



Milk SA - Dairy Standard Agency Programme, 2024

(PRJ-0366-2024)

Dairy Standard Agency

Year 2024 (January 2024 till December 2024)

Project goals

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

Achievements

The quarterly sample runs of 2024 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 87-90) were completed as per schedule and the number of samples per product for 2024 compared with 2023 are indicated in Table 1.

The product scope for the different cycles was as follow:

Cycle 87: Milk (raw and pasteurised), fermented products: cultured milk/Amasi, cultured buttermilk, yoghurt (plain & with added foodstuffs), drinking yoghurt and dairy snacks.

Cycle 88: Milk (raw and pasteurised), butter and cream.

Cycle 89: Milk (raw and pasteurised), cream cheese, cottage cheese, cheese and cheese with added foodstuffs, processed cheese and cheese spreads.

Cycle 90: 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 (2023 & 2024)

Dairy product	Total 2023	Total 2024	% Change
Fresh milk in the categories named packed pasteurised and unpasteurised, pasteurised and unpasteurised retail bulk milk	782	766	-2.05
Flavoured milk	39	35	-10.26
Yoghurt including plain, flavoured and yoghurt with added fruit and/or foodstuffs and drinking yoghurt	204	175	-14.22
Cultured milk, cultured buttermilk, buttermilk	116	113	-2.59
Butter	52	60	15.35
Cream including cultured cream	84	96	14.29

Cheese (various classes)	265	237	-10.57
Ultra-high pasteurised and sterilised milk	66	59	-10.61
Condensed and evaporated milk	31	22	-29.03
Powdered milk and powdered blends	7	7	0
Dairy desserts and custard	61	39	-36.07
Other	4	1	-75.00
TOTAL	1711	1610	-5.90

One of the causes for the reduction in sample submissions related to the interference of the food-and-mouth disease outbreak.

Samples were submitted to the DSA Laboratory Services per standard procedure and the results of milk and other dairy products were benchmarked against the **following legislation:**

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

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

Legal Metrology Act of 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.

In line with project protocols and existing relationships with relevant authorities (as outlined in Project 6), the DSA continued its collaboration with law enforcement agencies. The DSA provided support through the dissemination of dairy technical information and guideline documents, aimed at curbing the sale of non-conforming products. Work relationship agreement, planning, project information as well as applicable documentation and records to be submitted during sample runs for 2025 were revised and forwarded to all participating health authorities.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

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

Achievements

Matters that were attended to and investigated by the DSA office included a variety ranging from incorrect labelling of dairy products, contaminated packaging material, inferior quality of goat milk products, product composition of UHT milk, misleading labelling of ice cream regarding its content, microbiological analysis of soft serve, chemical analysis of raw milk and cheese sold in KwaZulu-Natal, added water in raw milk and unlawful health claims on dairy products.

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

4.1.3.1 Aflatoxin M₁

National screening during all four quarters for the presence of Aflatoxin M₁ in various samples sold in South Africa during 2024 took place to determine levels of compliance.

In conclusion, the analysis conducted in 2024 revealed that 55 out of 766 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). Further investigations and remedial actions to address the 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.

4.1.3.2 Labelling and advertising on dairy product packaging

Special investigations regarding suspect product labelling such as misleading claims took place during 2024. The focus was on the correlation between what is printed on labelling and the content of the product. Comprehensive assessments were conducted on 69 dairy product labels. Detailed reports for each evaluation were compiled and shared with the relevant stakeholders.

4.1.3.3 Report: Investigation into chlorates and perchlorates in milk and dairy products

(i) Background and objective

An investigation was initiated to assess the potential risk of chlorates and perchlorates in milk and dairy products in South Africa. The study's primary objective was to evaluate this risk by sampling retail milk, with samples selected based on estimated market share. The total sample population was limited to 60 samples.

In this study, chlorates were detected in 36.67% of the 60 samples tested, with 3.33% exceeding the maximum residue limit (MRL) of 0.1 mg/kg. Perchlorates were detected in 23.33% of samples, of which 18.33% exceeded the 0.01 mg/kg MRL. These findings suggest the need for a root cause analysis to understand the primary sources of contamination better.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 4 - Milk and other dairy product risk identification

Achievements

The national dairy monitoring program of 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 in collaboration with the municipal health authorities.

