



# **Improvement of the quality of milk and other dairy products and compliance with legal standards**

(PRJ-0252-2020)

## **Dairy Standard Agency NPC**

**Quarter 3 2020/2020** (July 2020 till September 2020)

### **Project goals**

#### **Goal 1 - National monitoring of milk and other dairy products in collaboration with Health Authorities**

##### **Achievements**

Operational activities due to the Covid-19 restraints continued to affect the DSA project activities and more specific the National Dairy monitoring program in collaboration with Health Authorities. Combining of sample cycle activities and operational logistics (rescheduling and planning of routes) resulted in optimised project outputs in the circumstances given.

Challenges such as the limited availability of Environmental Health Practitioners to conduct sample collections due to Covid-19 responsibilities (overseeing funerals, tracing of people exposed to virus) and reallocation of resources continued. DSA personnel where possible managed to assist with sampling in various provinces.

The combined sample runs of cycles 73 and 74 were completed as per the revised schedule and the amount of samples per product are indicated in Table 1 below.

Milk (Packed pasteurised)	104				
Milk (Packed UnPasteurised)	4				
Milk (Bulk pasteurised)	36				
Milk (Bulk unpasteurised)	50				
UHT Milk	1				
		Milk total	195		
Hard Cheese	43				
Semi-Hard Cheese	63				
Semi-Soft Cheese	8				

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

Monitoring activities in conjunction with municipal health authorities were limited due the lockdown period.

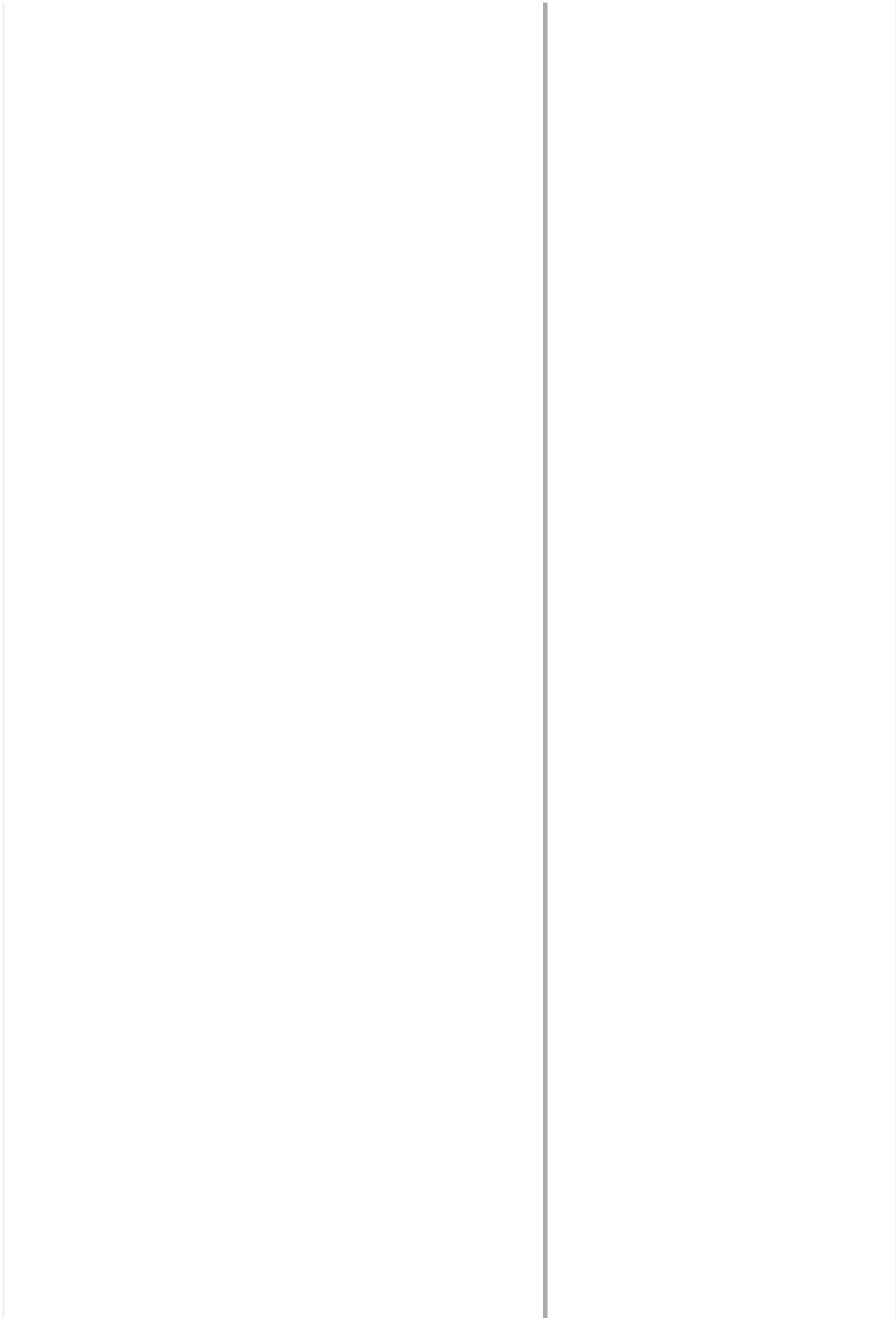
##### **Reasons for non-achievements / underperformance**

