



Milk SA - Dairy Standard Agency Programme, 2023

(PRJ-0351-2023)

Dairy Standard Agency

Year 2023/2023 (January 2023 till December 2023)

Project goals

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

Achievements

The quarterly sample runs for 2023 were successfully completed as per predetermined schedules. Based on four cycles, an average of 6 metropolitan municipalities, 11 district municipalities and 44 local municipalities participated in the sampling runs, representing all provinces. As per procedure, results of all milk and other dairy products were benchmarked against food safety, compositional and trade metrology standards as per regulation. The DSA, in terms of its project protocol and relationships with the relevant authorities, continuously worked with the law enforcement bodies and provided support through dairy technical information, workshops and guideline documents to limit the sale of non-conforming products.

The annual sample run activities (cycle 83 to 86) were completed as per schedule and the number of samples per product for 2023 compared with 2022 are indicated in Table 1.

The product scope for the different cycles was as follow:

Cycle 83: Milk (raw and pasteurised), fermented products: cultured milk/Amasi, cultured buttermilk, yoghurt (plain & with added foodstuffs), drinking yoghurt and dairy snacks.

Cycle 84: Milk (raw and pasteurised), butter and cream.

Cycle 85: Milk (raw and pasteurised), cream cheese, cottage cheese, cheese and cheese with added foodstuffs, processed cheese and cheese spreads.

Cycle 86: Milk (raw and pasteurised), ultra-high pasteurised (UHT) milk, sterilised milk, flavoured milk, sweetened condensed milk, evaporated milk, dairy powder, dairy dessert.

Table 1 Number of samples per product collected (2022 & 2023)

Dairy product	Total 2022	Total 2023	% Change
Fresh milk in the categories named packed pasteurised and unpasteurised, pasteurised and unpasteurised retail bulk milk	874	782	-10.53
Flavoured milk	56	39	-30.36
Yoghurt including plain, flavoured and yoghurt with added fruit and/or foodstuffs and drinking yoghurt	213	204	-4.23
Cultured milk, cultured buttermilk, buttermilk	146	116	-20.55
Butter	53	52	-1.89
Cream including cultured cream	99	84	-15.15

Cheese (various classes)	265	265	0
Ultra-high pasteurised and sterilised milk	90	66	-26.67
Condensed and evaporated milk	42	31	-26.19
Powdered milk and powdered blends	15	7	-53.33
Dairy desserts and custard	63	61	-3.17
Other	0	4	0
TOTAL	1916	1711	-10.70

Samples were submitted to the 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).

Of notable significance is the integration of Enterobacteriaceae testing into the standard suite of the analyses for milk. This strategic enhancement significantly broadened the scope of risk identification, specifically directed toward the detection and management of pathogens within dairy products.

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.

The DSA, in terms of its project protocol and relationships with the relevant authorities (see project 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.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 2 - Handling of quality problems in respect of product compliance with legal standards

Achievements

The following matters were attended to and investigated by the DSA office:

- a. Adulteration / dilution of fresh milk sold in Western Cape/Knysna area.
- b. Quality of fresh milk sold in KwaZulu-Natal.
- c. Complaints regarding the quality and possible adulteration of fresh milk sold in Gauteng.
- d. Investigation regarding the addition of culture to fresh milk to function as a preservative (*Lactobacillus rhamnosus*).
- e. An inquiry into the compliance of fermented products (kefir), and adherence to national microbiological and quality standards in KwaZulu-Natal.
- f. Four distinct investigations were conducted to assess compliance with labelling requirements for fermented products, specifically kefir.
- g. Labelling– the use of images on labels of drinking yoghurt sold in the Western Cape.
- h. Protein content of Greek style yoghurt sold in South Africa lower as claimed on label.
- a. Investigation into food safety risk of hard cheese sold in KwaZulu-Natal.

Investigations were done and actions where necessary were taken in collaboration with the relevant authorities.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 3 - Special investigations

Achievements

Aflatoxin M1

National screening during all four quarters for the presence of Aflatoxin M₁ in various samples sold in South Africa during 2023 took place to determine levels of compliance.

