



# IDF Leaders Brief

Issue N°14 – May 2012



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*“Addressing the considerable nutritional and environmental challenges brought by population growth, development and climate change will require optimal use of science and public-private partnerships”.*

Interview with **Nico van Belzen**,  
IDF Director General, on page 2

## *Nutrition and Health Aspects of Lactose and its Derivatives: State of the Science*

### *Special Issue of the International Dairy Journal*

Lactose is the sugar uniquely found in the milk of mammals, including humans. The levels of lactose in cow’s milk is between 4% and 6 % and the levels in human milk are slightly higher at between 5% and 8%.

Its role and that of its derivatives in the human diet is often misunderstood, underestimated and undervalued. For many years, lactose was regarded as a constituent of milk that was not of great interest, a commodity product and with little interest as a source for added value products. In its isolated form, its main use was by the pharmaceutical industry as a filler or binder in the manufacture of tablets.

A Special Issue of the International Dairy Journal shows that lactose is far more than merely a source of dietary energy (calories). Among the topics therein is one on lactose intolerance, addressing lactase persistence in Europe and the technological aspects of lactose-free dairy products. Another is a review of the role of lactose in the development of dental caries with specific reference to dental caries in childhood.

Containing nine scientific papers written by internationally recognized experts, this special issue of the International Dairy Journal is the result of the collaboration of our IDF Standing Committee on Nutrition and Health and our Standing Committee on Dairy Science and Technology.

The Special Issue is available for purchase at:  
[www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/09586946/22](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/09586946/22)

## Expert View



*Nico van Belzen is the new Director General of the International Dairy Federation. He shares with us his views on the future of the dairy industry and the crucial role of IDF*

### **Which are the main challenges for the dairy sector in the next 5 years? How can IDF be ready to respond to these challenges?**

Sustainability is one of the key issues facing the dairy industry. Actions to positively respond to sustainability challenges have become more broadly embedded within the dairy sector's strategy.

IDF has established the Global Dairy Agenda for Action with several other major dairy and agri-food organizations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The water footprint of the dairy sector is key for us. A workshop "Towards a Standard Methodology for Water Footprint in the Dairy Sector" was held in Brussels in February 2012. IDF experts, leading researchers and representatives of relevant working groups within the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) came together to identify the context, main issues and methodologies behind water footprinting. Findings of our work will be presented in an IDF guide early 2013.

In the same line, IDF is looking at the interactions and the challenges of dairy nutrition and sustainability to identify environment-friendly practices for the production of nutritious dairy products. From a nutrition point of view, IDF informs and involves the health community and works with experts to advance research on the benefits of milk and dairy products.

Preserving the integrity of milk in the supply chain is part of our commitment. As a result, we produced new guidelines on Integrated Chain Management. Widespread use of this guide will further reinforce consumer confidence in the milk industry's ability to guarantee safe and nutritious products.

Animal feeding is also of critical importance to our sector as it is the first step in milk production, and therefore its impact can be observed at every level of the dairy chain. The IDF/FAO/IFCN World Map of Animal Feeding Systems sets the starting point for the future evolution of animal feeding systems in the dairy sector. The data will allow us to take animal feeding systems into account to further improve milk production worldwide. We will be able to identify and implement solutions tailored to the different needs and requirements of diverse milk production scenarios all over the world.

By addressing the efficiency of milk and dairy production, we address the increasing demand for food on global basis, and in particular protein demand.

### **How can dairy companies take part in these challenges and be part of the solution?**

In just two years, we have already seen widespread uptake from many organizations around the world. For example our sustainability website\* comprises 400 case studies from 50 countries and across the whole chain. We encourage companies to showcase their efforts and demonstrate that the dairy supply chain is working together for a more sustainable dairy. Sharing best practice will promote decision-making based on sound science.

We also encourage companies to send their scientific experts to participate in our activities. Their involvement is crucial if we want to make significant progress in tackling the challenges that our sector faces. For experts, the value of IDF is to gain knowledge of the work of other players in a related field, contribute with their expertise in assisting global actions and promote their activities to stakeholders involved in dairy development.

Addressing the considerable nutritional and environmental challenges brought by population growth, development and climate change will require optimal use of science and public-private partnerships. I look forward to contributing to the work of IDF and to collaborate with other stakeholders to promote safe, nutritious and sustainable dairy products.

\*[www.dairy-sustainability-initiative.org](http://www.dairy-sustainability-initiative.org)



## New Developments at the IDF/ISO Analytical Week

The **IDF/ISO Analytical Week** is an annual platform to progress international standardization of analytical methods for milk and milk products. These methods underpin all aspects of the dairy chain from raw milk testing to manufacturing process control to consumer safety. The 2012 edition will take place in Tel Aviv, Israel, from June 4 to 8.