Upon completion of testing, the results, along with interpretations related to food safety and compositional standards, were promptly communicated to relevant government authorities and industry stakeholders. Comprehensive analyses of the results highlighted non-conformances, underperformance, and associated risks. Lists of critical non-compliance results were compiled and disseminated to each province for further action.

4.1.4.1 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 of samples submitted. Non-conforming processors as well as processors whose contact details were verified and those who requested to receive test results were provided with individual test reports. The total cycle reports forwarded to health authorities for 2024 are indicated in Table 2.

Table 2 Total cycle reports for 2024

Province	Cycle 87	Cycle 88	Cycle 89	Cycle 90	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

4.1.4.2 Software development and risk mitigation

Recent developments and ongoing projects in the realm of information technology and software development within the Dairy Standard Agency (DSA):

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

The upgrading of the DSA's existing Management Information System (MIS) was completed in 2024. These upgrades aimed to enhance the functionality, efficiency, and overall performance of the system, ensuring that it continues to meet our evolving operational needs. The development of a new version of the DSA Management Information System (MIS) was completed. This project represents a forward-looking approach to ensure that the MIS remains technologically up-to-date with limited risks relating to IT safety and security as well as capable of meeting the evolving demands of the organisation.

b. Updates to the laboratory program:

The DSA Laboratory program has also undergone important updates to align reporting with requirements as stipulated in the pre-audit assessment to successfully comply with SANAS accreditation requirements. Work was also done on the security of the system and integration with MIS functionality. The development of a new version of our DSA Laboratory data-capturing system was completed, and the program has been successfully deployed.

c. Upgrades to the DSA audit application:

Project initiation

A project to upgrade the DSA audit application, which is integral to the organisation's quality assurance and compliance efforts, was initiated in the first half of 2024. The objective of the upgrade was to improve the application's functionality, focusing on enhancing the user interface, reporting capabilities, and overall usability.

Ongoing initiatives in IT and software development underscore the DSA's commitment to continuously improve 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.

4.1.4.3 National and international food safety and recall monitoring

Twenty national and international websites were monitored every week for possible food safety risks relating to dairy during this year, that could have had a public health impact on South African consumers. Sixty-four national and international food safety-related alerts were reported. No further actions were required based on the scope of the products involved.

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

Table 3: National and international food safety risks reported – 2024

	FOOD SAFETY ALERTS - 2024
Salmonella	8
Campylobacter	8
L. monocytogenes	24
E. coli	8
Bird Flu (H5N1)	2
Foot and Mouth	1
Foreign matter	2
HPA	1
Staph. Aureus	1
Improper Pasteurisation	1
Yersinia	1
Undeclared allergens	1
Lactococcus	1
Microbial contamination	1
Illegal sale (raw milk)	1
Mould	1
Food safety	1
Spoilage	1
Total # of reported cases	64

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 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, producers/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 2024, a total of 207 visits were paid to processors, PDs and milk shops, of which in Gauteng (42), Mpumalanga (40), Free State (28), North West (3) Western Cape (8), Eastern Cape (16), Limpopo (21) and KwaZulu-Natal (49), were visited. (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 labeling website was promoted during these visits.

Table 3 Visits paid to processors, PD's and milk shops in 2024

Province	Regions within provinces visited	Companies visited	E-mails	Further assistance provided
Gauteng	31	42	201	63
Mpumalanga	17	40	53	3
Free State	16	28	50	13
North West	1	3	35	9
Northern Cape	0	0	0	0
Western Cape	3	8	252	7
Eastern Cape	9	16	105	11
Limpopo	13	21	55	12
KwaZulu-Natal	28	49	79	17
TOTAL	118	207	830	135

4.1.5.1 Supplier overview

Suppliers of dairy products intended for human consumption include a range of entities such as:

Producer-distributors (farmers selling dairy products directly to consumers)

Producer-distributor processors (farmers adding value to dairy products and selling to consumers)

Milk shops (retail outlets selling dairy products)

Milk shops & processors (retail outlets adding value to dairy products and selling to consumers)

Processing facilities (facilities adding value to dairy products and distributing through retail channels)

Distributors (facilities responsible for distributing value-added dairy products)

4.1.5.2 Project 1.5 implementation

Building on the activities of Project 1.1, Project 1.5 provides a structured approach for effectively communicating test results to suppliers. Results are shared via email or WhatsApp reports, ensuring timely and transparent communication. Additionally, environmental health practitioners (EHPs) are requested to communicate all test results to the relevant parties, further supporting the dissemination of critical information.