In conclusion, the analysis conducted during 2023 revealed that 19 out of 782 samples exceeded the established permissible limit of 50 ppt for Aflatoxin M1. This finding necessitates further scrutiny and appropriate action in alignment with regulatory guidelines to ensure food safety and compliance within the realm of fungus-produced toxin tolerances, as stipulated in the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act of 1972 (Act No. 54 of 1972). The report serves as a critical reference for maintaining the safety and quality of food products in accordance with established regulatory standards. Further investigations and remedial actions to address reoccurrence of the non-compliant samples and mitigate potential health risks associated with Aflatoxin M1 were ongoing. Remedial actions were done through project 5. (see below). Sample results were also used for further research relating to the nature, prevalence, and impact on human health.

Psychrotrophic bacteria in milk destined for human consumption.

To deal with the problems caused by psychrotrophic bacteria and the rapid detection in milk, the project namely: "Evaluation and validation of methods for the detection of psychrotrophic bacteria and proteolytic enzymes in milk" was established. The project was commissioned during the second quarter of 2022. Assistance was rendered to the DSA by the Milk SA Research and Development Project (Milk SA R&D) to develop a rapid test method for detection of psychrotrophic organisms in raw milk, of which work was done by the University of the Free State. Based on the method developed, implementation took place during the third quarter of 2023 as part of the ongoing effort to broaden the services provided to the industry and the projects of Milk SA. The final roll out to industry laboratories form part of 2024 activities.

Addition of milk powder to various types of milk (Pasteurised, ESL, UHT and sterilised milk)

Work on this project has been initiated in 2019 and outsourced to an external specialist laboratory to develop the analytical method currently not in existence. The work was supported by conducting internal trials using upgraded adulteration detection software installed on the Milkoscan equipment, to detect the addition of various types of milk powder to different types of milk. Data analyses and interpretation thereof were finalised during the first half of 2023. The research is still in process.

Labelling and advertising on dairy product packaging

Special investigations on product labelling that might contain deceptive claims that can be misleading to consumers took place during 2023. Focus was on the correlation between what is printed on labelling and the content of the product. In 2023, a comprehensive assessment was conducted on 24 product labels. Detailed reports for each evaluation were compiled and shared with the relevant stakeholders.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 4 - Milk and other dairy product risk identification

Achievements

The national dairy monitoring program by the DSA facilitates the sampling of various milk categories, including packed pasteurised and unpasteurised milk, as well as retail bulk pasteurised and unpasteurised milk, along with other dairy products. Sample results as well as interpretation material

regarding food safety and compositional standards for milk and other dairy items were promptly conveyed to the appropriate municipal health authorities and members of the dairy industry upon completion of tests. Critical non-compliance results lists were compiled and disseminated to each province.

A summary report has been prepared to assess the status of raw milk sales within municipalities that permit the sale of raw milk for final consumption under R1555 regulations, as well as municipalities that do not permit such sales. This evaluation is part of the Dairy Standard Agency's National Milk Monitoring Programme (NMMP) for the period spanning 2022 to 2023. There was no notable difference in compliance status between the two groups.

Reporting of results to health authorities

Reports on non-conforming results were forwarded to the respective law enforcement departments at the end of each 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. The total cycle reports forwarded to health authorities for 2023 are indicated in Table 2.

Table 2 Total cycle reports for 2023

Province	Cycle 83	Cycle 84	Cycle 85	Cycle 86	Total
	Health authorities				
Mpumalanga	11	11	11	5	38
Limpopo	11	11	11	9	42
Western Cape	8	8	8	5	29
Northwest	16	16	13	6	51
Gauteng	10	10	10	10	40
Free State	9	9	9	7	34
Northern Cape	2	2	2	7	13
Eastern Cape	7	7	7	0	21
KwaZulu-Natal	12	12	12	8	44
TOTAL	86	86	83	57	312

Software development

Ongoing initiatives in IT and software development, underscore the DSA's commitment to continuously improvement of its technological infrastructure and systems. These upgrades and developments are essential for maintaining efficiency, data accuracy, and compliance across various aspects of the operations. The DSA will continue to monitor and report on the progress of these projects in future updates.