This year's agenda includes the latest developments on the IDF/ICAR\* joint project to set up an international reference system for somatic cell counting in raw milk. The group is working towards a harmonized worldwide reference system which will safeguard the validity and equivalence of analytical results at any given place or time.

Also on the agenda are several discussions on methods for the determination of nitrogen content and protein content in milk and milk products, including an extensive revision of the Kjeldahl method. The revised Kjeldahl method has now been validated for many globally traded dairy products.

Once published, IDF and ISO aim to submit the revised Kjeldahl method for endorsement to Codex Alimentarius. One of the benefits of the revised method is that it should result in greater harmonisation of protein analysis across the world thereby minimising the risk of trade disputes based on analytical test results.

The Analytical Week will also include a symposium on the hot topic, "Safeguarding dairy food safety". Presentations will focus on managing food safety risks in raw milk production and handling, processing and packaging.

### Who attends the Analytical Week?

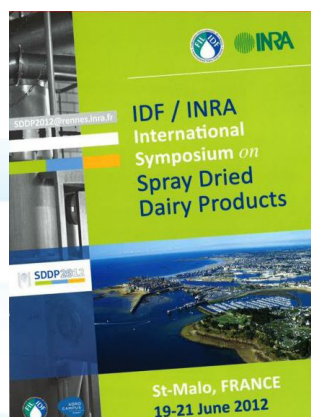
The Analytical Week welcomes experts from private, co-operative, academic or public organisations who have an interest in international standardization of methods of analysis and sampling for the dairy sector.

### Why attend the Analytical Week?

- ◆ Published IDF/ISO analytical methods have become the norm and are applied in dairy laboratories around the world, contributing to the safety and the quality of dairy products in national and international trade.
- ◆ Most new work proposals come from active experts involved in the joint IDF/ISO programme of work, thus providing an opportunity for the dairy sector to steer the development of internationally accepted methods of analysis & sampling.
- ◆ Participants have access to an extensive global network of dairy laboratories and experts.

More information is available at [www.idf-iso-analytical-week.org](http://www.idf-iso-analytical-week.org).

\*International Committee on Animal Recording  
(see [www.fil-idf.org/Public/TextFlowPage.php?ID=37599](http://www.fil-idf.org/Public/TextFlowPage.php?ID=37599))



**Don't miss out!**  
**Register before May 31 and get discounted rates for the**  
**IDF/INRA International Symposium on Spray Dried Dairy Products**  
**in St-Malo, France.**  
**More information at <https://colloque4.inra.fr/sddp2012>.**

## WORLD DAIRY SUMMIT 2012



Cape Town, South Africa | 4 - 8 November 2012

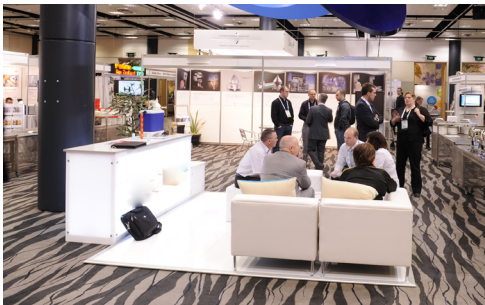
## Real Benefits from Global Exposure at IDF Events

Each year, IDF member countries host topical events and the World Dairy Summit. During each event, companies from the whole dairy chain are invited to present their activities and products in the dedicated exhibitors' area.

A regular participant, David Chedotal, Dairy Sales Manager for Capitol Europe, explained that IDF events are one-of-a-kind opportunities to share, meet and discuss: *"Capitol Europe attends the IDF/ISO Analytical Week and the IDF World Dairy Summit almost every year. IDF events offer excellent networking opportunities with people from different origins and companies, all related to milk production, processing or milk quality testing. It is really beneficial to have them all around in a focused way, around specific presentations."*



Elisa Nistri, Marketing Director Italy for Tetra Pak noted that Tetra Pak should continue to sponsor the event at local level – as it has happened for a number of years now: *"With the World Dairy Summit in Parma, we benefited from the proximity to Modena and the product company over there."*



Mr. Chedotal also underlined the global aspect of World Dairy Summits: *"It opened doors to establish partnerships in Africa, India or Pakistan. It is much easier to develop new business with people we've met directly, we know why they've stopped by our booth and contact is easier knowing us better."*

The 2012 edition of the World Dairy Summit in Cape Town, South Africa, will be yet another platform for companies to interact. Mr. Chedotal noted that he can meet people he may not have been able to approach otherwise: *"In an internet driven world, is it good to socialize and create relations on a face- to-face basis."*



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