



**CO-ORDINATION, SUPPORT AND PROMOTION OF NEEDS-DRIVEN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN DAIRY INDUSTRY**

(PRJ-0080-2015)

**Dr Heinz Meissner**

**Quarter 1 2015** (January 2015 till March 2015)

**Project goals**

**Goal 1 - Objective 1: To accumulate and publish existing domestic and international scientific knowledge of applicable and practical value to enhance the industry. Task 1: Updating information on the website from the seven most relevant international scientific journals, as previously identified. Fifty research titles per month will be added.**

***Achievements***

Goal 1-Objective 1-Task 1. A total of 161 research titles of the scientific journals "International Dairy Journal" and "The Veterinary Journal" have been added. This equates to 54 per month; target met.

***No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported***

**Goal 2 - Objective 1: To accumulate and publish existing domestic and international scientific knowledge of applicable and practical value to enhance the industry. Task 2: Publications and articles of a popular-scientific nature which would be of functional value to the South African dairy industry will be listed, published on the website and made available for publication in publications such as The Dairy Mail and Milk Essay.**

***Achievements***

Goal 2 - Objective 1-Task 2: These are published on the website under the Heading "Dairy R & D in SA". During the report period a total of 5 were added (see Attachments 1 to 5). In addition, relevant scientific articles are interpreted and sent directly to dairy producers. An example for the report period is: "Invited review: Evaluation of the likely effects of individualized feeding of concentrate supplements to pasture-based dairy cows", which was published in the Journal of Dairy Science, Vol. 98 (2015), pages 1363 to 1401. The authors are Dr J.L. Hills and co-workers.

***No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported***

**Goal 3 - Objective 1: To accumulate and publish existing domestic and international scientific knowledge of applicable and practical value to enhance the industry. Task 3: Research results of importance to the industry will be sourced from local and international sources and interpreted and popularized on the website monthly under the heading "The Research Column". One (1) article per month will be added to The Research Column on the website and made available for publication in publications such as The Dairy Mail and Milk Essay.**

### ***Achievements***

Goal 3 - Objective 1 - Task 3: The target of one article per month to be added to "The Research Column" on the website was met as 6 contributions were made (see Attachments 6 to 11). Some of these were also published in "The Dairy Mail".

***No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported***

**Goal 4 - Objective 1: To accumulate and publish existing domestic and international scientific knowledge of applicable and practical value to enhance the industry. Task 4: The R&D capacities in SA, titles and abstracts of their publications and the work that they are busy with will be updated biannually on the website. This will be done in July before the Forum meetings. (This task will be executed in 2015, as it was done in 2013).**

### ***Achievements***

Goal 4 - Objective 1 - Task 4: This task is scheduled for the second quarter and expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2015

***No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported***

**Goal 5 - Objective 2: To limit research fragmentation and encourage cooperation between R&D capacities towards achieving the strategic goals of the industry. Task 1: To communicate with R&D institutions in South Africa to promote R&D in line with the strategic direction of Milk SA and to promote appropriate interaction and co-operation between the relevant institutions.**

### ***Achievements***

Goal 5 - Objective 2 - Task 1: The M.o.A with the KZN Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has been completed and was scheduled to be signed in the presence of the MEC in January 2015. Unfortunately, the process with the legal authorities takes longer than anticipated; thus, finalization and signing still needs to be done. There is also still delay with finalizing the M.o.A with the Eastern Cape Department, as they require major changes. The CEO is attending to that. Notwithstanding

### ***Non-achievements / underperformance***

The finalization of the MoA with the Eastern Cape

### ***Reasons for non-achievements / underperformance***

Time constraints of the CEO

the delays, these departments are in support of the objectives and guidance of joint projects through the structure of SESCORD. The agreement with the Western Cape is functioning well, with additional contact of the Programme Manager with them through the Western Cape Agricultural Research Forum (WCARF). The latter is valuable as it provides access to other research infrastructure and funding sources. One of the outcomes of this connection was participation of the Programme Manager in one of the "Smart Agriculture" initiatives of the Western Cape in George, being a stakeholder workshop for Dairying in the region. Further communications and visits were with those institutions that are responsible for the R & D projects funded, i.e. UP, UKZN and VNet. See below.