- a. Upgrades to the current Management Information System (MIS):

Significant progress has been made in upgrading the DSA's existing Management Information System (MIS). These upgrades aim to enhance the functionality, efficiency, and overall performance of the system, ensuring that it continues to meet our evolving operational needs.

b. Updates to the laboratory program:

The DSA laboratory program has undergone important updates to improve its effectiveness and reliability. These updates are designed to streamline laboratory processes, facilitate data management, and optimise overall laboratory operations.

c. Upgrades to the audit application:

A project to upgrade the DSA audit application, which plays a critical role in quality assurance and compliance efforts was initiated. These upgrades are intended to enhance the application's user interface, reporting capabilities, and overall usability.

d. New version of the Management Information System in progress:

Currently, developing a new version of our Management Information System (MIS) is underway. This project represents a forward-looking approach to ensure that the MIS remains technologically up-to-date and capable of meeting the evolving demands of our organisation.

National and international food safety and recall monitoring.

National and international food safety alerts during 2023 were monitored. On average of 20 national and international websites were monitored on a weekly basis for possible food safety risks relating to dairy during this year, that could have a public health impact on South African consumers. Seventy-five international dairy related alerts were received during 2023. No further actions were required based on the monitoring activities.

Other relevant information regarding food safety and compositional standards for milk and other dairy products were communicated to the dairy industry and other organisations.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 5 - Remedial programs with producers, 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, required prompt action. Follow up on the activities of project 1 and project 5 provided for opportunities whereby information regarding non-conforming test results as well as recommendations for corrective actions were effectively communicated to the suppliers. Environmental health practitioners (EHPs) were also requested to communicate all test results to the relevant parties.

The DSA technical personnel visited the respective processors, producer/distributors and retailers (milk shops) to discuss the test results (already received) and to assist with the identification of possible causes of the non-conformances and provided recommendations to rectify the non-conformances.

During 2023, 164 visits were paid to processors, producer/distributors (PD's) and milk shops in 8 provinces (Table 3).

Furthermore, the technical personnel from the DSA also extended their support and guidance by visiting EHPs associated with government departments that oversee the processors, producers/distributors, and milk shop retailers. The purpose of this assistance was to streamline the implementation of project 1 by conveying sampling procedures, dairy sample handling practices, and disseminating critical information. This was done with the goal of ensuring the comprehensive sampling of all applicable products in the national dairy sampling program.

As part of the remedial action program, assistance was also given to processors on the verification of compliance of product labels against national standards. The updated labelling website was promoted

during these visits.

Table 3 Visits paid to processors, PD's and milk shops in 2023

Province	Areas visited	Companies visited	E-mails	Further assistance provided
Gauteng	3	6	142	26
Mpumalanga	8	28	42	0
Free State	1	13	35	5
North West	9	29	19	4
Northern Cape	0	0	0	0
Western Cape	10	11	125	11
Eastern Cape	15	19	78	12
Limpopo	5	13	41	17
KwaZulu-Natal	20	45	63	1
TOTAL	71	164	545	76

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 6 - Communication with the authorities and other organisations

Achievements

Department of Health: Directorate Food Control

As a continuous activity, the DSA in a supportive role, participated and assisted the industry members with queries relating to food labelling, food safety and food additive requirements, as well as dairy technical matters. Technical matters such as the incorrect issue of certificates of acceptability in terms of health regulations, nutritional labelling, sale of raw milk received attention.

Technical consultation with the directorate during the revision meeting of R1555/1997 continued in 2023 - supported the technical workgroup of the Milk SA Regulation and Standards project managed by the DSA.

As a continuous activity, the 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. Technical matters such as the amendment of standards in legislation relating to the draft R3337 of 21 April 2023 as well as Codex standards, received priority attention.

Municipal health authorities

During 2023, communication with the municipal health authorities mainly focused on interpretation of food safety legislation and implementation of R638 and R328 on law enforcement as per the health regulations under the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, with specific reference to retail unpasteurised and pasteurised milk as well the sale of raw/unpasteurised milk and cheese took place.

In support of project 1, a letter was forwarded to SALGA (South African Local Government Authorities) encouraging the municipal authorities regarding the continuous participation in the DSA national dairy monitoring programme. These engagements/efforts were followed up by means of radio talks about the health risks of substandard dairy products as per project 8.

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

i) Directorate: Inspection Services (IS)

Communication of cycle results of the DSA monitoring programs regarding infringements in terms of the

regulations relating to dairy and imitation dairy products were limited to the Directorate: Inspection Services, mainly due to effective communication problems.