Challenges such as the limited availability of Environmental Health Practitioners to conduct sample collections due to Covid-19 responsibilities (overseeing funerals, tracing of people exposed to virus) and reallocation of resources continued. DSA personnel where possible managed to assist with sampling in various provinces.

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

Monitoring activities are expected to return to normal during the last quarter of 2020

Soft Cheese	3				
Processed Cheese	13				
Cream Cheese	14				
Cottage Cheese	9				
Imported Cheese	2				
Cream	53				
Sour Cream	4				
Butter	30				
Cultured Butter	3				
Modified Butter	2				
Cultured Modified Butter	1				
	Products total	248			
	Total overall	443			
	Milk (Packed pasteurised)	104			
	Milk (Packed UnPasteurised)	4			
	Milk (Bulk pasteurised)	36			
	Milk (Bulk unpasteurised)	50			
	UHT Milk	1			
			Milk total	195	
	Hard Cheese	43			
	Semi-Hard Cheese	63			
	Semi-Soft Cheese	8			
	Soft Cheese	3			
	Processed Cheese	13			
	Cream Cheese	14			
	Cottage Cheese	9			
	Imported Cheese	2			
	Cream	53			
	Sour Cream	4			
	Butter	30			
	Cultured Butter	3			
	Modified Butter	2			
	Cultured Modified Butter	1			
			Products total	248	
			Total overall	443	



Samples were submitted to DSA Laboratory Services per standard procedure and the results of milk and other dairy products were benchmarked against food safety, compositional and trade metrology standards as respectively gazetted under the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act 54 of 1972), Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act 119 of 1990) and the Legal Metrology Act, 2014, (Act 9 of 2014). Expansion of the testing regime to include Enterobacteriaceae testing on all milk samples has proven to be successful. The inclusion of Enterobacteriaceae testing as part of the standard analyses for milk and other dairy products, increased the scope of risk identification, as the ability towards pathogen detection and broadened control.

Food safety non-conforming results obtained were assessed and communicated to the participating municipal health authorities for further action. Contact details of participating authorities as well as processors were updated as per standard procedure.

DSA in terms of its project protocol and relationships with the relevant authorities (see project goal 6) continued to liaise with the relevant law enforcement bodies, providing support through dairy technical information and guideline documents to limit the sale of non-conforming products.

## **Goal 2 - Investigations regarding complaints received in respect of product compliance with legal standards**

### ***Achievements***

3 Complaints were received and investigated by the DSA office.  
Full cream fresh -and UHT milk product not adhering to the compositional standards stipulated in R1510/2019.  
Incorrect labelling of drinking yoghurt

Incorrect information printed on milk sachets sold in Gauteng not complying with labeling regulations.

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

### **Goal 3 - Special investigations**

#### **Achievements**

##### 1.3.1 Testing of psychrophiles (*Pseudomonas*) in milk

Testing for psychrophiles (*Pseudomonas*) in milk was included as standard test done on all milk sampled and analysed as part of the National Milk Monitoring Program. This work supports the Risk Identification Project of DSA and also supports the proposed work of the Milk SA Research and Development Project as part of an action plan to further conduct research on the scope of presence of the organism in milk resulting in quality defects (flocculation) in processed milk.

Samples from Project 1 were used for psychrotrophic testing. Milk samples with aerobic counts higher than 100 000cfu/ml (as tested on the Tempo instrument) were cultured for psychrotrophic bacteria since July. Packed pasteurised samples were not used as the initial part of the study showed no significant psychrotrophic growth for these samples.

The presence of *Pseudomonas fluorescence* in bulk pasteurised as well as unpasteurised milk clearly indicated to the fact that retail bulk milk in terms of food safety and quality remain products of high risk as previously confirmed and reported by the DSA. Results obtained could however not be quantified due to limitations of the instrument used.

##### 1.3.2 Milk Powder addition to fresh and UHT milk.

The DSA is working in close cooperation with a competent laboratory to develop a sustainable test method to scientifically proof adulteration off fresh and UHT milk. Milk powder samples were collected for “fingerprinting” as part of the final development stages of the project. The work on this project will continue for the remainder of 2020.