### ***Planned remedies for non-achievements / underperformance***

It is planned to take up the issue in the second quarter.

**Goal 6 - Objective 2: To limit research fragmentation and encourage cooperation between R&D capacities towards achieving the strategic goals of the industry. Task 2: Co-operative Research Networks (CRN's) and the development thereof will be encouraged to increase the chance of project funding and to ensure anticipated deliverables and outcomes - as well as to see how the transformation objectives can best be achieved in so far as R&D can support or add value. In this regard, SESCORD and interaction with National and Provincial Government structures will continue.**

#### ***Achievements***

Goal 6 - Objective 2 - Task 2: The CRN's with respect to the R & D projects are functioning satisfactorily. There is nothing further to highlight.

### ***No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported***

**Goal 7 - Objective 2: To limit research fragmentation and encourage cooperation between R&D capacities towards achieving the strategic goals of the industry. Task 3: The annual R&D Forum where the most prominent researchers and industry leaders will discuss strategic direction and relevant research results will be arranged in the second half of 2015.**

#### ***Achievements***

Goal 7 - Objective 2 - Task 3: The R & D Forum is scheduled for August 2015, but the necessity of a meeting should be discussed by the Advisory Committee R & D as the projects are mostly in the initial phase of execution and therefore the report of progress limited, almost all funds are committed allowing no new projects to be identified and the costs to bring so many forum members to Pretoria.

### ***No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported***

**Goal 8 - Objective 3: To guide the R&D programme by means of effective structural arrangements, administration and fund sourcing. Task 1: Chair the Research Project Evaluation Committee of Milk SA (RPEC).**

### ***Achievements***

Goal 8 - Objective 3 - Task 1: A Meeting of the RPEC was held on 4 March 2015. The Minutes are attached as Attachment 12. The primary discussions were on the finalization and contracts of the projects concerned with liver fluke and mastitis, evaluation of interim reports of the National Disease Monitoring and Extension System and The Microbiological Quality of Milk, and concept proposals on milk flocculation. In addition, memoranda were also put on the table by the Programme Manager concerning: "Managerial and genetic analyses in the SA dairy herd", "Rural development, including environmental challenges and responsibilities" and "Biological control of persistent diseases of livestock". The third Meeting of the Producers Work Group was also held, on 25/26 March, where the Programme Manager reported on progress made on the projects identified as well as the discussion documents mentioned above. The Minutes of the Meeting are not yet available..

***No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported***

**Goal 9 - Objective 3: To guide the R&D programme by means of effective structural arrangements, administration and fund sourcing. Task 2: The administration of R&D requires guidance on structural arrangements, evaluation of project proposals and reports, negotiations on IP, contracts and publication of results.**

### ***Achievements***

Goal 9 - Objective 3 - Task 1: Structural arrangements on the projects that have commenced have been accommodated and the contracts signed. There were no difficult issues regarding IP to negotiate. With the mastitis project on bacteriophage predation of the pathogens by the UKZN, Plant Health Products (PHP) is a co-worker and it was initially thought that PHP could be a co-funder with IP implications. PHP was visited by the CEO and the Programme Manager, and it proofed not to be the case.

***No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported***

**Goal 10 - Objective 3: To guide the R&D programme by means of effective structural arrangements, administration and fund sourcing. Task 3: Invitations for and administration of project proposals will be facilitated and administrated by the office of Milk SA; proposals will be evaluated and recommended by the RPEC to the Milk SA Board of Directors for consideration and possible financial support.**

### ***Achievements***

Goal 10 - Objective 3 - Task 3: An open invitation to research institutions for new submissions were sent out by the CEO in November 2014. As yet, there has been no response. In addition, a Meeting was arranged to establish whether the National

### ***Non-achievements / underperformance***

The possibility to link the National Disease Monitoring Project with the Logix system has not been taken further as yet

Disease Monitoring project can be linked with the Logix system, as this would add considerable value to the information and management support system. It does appear that an interface needs to be programmed at little cost. The idea was to be pursued further early in 2015, but as yet has not received attention.