4.1.5.3 Supplier Visits

Visits to suppliers are conducted based on their compliance status. The objective of a visit is to recommend corrective actions and maintain relationships and ensure continued compliance.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 6 - Communication with the authorities and other organisations

Achievements

4.1.6.1 Department of Health: Directorate Food Control

The DSA in a supportive role to industry, liaised with the directorate regarding queries relating to food labeling, food safety and food additive requirements, as well as dairy technical matters. Technical-related matters such as:

The amendment of standards relating to the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act (Act 54 of 1972), the draft R3337 of 21 April 2024 as well as Codex standards, impacting on national legislation.

The use of the Lactoperoxidase system in unpasteurised milk under controlled conditions.

4.1.6.2 Municipal health authorities

During 2024, communication with the municipal health authorities focussed on the interpretation of food safety legislation under the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, with specific reference to hygienic processing, packing and retail of milk as well the sale of unpasteurised milk and food safety risks related to dairy products. The abovementioned actions were a result of an action plan to make law enforcement officers aware of the dangers of non-compliant products in retail.

4.1.6.3 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. Appropriate actions were still under investigation to improve the system of law enforcement effectively and appropriately.

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

Formal communication with the Directorate: 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 concerning rBST labeling on milk and dairy products. Formal communication with the FSQA 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 and matters were dealt with under the Regulation and Standards Project of Milk SA. Further actions regarding regulatory matters were also dealt with by the Milk SA Regulations and Standards Project.

4.1.6.4 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 2024.

4.1.6.5 South African Bureau of Standards (SABS)

The DSA participated as a 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.

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 04: Milk and milk products.

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. Further consultations were dealt with under the Regulation and Standards Project of Milk SA. The general manager of DSA continued to serve as chairman of the SABS/TC 034/SC 05 – Milk and milk products.

COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

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

The DSA interacted regularly with the project managers of Milk SA's Consumer Education Project, SAMPRO, MPO as well as the Project Coordinating Committee of Milk SA of which the first meeting took place on 20 March 2024. The DSA general manager serves as a member of the Dairy Research & Development Committee (DRDC) of Milk SA and its management committee and meetings were attended. The MPO Large Herds conference was attended at the beginning of 2024.

All SAMPRO's general meetings were attended, and PowerPoint presentations were made regarding the progress of the DSA projects as well as the Milk SA Regulations and Standards Project.

The Milk SA Project Coordinating Committee established to promote communication between Milk SA projects and improve effectiveness was well attended by DSA.

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

The DSA as a member of the Food Safety Initiative (FSI) interacted regularly with the management of FSI regarding matters relating to:

Regulations under the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act: Front of Pack Labelling;

Agricultural Product Standards (APS) Act and draft regulation regarding management control systems;

Food loss and waste;

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

During 2024, the CGCSA:FSI Compliance Committee meeting as well as the Assignee Forum meetings were attended.

4.1.6.8 European Hygienic Engineering & Design Group (EHEDG)

The DSA is a member of the South African steering committee of the EHEDG. Interactions for 2024 included the hosting of a DSA webinar of EHEDG as a guest speaker.

4.1.6.9 International Dairy Federation (IDF)

DSA's general manager 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.

4.1.6.10 South African Society of Dairy Technology (SASDT)

The DSA's general manager and staff members served on the management committees of the Northern and Western regions and participated in the SASDT management and national strategic planning meetings during 2024. The DSA members also presented at the SASDT National Symposium in May 2024, where Mr Burger presented on international regulatory matters.