DALRRD officials of the Directorate Food Safety and Quality Assurance were invited to the DSA to strengthen the standing relationships and introduce the DSA Laboratory Services as well as the DSA management information system from which data is populated.

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

Communication with Food Safety and Quality Assurance (FSQA) regarding dairy product compositional matters and the interpretation of the regulations relating to dairy and imitation dairy products continued in respect of rBST labelling on milk and dairy products. Formal communication with the FSQA also continued regarding the revision of R1510 of 2019 - Regulations relating to dairy and imitation dairy products. A final industry proposal was submitted to FSQA for consideration and consultation.

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 of NRCS. No formal complaints were lodged with NRCS during 2023.

Interaction however took place by means of a webinar regarding fraudulent activities (SANS 289 – under filling and misleading practises by means of oversized packaging materials).

South African Bureau of Standards (SABS)

The DSA participated as member in the activities of the technical committee SABS/TC 070/SC 05, legal metrology - Sale of goods, as well as the SABS/TC 034/SC 17, food products – hygiene practices in the food industry and technical committee.

The DSA continued participation in the review and development of a draft SANS 10156: Handling of chilled and frozen foods.

Virtual meetings of the SABS/TC 070/SC 04, Sale of goods and TC 070, Legal Metrology were attended by the DSA as well as monthly African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) workgroup meetings relating to the SABS/TC 034/SC 05: Milk and milk products.

The DSA managing director serves as the chairman of the Technical Committee SABS/TC 034/SC 05: Milk and Milk Products. The first meeting took place in June 2023 and current attempts are made to improve industry participation.

Correspondence from the SABS in respect of South African National Standards as well as information from the International Standards Organisation were appropriately dealt with and ballot papers on standards were attended to.

COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Milk SA, Milk Producers' Organisation (MPO) and the South African Milk Processors' Organisation (SAMPRO)

The DSA interacted on a regular basis with the project managers of Milk SA's Consumer Education Project, SAMPRO, MPO as well as the Milk SA Coordinating Committee of Milk SA and Milk SA whose scheduled meetings were attended during 2023. A scheduled meeting was also held with the chairman and HUB of the MPO late in 2023 to discuss the DSA lab functions and collaborate on DSA projects for 2024. Extensive contributions were also made to the MPO Nedbank Stewardship Program with successful outcomes.

The SAMPRO general meetings were attended, and a PowerPoint presentation was made regarding the progress of the DSA projects as well as the Milk SA Regulations and Standards Project. The DSA managing director serves as a member of the Dairy Research and Development Committee (DRDC) and its management committee and meetings were attended where possible.

Consumer Goods Council of South Africa: Food Safety Initiative (CGCSA: FSI)

The DSA as a 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 – Front-of-pack labelling and the draft R3337;

Agricultural Product Standards (APS) Act and bill;

Regulations: Protection of geographical indications;

Food loss and waste; and

Follow-up discussions regarding assignees appointed under the APS Act.

Collaboration on the front-of-pack labelling initiative continued in 2023 together with the Milk SA Consumer Education Project and industry members in respect of the proposed use of warning signs on dairy products regarding milk fat, sugar and salt on front-of-pack labelling regulations.

European Hygienic Engineering & Design Group (EHEDG)

The DSA is a member of the South African steering committee of the EHEDG. Two meetings were held with the South African committee manager during 2023, which resulted in a successful webinar on hygienic design of equipment under project 8.

International Dairy Federation (IDF)

DSA's managing director is a member of the South African National Committee of the International Dairy Federation (SANCIDF) and of the IDF Standing Committee: Standards of Identity and Labelling and nominated to the IDF Standing Committee for food additives and the technical secretary of SANCIDF. Relevant standing committee meetings and related webinars were attended.

16-19 OCTOBER 2023 IDF WORLD DAIRY SUMMIT: CHICAGO ILLINOIS, USA

The managing director attended the above summit with an immersive program put together for more than 1200 dairy leaders, processing experts, dairy farmers, suppliers to the dairy industry, academics, government representatives, and others. The summit delivered four days of programs, including eight main sessions and 21 break-out sessions that focused on a spectrum of topics such as experiences regarding chemical residue control, testing regimes and analytical methods, disease control, labelling of dairy products (use of dairy terms), animal welfare and import/export.

