farms of various sizes, ranging from small operations with fewer than 25 cows to large enterprises with more than 200 animals.

The results reveal a sector that increasingly recognizes and values the contributions of women. Women hold between 10% and 30% of jobs across the dairy value chain and hold up to 50% of management positions, reflecting a modern, dynamic, and increasingly inclusive sector.



In primary production, female leadership is also a tangible reality: more than 43% of the study participants are owners or co-owners of their dairy farms. Women play key roles in both production and management, bringing significant strengths such as of adaptability, innovation, and resilience.

The study highlights the high level of education among women working in the sector. A large percentage of the women surveyed are reported to hold higher education qualifications and nearly half possess extensive professional experience in dairy production and related activities. This represents a valuable form of human capital that will help shape the future of the regional dairy industry in the coming decades.

Another significant finding concerns the role of women in the sector's digital transformation. The participants are at the forefront of adopting

new technologies and digital tools, enhancing both the competitiveness and the sustainability of the dairy value chain in Latin America.

In this context, training and professional development remain fundamental. FEPALE works continuously to promote professional growth, and lifelong learning, creating opportunities to strengthen women's participation and leadership throughout the dairy value chain. The study's findings were presented at the Pan-American Dairy Congress, held from July 8 to 10 in Medellín, Colombia. The study was led by a team of experts, comprising Laura Gastaldi, María Rosa Scala, and Alejandro Galetto, with the collaboration of the U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC).

More than just an overview of the current situation, this study serves as a call to action. Recognizing, empowering, highlighting, and supporting female leadership is not merely a matter of equity; it is also an essential requirement for building a more innovative, inclusive, socially sustainable, and competitive dairy sector in the Americas.

Since 1991, FEPALE has served as the dairy organization for the Americas, with the mission of bringing together the region's dairy sector. Its primary objective is to foster the development of the dairy supply chain throughout the region by pooling common interests, resources, skills, and talents, while also acting as a forum for bringing together institutions within the sector.

To know more

News in fepale.org

FAO International Year of the Woman Farmer

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Participation and Role of Women in the Latin American Dairy Sector pdf

Summary of the Study in Spanish

The Dairy Sector of Latin America in FEPALE website

FEPALE website







