

# Dairy Sustainability Synopsis

The European dairy sector is continuously working on improving and implementing the three core pillars of sustainable development. Environmental, economic and social sustainability constitute a reference in the daily work of the European dairy industry as a contribution to bring the world onto a sustainable and resilient path.



## Environment

Dairy is an important actor for climate and the environment. EDA is proud to highlight the relevance of dairy in the wide context of environmental actions – including climate but looking to the broader picture with water and land uses, biodiversity and animal welfare<sup>1</sup>.

## Nutrition

The nutritional benefits of dairy are easily highlighted by many examples; especially the EU School food scheme support<sup>2</sup> and the central place in all existing dietary recommendations<sup>3</sup> – all age groups should be eating dairy between 2 and 4 times a day and each can choose what products suit them best<sup>4</sup>. Dairy also allows the huge benefit of converting inedible plant material like grass into highly nutritious products for humans and thus help nourishing the European and world population.

## Society

The social role as core actor in rural areas, especially many with geographical challenges as mountains, arctic or arid areas is much recognised but not yet enough highlighted<sup>5</sup>. Without dairying many rural areas would bear any economic actor – the animals and the milk processing industry guarantee jobs, education and health infrastructure in many valleys and plains in the EU.

Environment	Nutrition	Society
<b>Where we want to be</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Absolute circularity and virtuous water/energy cycle</li> <li>Conserve waste industry</li> <li>Participate to the global sustainability agenda</li> <li>Sustainable industry</li> <li>Small environmental footprint</li> <li>Net contributor to clean energy</li> <li>Towards a common water reduction practice</li> </ul>	<b>Where we want to be</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play key role in a healthy and well-balanced diet</li> <li>Contribute to a well-nourished world</li> <li>Feed the populations of the future</li> </ul>	<b>Where we want to be</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued status as the economic backbone of rural areas</li> <li>Ensure fair living standards</li> <li>Equality between all sexes, religions and nationalities</li> <li>Continue to provide valuable cultural and economic input</li> </ul>
<b>Where we are</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dairy processes are already highly resource efficient</li> <li>Manure as an effective and environmentally friendly alternative to fertilizers</li> <li>Continuous increases in production per cow, in order to reduce climate impact</li> <li>Helps keep landscapes intact, greening of peripheral areas, carbon sequestration</li> </ul>	<b>Where we are</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dairy herds are able to convert un-edible material into high quality protein</li> <li>Milk is a major global supplier of energy, protein and vital fats</li> <li>Dairy provides essential vitamins and minerals</li> <li>Dairy plays a key role in the development of adolescents and health of the elderly</li> </ul>	<b>Where we are</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dairy contributes significantly to the development of the youngest in societies</li> <li>Dairy animals are a regular source for food and wealth</li> <li>Women have key functions in the dairy processes</li> <li>Milk is rated the top agricultural commodity in value terms</li> <li>The dairy industry ensures livable wages and living standards</li> </ul>
<b>Fact sheets</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The importance of dairy in a sustainable diet</li> <li>Circular Economy</li> <li>Food Waste #1</li> <li>Food Waste #2</li> <li>Dairy Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) project</li> <li>Dairy as an important actor for Climate and Environment</li> </ul>	<b>Fact sheets</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trans Fatty Acids: Q&amp;A</li> <li>Health Benefits &amp; Nutritional Value of Dairy</li> <li>Dairy &amp; Children: A healthy combination</li> <li>Nutrition Goals</li> <li>Milk Fat</li> </ul>	<b>Fact sheets</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New European School Food Scheme</li> <li>How the European dairy sector contributes to the SDGs</li> <li>Dairy contribution to social sustainability</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Our special dairy factsheet shows many projects and contributions: [link](#), and many factsheets on environmental projects and contributions: [link](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Link](#) to factsheet

<sup>3</sup> Importance of dairy factsheet [link](#)

<sup>4</sup> Many more factsheets on nutritional benefits can be found on our websites: [link](#)

<sup>5</sup> A special factsheet will soon be issued on this topic as well.

## Environment

### Where we want to be

- | Absolute circularity and virtuous water/energy cycle
- | Zero-waste industry
- | Participant to the global sustainability agenda
- | Sustainable industry
- | Small environmental footprint
- | Net contributor to clean energy
- | Towards a common water reutilisation practice

## Nutrition

### Where we want to be

- | Play key role in a healthy and well-balanced diet
- | Contribute to a well-nourished world
- | Feed the populations of the future

## Society

### Where we want to be

- | Continued status as the economic backbone of rural areas
- | Ensure fair living standards
- | Equality between all sexes, religions and nationalities
- | Continue to provide valuable cultural and economic input

### Where we are

- | Dairy processes are already highly resource efficient
- | Manure as an effective and environmentally friendly alternative to fertilizers
- | Continuous increases in production per cow, in order to reduce climate impact
- | Helps keep landscapes intact, greening of peripheral areas, carbon sequestration

### Where we are

- | Dairy herds are able to convert un-edible material into high quality protein
- | Milk is a major global supplier of energy, protein and vital fats
- | Dairy provides essential vitamins and minerals
- | Dairy plays a key role in the development of adolescents and health of the elderly

### Where we are

- | Dairy contributes significantly to the development of the youngest in societies
- | Dairy animals are a regular source for food and wealth
- | Women have key functions in the dairy processes
- | Milk is rated the top agricultural commodity in value terms
- | The dairy industry ensures livable wages and living standards

### Fact sheets

- The importance of dairy in a sustainable diet
- Circular Economy
- Food Wastage #1
- Food Wastage #2
- Dairy Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) Project
- Dairy as an important actor for Climate and Environment

### Fact sheets

- Trans-Fatty-Acids: Q&A
- Health Benefits & Nutritional Value of Dairy
- Dairy & Children: A healthy combination
- Nutrition Goals
- Milk Fat

### Fact sheets

- New European School Food Scheme
- How the European dairy sector contributes to the SDGs
- Dairy contribution to social sustainability

<sup>2</sup> [The Dairy Product Environmental Footprint.](#)