The DSA contributed to the preparation of events including the student evening at the University of Pretoria as well as the SASDT Western Cape meeting in September 2024.

4.1.6.11 South Africa National Consumer Union (SANCU)

The DSA as a member of SANCU, presented at the general meeting in September 2024 on the actions of the DSA in respect of promoting the compliance of dairy (food safety, compositional and metrology) with legal standards in the interest of the industry and the consumer.

4.1.6.12 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 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 (EHPs).

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 7 - Liaison on legislation with authorities

Achievements

The DSA continued to liaise with the authorities regarding the following legislation and standards:

4.1.7.1 Department of Health: Directorate: Food Control

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

Following the industry submission of comments regarding R3337 - draft regulations relating to the labelling and advertising of foodstuffs in 2023, no further feedback was received. The DSA continued to liaise with the directorate with respect to the formal use of the Lactoperoxidase system (LPS) by the

organised dairy industry under controlled conditions and a favourable response was received in the beginning of 2024.

Response upon industry submission of comments concerning the regulations relating to the labelling and advertising of foodstuffs (R3337) in 2023 by the Department of Health is only expected during the first quarter of 2025.

4.1.7.2 Department of Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development (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 the Republic of South Africa (R1510/2019) was finalised and submitted to DALRRD. No target date has been provided yet for the first publication by DALRRD regarding the draft.

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.

Extensive work regarding the National Chemical Residue Programme was carried out as well as requirements relating to export to China and the EU. The work included comments regarding the revision of veterinary procedural notices relevant to exports to the EU and other countries.

Directorate Veterinary Public Health

Weekly foot-and-mouth disease meetings (FMD Technical and Trade) were attended, where possible and interaction with the director and team took place regarding the establishment of a field and PCR test as surveillance mechanism in the Eastern Cape food-and-mouth disease (FMD) affected areas. The establishment of the DSA Brucellosis Laboratory and corrections on non-conformances indicated by the directorate received priority attention. A separate annual report Annexure B) deals with the establishment and activities on the DSA Brucellosis Lab.

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

The general manager of the DSA serves as chairman of the SABS TC 034/SC 05 regarding milk and milk products. 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 Standards Writer was approached by Dr Mark Chimes regarding SANS 1694 and 1488 relating to the welfare of dairy cattle and the transport of livestock.

Interactions with SABS related to the administration and role of South African members and conveners in the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) TC 04. The ARSO's monthly and plenary meetings were attended during 2024. Several draft standards have been published for comments in different stages of completion as the work of TC 04 is nearing the final stages of designated tasks.

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

As a representative of the SA National Committee of IDF (SANCIDF), the general manager of the DSA participated in the respective IDF standing committee and action team meetings and also served as technical secretary of the South African Committee of the IDF.

The SANCIDF and related IDF standing committee meetings were attended with comments on IDF drafts to Codex. 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 the Research and Development Project of Milk SA were very useful.

IDF - Following the success of the first deep dive webinars on the General Standard for the Use of Dairy Terms (GSUDT) covering France (including EU law), Australia, the United States, India and Mexico, a third webinar was scheduled to explore additional countries. Mr Burger presented the current regulations in South Africa concerning dairy product labelling together with Norway and Japan.

The IDF/ISO Analytical Week is an annual event, organised under the aegis of the IDF and ISO TC034/SC05 - Milk and milk products. The week provides the facility for dairy laboratory managers, dairy scientists and analytical professionals to network and exchange ideas on the latest developments in analytical solutions and the launching of new initiatives. This year the event took place from 24 to 27 June 2024 and was hosted by Zimbabwe. Mr Burger attended the following meetings:

Standing Committee on Analytical Methods for Composition (SCAMC).

Standing Committee on Methods for Dairy Microbiology (SCMDM).
Standing Committee on Laboratory Statistics and Quality Assurance (SCLSQA).

As per the Milk SA contractual agreement, all relevant correspondence and comments, where applicable, were shared with Milk SA and industry stakeholders as well as reporting to the South African National Committee of the IDF (SANCIDF).

Preparatory work of the standing committees for the 2024 IDF World Dairy Summit in France continued during the third quarter of 2024.