South African Society of Dairy Technology (SASDT)

The DSA's managing director and staff members serve on the management committees of the Northern and Western regions and participated in the SASDT management and national strategic planning meetings during 2023 as well as a SASDT webinar and student evening, which was partly sponsored by the DSA. The DSA members also presented at the SASDT National Symposium in April 2023. The Western Cape final meeting for 2023 was attended by three DSA staff members.

South Africa National Consumer Union (SANCU)

The DSA is a member of SANCU however limited meeting attendance took place due to the nature of agenda items outside the scope of the DSA.

Tertiary institutions

The 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 University. The purpose of the advisory boards is to provide industry inputs and assist the universities with the development of course material for environmental health practitioners (EHPs). Two meetings were attended by Mrs J Odendaal, project manager of the DSA during 2023.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 7 - Liaison on legislation with authorities

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)

The publication of the incorrect version of the draft regulations relating to the labelling and advertising of

foodstuffs on 31 January 2023 resulted in regular interactions between the DSA, Consumer Education Project of Milk SA, the Task Team and the Department of Health (DOH). Comments to Department of Health were withheld on anticipation of the withdrawal of the wrong version and republication of the correct one. Final comments were submitted in July 2023.

The DSA liaised with the directorate in respect of the formal use of the Lactoperoxidase system (LPS) by the organised dairy industry under controlled conditions.

Department of Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)

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

Revision of the regulations relating to the classification, packing and marking of dairy products and imitation dairy products intended for sale in the Republic of South Africa (R1510/2019) was finalised and submitted to DALRRD. A special information webinar was arranged by the Milk SA Regulations and Standards Project during 2023 to inform industry members of the latest developments in this regard.

Other communication with the department related to the deployment of working relations with the Directorate Food Safety and Quality Assurance and Directorate Inspection Services regarding law enforcement and interpretation of regulations.

Upon an invitation, European Union (EU) and DALRRD representatives paid a visit to the DSA Offices and Laboratory on 8 December 2023, during which, the National Chemical Residue Programme was discussed as well as further actions such as veterinary procedural notices relevant to exports to the EU and other countries.

South African National Standards (SABS) and African Standardisation Organisation (ARSO)

The managing director of the DSA serves as chairman of the SABS TC 034/SC 05 regarding milk and milk products. The first meeting for TC 034/SC 05 took place in June 2023. Dr Mark Chimes as the project manager of the Milk SA Sustainability Project: Animal Health and Welfare has also joined the working groups on "The welfare of dairy cattle and transportation of livestock".

Regular correspondence between the DSA and the SABS occurred with formal comments addressed under the Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA. The SANS 1694 and 1488 relating to the welfare of dairy cattle and the transport of livestock received priority attention in the preparation of comments to SABS and final submission to the standards writer is expected during the second half of 2024.

Interactions with SABS related to the administration and role of South African members and conveners in the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) TC 04 took place. ARSO's monthly and planetary meetings were well attended during 2023. Several dairy compositional standards have been drafted relating to various species of milk.

International Dairy Federation (IDF), Codex Alimentarius and International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and European Union (EU)

As representative of the SA National Committee of IDF (SANCIDF), the managing director of the DSA participated in the respective IDF standing committee and action team meetings. The IDF comments on front-of-pack nutritional labelling were followed through and used as part of the information forwarded to the South African Codex contact point for the purpose of discussion at the next South African preparation meeting of the Codex feedback sessions. The management also requested the participation of South African delegates to present at the IDF SCIL meeting on the latest development of its draft R1510/2019, dairy compositional standards.

As a representative of the SANCIDF, the managing director of the DSA also attended the IDF dairy Summit in Chicago in 2023. Extensive work programmes were developed during the standing committee meetings planned for 2024.

Comments on IDF and Codex draft documents were also shared with the South African Codex contact point. Coordination and consultation between the DSA and the Milk SA Consumer Education as well as Research and Development Project of Milk SA were very useful.

The Dairy Standard Agency Technical Committee (DSA TC)

Preparation work on matters such as imitation dairy and the use of dairy terms on plant-based beverages and products (R1510/2019), that took place in 2022, and continued during 2023. This work also supports the project work of the Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA.

The work relating to the revision of R1555 of 1997, in support of the Research and Development Project of Milk SA, has been extended to May 2023.