A Genomics-based selection Programme was submitted by Stud Book and UP for possible funding by the Technology Innovation Agency (outside funder). Milk SA decided to support (no financial implications), because a genomic investigation for possible marker(s) for mastitis control was included. In this context, the project would have added a further dimension to the mastitis programme. Unfortunately, the application was not successful.

### ***Reasons for non-achievements / underperformance***

It is not a priority at this stage

### ***Planned remedies for non-achievements / underperformance***

Discussions will continue after other priorities have been attended to

**Goal 11 - Objective 3: To guide the R&D programme by means of effective structural arrangements, administration and fund sourcing. Task 4: R&D institutions will be guided through the required processes and contracts concluded with successful applicants.**

### ***Achievements***

Goal 11 - Objective 3 - Task 4: Several Meetings were held and correspondence with project leaders conducted to guide with the process and the budgets were finalized. The contracts on the liver fluke and mastitis projects have been signed and the first payments made. The proposals on the milk flocculation problem are still in the discussion/negotiating phase and not expected to be funded in the 2015 fin year.

***No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported***

**Goal 12 - Objective 3: To guide the R&D programme by means of effective structural arrangements, administration and fund sourcing. Task 5: Milk SA's funds for R&D are limited. Sourcing from other institutions is possible, but the process and procedures differ and therefore guidance to the researchers and Milk SA is required. This will be done for approved projects.**

### ***Achievements***

Goal 12 - Objective 3 - Task 5: This was not necessary as Milk SA's funds for commitments in 2015 are sufficient. The Programme Manager nevertheless is pursuing additional funds from other sources. One possibility is the Technology Innovation Fund (TIF) of the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) and another the Research & Technology Fund (RTF) of DAFF, administered by the NRF.

***No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported***

**Goal 13 - Objective 4: To participate in the Water Research Commission's study on water and wastewater management in the South African dairy**

industry in which the Programme Manager acts as evaluator on behalf of the SA dairy industry; and to support an MBA student with her dissertation on environmental studies. Task 1: Coach the MBA student in the approach to and execution of the dissertation.

### ***Achievements***

Goal 13 - Objective 4 - Task 1: Nothing to report

***No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported***

**Goal 14 - Objective 4: To participate in the Water Research Commission's study on water and wastewater management in the South African dairy industry in which the Programme Manager acts as evaluator on behalf of the SA dairy industry; and to support an MBA student with her dissertation on environmental studies. Task 2: To provide input as required by the Water Research Commission and its contractor, the University of KwaZulu-Natal.**

### ***Achievements***

Goal 14 - Objective 4 - Task 2: The Programme Manager evaluated the report of the UKZN and attended a Review Committee Meeting of the WRC on 25 March 2015. The report has several shortcomings as highlighted by the Review Committee. It is nevertheless attached as Attachment 13. It is proposed that once the WRC is satisfied, the report be submitted to the wider dairy industry for comments.

***No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported***

## **Income and expenditure statement**

Income and expenditure statement	<a href="#">Budget 2015.docx</a>
Unnecessary spending during period	No

## **Popular Report**

No file has been uploaded

## **Additional documentation**

[MSA DAIRY R & D IN SA 2015-01-06 - Copy.docx](#)

[MSA DAIRY R & D IN SA 2015-01-10 - Copy.docx](#)

[MSA DAIRY R & D IN SA 2015-02-14 - Copy.docx](#)

[MSA DAIRY R & D IN SA 2015-02-21 - Copy.docx](#)

[MSA DAIRY R & D IN SA 2015-03-22 - Copy.docx](#)

[MSA THE RESEARCH COLUMN Jan 2015 - Copy.docx](#)

[MSA THE RESEARCH COLUMN Jan 2015 \(2\) - Copy.docx](#)

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[MSA THE RESEARCH COLUMN March 2015 - Copy.docx](#)

[MSA NOTNAV071 Minutes RPEC 2015 03 04 - Copy.docx](#)

# Statement

Levy funds were applied only for the purposes stated in the contract	Yes
Levy funds were applied in an appropriate and accountable manner	Yes
Sufficient management and internal control systems were in place to adequately control the project and accurately account for the project expenditure	Yes
The information provided in the report is correct	Yes