Codex: The South African Preparatory Codex Committee meetings such as the Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) held on 9 September 2024 and the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) on 10 September 2024 were attended.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 8 - Information and education

Achievements

The DSA presents information sessions based on the DSA Codes of Practice and related guideline materials to professional environmental health practitioners (EHPs) as well as student EHPs, and other professions such as veterinary and B.Sc. Agric students.

Dairy information sessions for student EHPs were presented at:

Cape Peninsula University of Technology on the **6th of March 2024** with **37 students** attending

University of Johannesburg on the **8th of March 2024** with **67 students** attending.

Mangosuthu University of Technology on the 6th of August 2024 with 109 students attending.

Durban University of Technology on the 8th of August 2024 with 21 students attending.

Tshwane University of Technology on the 3rd of September 2024 with 62 students attending.

Nelson Mandela University on the 9th of September 2024 with 21 students attending.

Monthly webinars to share relevant information with the dairy industry and interested role-players form part of the project plan:

The **1st webinar**, on 28 February 2024 was attended by 106 people and the topic was “Recent development in the dairy regulatory landscape”.

The **2nd webinar**, on 20 March 2024 with the topic “Understanding lameness in dairy cattle” was attended by 59 people.

The **3rd webinar**, on 30 April 2024 was attended by 42 people and the topic was “DSA Lab Services... making a difference in the dairy industry”.

The **4th webinar**, on 15 May 2024 with the topic: “Fermentations that play a role in cheese making and cheese ripening”, was attended by 44 people. After the 4th cheese fermentation webinar, the DSA received numerous requests for assistance with challenges experienced during cheesemaking.

It was well thought out with the **5th webinar** to present a second cheese webinar with the topic: “Let’s troubleshoot cheesemaking and get solutions to your challenges”. This webinar was attended by 91 people.

The **6th webinar**, on 17 July 2024 was attended by 31 people and the topic was “Dairy Calf Welfare-Trends, suggestions and solutions”.

The **7th webinar**, on 22 August 2024 with the topic “Safety aspects of pesticides on dairy farms” was attended by 39 people.

The **8th webinar** featured the topic “Let’s explore The Dairy Matrix” and was attended by 26 people on the 18th of September 2024.

The **9th webinar**, on 23 October 2024 was attended by 54 people and the topic was “A practical approach to hygienic design of dairy equipment”.

The **10th webinar** and final webinar for 2024 featured the topic “Practical solutions to high somatic cell count in dairy herds” and was attended by 50 people on 20 November 2024.

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.

Effectively this project reached 542 people on dairy technical information matters via formal platforms in

2024.

Due to the positive rating of the webinars and on popular demand another 10 webinars are lined up for 2025.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 9 - Media communication

Achievements

In 2024 the DSA signed a contractual agreement with Plaas Media, which ensures that DSA media-related work is covered by a wide variety of platforms, also focussing on electronic media (Facebook, LinkedIn). This media-related work included:

- the writing of technical/scientific, semi-technical and popular articles;
- writing of press releases;
- the publication of articles on the service provider's various platforms (printed and online);
- sending out articles and press releases to the general agricultural media; and
- the design of advertisements for publication in agreed-upon and relevant publications and online platforms.

In addition to this, the DSA also received the following:

- Free interviews on RSG Landbou and Plaas TV relating to all article and press release content;
- Free placement of technical articles in Veeplaas and Stockfarm; and
- Free exposure and article placement with other websites and publications.

The outcome of this service was to increase the DSA's and their affiliates' exposure within agricultural media. Feedback media reports were received and sent out on a monthly basis to stakeholders during 2024.

The development work was completed, and the new website was also successfully launched.

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 legal standards and listing active chemical substances to draft an industry guideline took place in 2023 through visits to the National Office: Veterinary Public Health as well as the Western Cape: Provincial State Veterinarian office. This guideline document coincides with the planned work of establishing a national chemical residue monitoring program in collaboration with DALRRD. The work is to continue in 2025.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	December 2024 - CORFIN151 - PRJ-0366.pdf
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

[DSA Annual Popular Report for 2024 Final.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