The establishment of a rapid test method for the early detection of psychotropic bacteria at farm level continued. Procurement of laboratory equipment was finalised in 2023.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 8 - Information and education

Achievements

Insightful dairy information workshops, based on the DSA Codes of Practice and related guideline materials, were presented to different role-players (professional EHPs, milk producers, milk shops and milk processors) around the table. The workshops were presented at the municipalities below:

- 21 February 2023 at Ficksburg, Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality with 8 attendees.
- 24 February 2023 at Clarens, Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality with 8 attendees.
- 24 April 2023 at the University of Johannesburg with 32 students attending.
- 11 May 2023 at Mbombela, Ehlanzeni District Municipality with 36 attendees.
- 23 May 2023 on MS Teams, eThekweni District Municipality.
- 3 August 2023, the Dairy Standard Agency participated in the University of Pretoria-Dairy School for veterinary students by presenting a session attended by 70 students.
- 4 September 2023 at The Tshwane University of Technology with 44 students attending.
- 13 September 2023 at the Durban University of Technology with 26 students attending.
- 20 September 2023 at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology with 16 students attending.
- A dairy information session for student EHPs was presented on 25 October 2023 at the Nelson Mandela University (NMU) with 41 students attending.
- The DSA also took part in a workshop with professional EHPs at NMU on 25 October 2023 where the current environmental health challenges in the Eastern Cape were discussed.

With the presented webinars in 2021 and 2022 the scope of the audiences was widened to cover other interested parties. Due to the positive rating of the webinars and on popular demand, another 10 webinars were lined up for 2023:

The **first webinar**, on 5 April 2023 was attended by 175 people and the topic was “Sharpen your pencil on dairy legislation”.

The **second webinar**, on 26 April 2023 with topic “rBST – Friend or Foe?” was attended by 77 people. “The Fear Factor in Microbiological Automated Test Methods” was the topic of the **third webinar** on 24 May 2023 and attended by 61 people.

The **fourth webinar**, on 28 June 2023 was attended by 33 people and the topic was “Design criteria and factors important for effective cleaning in place”.

The **fifth webinar**, on 26 July 2023 was attended by 176 people and the topic was “The key to effective sampling of milk and dairy products in the trade”.

The **sixth webinar**, on 30 August 2023 with the topic “The process of certifying detergents and disinfectants fit for use in the dairy industry” was attended by 39 people.

“Public health risks related to the consumption of raw milk and dairy products made from raw milk” was the topic of the **seventh webinar** on 27 September 2023 attended by 84 people.

The **eighth webinar**, on 25 October 2023 was attended by 50 people and the topic was “The prudent use of agricultural chemicals on dairy farms”.

The **ninth webinar**, on 22 November 2023 with topic “Managing flies on dairy farms” was attended by 57 people.

“Increase your profits with dairy farm animal welfare” was the topic of the **tenth and final webinar for 2023** on 4 December 2023 and attended by 39 people.

Effectively this project reached 791 people on dairy technical information matters via formal platforms during 2023. This is an increase of approximately 19% compared to the 663 of 2022. Recordings of all the webinars on the Dairy Standard Agency’s website are useful to re-cap or for interested parties not able to attend the webinars.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 9 - Media communication

Achievements

The DSA signed a 2023 contractual agreement with Plaas Media, which ensures the DSA media related work are covered by a wide variety of platforms, also focussing on the electronic media. The publication of advertorials and advertisements started in March 2023. Approximately thirteen radio talks on regional radio stations in collaboration with the Consumer Education Project of Milk SA were done.

The DSA advertising was also done through the 10 annual scheduled webinars and the DSA website.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 10 - Development of guideline documentation

Achievements

The initial project work on a desktop study, collecting and compiling of legal standards and listing active chemical substances for the purpose of drafting an industry guideline took place in the first half of 2023 by means of visits to the national office: Veterinary Public Health as well as the Western Cape: Provincial State Veterinarian office. This guideline document coincided with the planned work of establishing an national chemical residue monitoring programme in collaboration with DALRRD. The work continued until end of 2023 but is incomplete and will continue in 2024.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	December 2023 Statements - CORFIN151-PRJ0351 .pdf December 2023 Statements - CORFIN173-PRJ0351 .pdf
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

[DSA Annual Popular Report for 2023.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