##### 1.3.3 South African’s retail on plant based imitation dairy products

In response to the request by the IDF Plant Based Beverage Action Team to survey the South African retail market for plant-based imitation dairy products[1] a task team, consisting of DSA and CEP of Milk SA was established. The task team started by reviewing existing regulation regarding imitation dairy products as it appears in R1510/2019 and then obtained samples of the products in the South African retail space. The survey was completed and forwarded to IDF by Milk SA CEP. Samples were evaluated and a further report was compiled to be used as supportive information for the work of an industry task team during discussions on imitation dairy products and the use of dairy terms with the aim to review R1510/2019 and make proposals to DALRRD.

[1] Plant-based imitation products: the term refers to all products (beverages, creams, cultured products including cheeses and yoghurt) that are derived primarily from plant-based origin and are competing for the same market share as dairy and /or replace the role of dairy in the diet.

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

### **Goal 4 - Milk and other dairy product risk identification**

#### **Achievements**

##### 1.4.1 Reporting

Participating municipalities received quarterly reports on the analyses done of samples submitted. Non-conforming processors as well as processors whose contact details were verified and who requested to receive test results were provided with individual test reports.

Reports on non-conforming results were forwarded to the respective government departments at the end of Cycle. Each participating municipality received a quarterly report on the analysis done of samples submitted. Non-conforming processors as well as processors whose contact details were verified and who requested to receive test results were provided with individual test reports. 119 Quarterly reports forwarded to Health Authorities are indicated in Table 2.

Table 2

Province	Health Authority offices
MP	13
LP	16
WC	16
NW	18
GA	15
FS	19
NC	1
EC	10
KZN	11

#### 1.4.2 Management information system (MIS) upgrading

Filter options on project reports were upgraded. Applications were upgraded to new a platform to be used on both tablets and cell-phones. The conversion of the current MIS platform (to be compatible with the Microsoft latest platform) started and updating of parameters on products is in the process of alignment with latest regulatory standards.

#### 1.4.3 Food Safety Alerts

National and international food safety alerts for the third quarter of 2020 were monitored. 19 National and international websites were monitored on a weekly basis for possible food safety risks relating to dairy, that may have a public health impact on South African consumers. No further actions were required based the monitoring activities.

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

## **Goal 5 - Remedial action programs with the processors and distributors**

### **Achievements**

Due to the limited shelf life of most dairy products, the follow-up of non-conforming products as to ensure appropriate action by the parties involved, requires prompt action. The activities of projects 1 and 5 provide for an opportunity whereby information regarding non-conforming test results as well as recommendations for corrective actions is effectively communicated to the industry members with whose product/s reflect non-compliance. EHP's were also requested to communicate all test results to relevant parties. During quarter 14 facilities were visited with the focus mainly in Gauteng and Limpopo.

As part of the remedial action program assistance was given to processors on the verification of compliance of product labels against national standards. 30 Various company labels were reviewed and comprehensive feedback reports on each label were communicated to

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

Not all facilities identified were visited as a result of the Covid 19 which reduced the impact of the project significantly.

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

Covid 19 restrictions

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

Planned activities are expected to

processors. The labelling website was also updated with the newest applicable regulations to ensure that it is integrated into the program.

return to normal subject to the Covid conditions

## **Goal 6 - Communication with the authorities and other organisations**

### ***Achievements***

Communication with authorities and other organisations

Department of Health: Directorate Food Control

As a continuous activity, DSA in a supportive role assisted the industry members with queries relating to food labelling, food safety and food additive requirements as well as dairy technical matters. Additional communication related to the participation of the DSA MD in the WTO SPS Committee Thematic Session on Voluntary Third-Party Assurance as part of National SPS Control Systems which is scheduled to take place on 3 November 2020

Municipal Health Authorities

Communication with the municipal health authorities mainly focused on interpretation of food safety legislation and elements of law enforcement as per the health regulations under the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act with specific reference to retail unpasteurised and pasteurised bulk milk, certificates of acceptability.

Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)

i) Directorate: Inspection Services (IS)

Cycle results of the DSA monitoring programmes regarding infringements in terms of the Regulations relating to dairy and imitation dairy products, as a result of the DSA mandate were restricted to communication with the Directorate Food Safety and Quality Control in light of the pending court case between Woodlands Dairy and Milk SA and the DALRRD respondents.

ii) Directorate Food Safety and Quality Assurance – FSQA (policy making)

Communication with FSQA regarding dairy product compositional matters and the interpretation of the Regulations relating to dairy and imitation dairy products continued. Formal communication with DALRRD: FSQA also continued regarding possible revisions of the latest R1510 of 2019 Regulations relating to dairy and imitation dairy.

National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS): Legal Metrology

Standard procedure provides for a quarterly report regarding metrology infringements to the Senior Manager, Inspections: Legal Metrology NRCS. No formal complaints were lodged with NRCS in the third quarter.

South African Bureau of Standards (SABS)

Virtual work group technical committees were attended by DSA on which it serves namely TC 034 SC 17, SC034/05 and SC 10.

