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Target Groups

Academic staff, post- and undergraduate students; Enterprises (smallholder farmers, processors, traders, cooperatives, extension services), policy makers and consumers profiting from efficient and good-quality dairy products.



Final Beneficiaries

Scientific and teaching staff, students, enterprises benefiting from knowledge on DVC, and other private or public actors in the dairy sector benefiting from university graduates and policy recommendations.



Strengthening Capacity of Higher Education Institutions in Eastern and Western Africa to Enhance Efficiency in the Dairy Value Chain (DAIRYCHAIN)



...empowering the dairy industry through strengthening of higher education institutions (HEI) and networking with the labour market

The programme is co-financed in the ACP-EU Cooperation Programme in Higher Education (EDULINK II). A programme of the ACP Group of States, with the financial assistance of the European Union.



Programme Description

DAIRYCHAIN aims at contributing to poverty alleviation and income security of smallholders and disadvantaged actors in the Dairy Value Chain (DVC) of Eastern and Western Africa.

The programme is designed to

- Reinforce and intensify exchange and collaboration between HEI in Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana and Europe
- Upgrade the institutions, human resources, including the introduction of inter-disciplinary teaching and problem-solving skills
- Develop curricula for dairy production jointly focusing on the relevance to the needs of the dairy sector and labour market
- Strengthen HEI-labour market linkages as the nucleus of curricula improvement regarding quality and relevance

The estimated results include

- The action has jointly been coordinated, successfully implemented and evaluated
- Smallholder and other disadvantaged stakeholders enabled to be involved in a coordinated dairy sector
- Contribution to national and regional policies to advance dairy development in Kenya, Nigeria and Ghana
- Qualification of students/graduates enhanced through curricula that are entrepreneurial, gender sensitive and focuses on poverty reduction
- Curricula adapted to changing labour market requirements



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- Inter-institutional networking between HEI in Africa and Europe established
- Interdisciplinary research and academic partnership fostered to help in the development of expert knowledge on DVC
- Qualification of academic staff to review, develop and maintain curricula and integrate competence and outcome based learning (COBL) upgraded

Programme Activities

Project management

Ensure progress and success of all activities of the project and that all partners participate in decision-making which is a prerequisite for project success. This activity is promoting gender mainstreaming as a cross-cutting issue in the project.



Stakeholders' fora

Familiarise all stakeholders in each country with the objectives and activities of the project and bring together experts from across sectors and disciplines to adapt projects products into policy briefings.

Labour market needs assessment

To provide labour market demand and supply information, train and guide academic staff in setting up a survey to determine the competences needed, train academic staff in the principles and practice of COBL, design of a questionnaire to determine the labour market needs, discussion on curriculum design based on competence profiles and skill development and assessment of the dairy labour market needs.

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Academic capacity and educational development

Summer schools are organised in each country to deepen lecturers' knowledge and skills in the field of DVC management, Participatory Approaches (PA), COBL, e-learning etc. Curricula is reviewed to make them more entrepreneurial, gender sensitive, practically oriented and meet the needs of the DVC. A curriculum for MDairyScTech is developed together with a system for quality assurance. Academic staff exchange is organised to support human resource development and mobilization of capacity to build new interdisciplinary partnerships and networks while strengthening existing ones.

HEI-labour market linkages

This is through study research projects (action research), internships and mentoring programmes. This is coordinated by desks set up at each partner HEI.

Visibility and knowledge transfer

Research outputs are presented to stakeholders concerned and published as papers or posters. The web site (www.dairychain.org) supports internal and external project communication and interactions. The EU funding is acknowledged on all publications. Symposia are organized. The African Academy of Dairy Sciences (DairyAcademy) is established and hosts the African Dairy Sciences Network (DairyNet) to strengthen education and research capacities.



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