### **Communication with other organisations**

Milk SA, MPO and SAMPRO

DSA interacted on a regular basis with the project managers of the Milk SA Consumer Education Project and SAMPRO, MPO as well as the Project Coordinating Committee of the Milk SA (DSA, CEP and R&D Project of Milk SA) of which a scheduled meeting took place in the second quarter.

The Project management of the Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA consulted regularly with the organised dairy industry with specific reference to the actions of the appointment DALRRD Assignee and regulatory matters.

CGCSA: FSI – DSA as member of the Food Safety Initiative (FSI) interacted on a regular basis with the management of FSI regarding matters relating to regulations under the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act and Agricultural product Standards Act as well as new Regulations in terms of the National Environmental Management Waste Act, 2008.

IDF – DSA MD is a member of SANCIDF and of the IDF Standing Committee: Standards of

Identity and Labelling and nominated to the IDF Standing Committee for food additives. Electronic participation with the respective standing committees and action teams continued during the third quarter.

SASDT - DSA MD as member of the management committee of the Northern region participated in the SASDT management meetings.

TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS – DSA serves as a member of the Advisory Boards of the Departments of Environmental Health of the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) as well as Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. The purpose of the advisory boards is to give industry inputs and assist the universities with the development of course material for Environmental Health Practitioners. No meetings were held during the third quarter.

The European Hygienic Engineering & Design Group (EHEDG) – DSA is a member of the SA steering committee - DSA is a member of the SA steering committee and participated in the meeting held on 30 September 2020.

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

### **Goal 7 - Liaison on legislation with authorities and other organisations**

#### ***Achievements***

DSA continued liaison with the authorities regarding the following legislation and standards:

#### **Department of Health: Directorate Food Control**

##### **Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act 54 of 1972)**

Regulations relating to milk and dairy products R1555/1997

Global standards for food additives

#### **DALRRD**

##### **Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act 119 of 1990)**

Regulations relating to the classification, packing and marking of dairy products and imitation dairy products intended for sale in RSA (R1510/2019)

##### **Non-compulsory South African National Standards – SABS**

SABS TC 034 SC 17 - Hygiene practices in the food industry : SANS 10156:202X-Ed2 Handling of chilled and frozen foods.

#### **Codex Alimentarius, ISO and IDF**

Amendments to the "Codex General Standard for Food Additives" (GSFA, Codex STAN 192-1995)

IDF Draft of the latest General Standards for the Use of Dairy Terms

#### **DSA Technical Committee**

Extensive work was done in preparation of the industry meeting on imitation dairy and the use of dairy terms on plant-based beverages and products (R1510/2019) that is to take place during the fourth quarter.

Preparation work on the revision of R1555/1997, Regulations relating to milk and dairy products (food safety). Work is projected to continue during the fourth quarter with the assistance of an outsourced expert.

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

### **Goal 8 - Information and education**

#### ***Achievements***

DSA presents information sessions based on the DSA Code of Practice and related guideline



materials to professional EHP's as well as student EHP's, and other professions such as veterinary and B.Sc. Agric students. Scheduled sessions are only to start once information has been received from the institutions following the end of the lockdown period. In the interim copies of DSA presentations were made available to all lecturers for the attention of students.

On the 15th of September a very successful webinar namely "Introduction to dairy product labelling in South Africa" was held with several prominent speakers presenting on the following topics.

Legal Landscape of dairy

Nutrient Profiling: The story behind this useful tool.

Introduction to the use of the DSA labelling website

A total of 270 delegates registered. As this was only the introduction to the DSA labelling tool, further training workshops will be conducted during 2021.

On 27 and 28 September DSA co-presented with MPO - MPO WEBINAR: CODE OF PRACTICE TRAINING based on the DSA Code of practice for milk producers with approximately 80 delegates registered.

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

### **Goal 9 - Media communication**

#### ***Achievements***

Two advertorials/advertisements relating to DSA laboratory support services and animal welfare were published in the Dairy Mail and Plaas Media and one participation (presentation) interview on a national media platform was conducted.

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

### **Goal 10 - Development of guideline documentation**

#### ***Achievements***

Work on the update of the DSA Code of Practice for Milk Producers with specific reference to biosecurity as well as animal welfare following the publication of the latest SANS 1694, the Welfare of dairy cattle continued during the third quarter. DSA audit criteria-based SANS 1694 has been developed in support of the dairy industry compliance with animal welfare criteria.

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

## **Income and expenditure statement**

Income and expenditure statement	<a href="#">DSA Project PRJ-0252 Quarterly and montly statements.pdf</a>
Unnecessary spending during period	No

## **Popular Report**

[DSA Popular Quarterly report July to September 2020.pdf](#)

## **Additional documentation**

No file has been uploaded

## 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