



South African National Committee of the International Dairy Federation (IDF)

(PRJ-0431-2026)

South African National Committee of the International Dairy Federation

Quarter 1 2026 (January 2026 till March 2026)

Project goals

Goal 1 - Maintain South Africa's membership of the International Dairy Federation (IDF) Ensure that IDF and IMP membership fees are paid before 31 March each year, taking advantage of favourable exchange rates where possible.

Achievements

The primary objective of this project is to maintain membership of the IDF by ensuring that the membership fees of both IDF and IMP are paid before 31 March each year, at the most favourable exchange rate possible.

The IDF membership fee for 2026 was set at €46 500 and was paid on 12 February 2025 at a Rand value of R886 898.

The International Milk Promotion (IMP) membership fee has not been paid by SANCIDF due to budget constraints. However, the Consumer Education Project (CEP) of Milk SA has indicated that it will cover these fees in the interim.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 2 - Ensure appropriate South African representation on IDF bodies Review and maintain representation of suitably qualified South African experts on IDF Standing Committees, Action Teams, and other technical bodies.

Achievements

The current list of South African experts serving on IDF bodies was recently reviewed and updated. Experts who indicated that they no longer wish to serve were removed, and all fields of expertise were reconfirmed to ensure accurate representation across the various IDF working areas.

While representation remains strong in several areas, certain committees and task forces continue to have limited or no South African representation and will be addressed in future recruitment efforts. No new experts were added during this reporting period.

The current list of South African experts:

South African Experts:

Management level

Board of Directors

Melt Loubser

Food Standards Steering Group

No representation

General Assembly

Melt Loubser

Maretha Vermaak

SPCC

No representation

Sustainable Steering Group

No representation

Standing Committees

SC Animal Health and Welfare

Dr Mark Chimes

SC Analytical Methods for Additives and Contaminants

Thabang Rampa

SC Analytical Methods for Composition

No representation

SC Analytical Methods for Processing and Indicators

No representation

SC Dairy Policies and Economics

Dr Ndumiso Mazibuko

Bertus van Heerden

SC Dairy Science and Processing Technology

Anneke van Niekerk

SC Environment

Dr Colin Ohlhoff

Enrike Maree (observer)

Dr Heinz Meisner

SC Food Additives

Thabang Rampa

Chane Pretorius

Azel Swemmer

SC Food Hygiene

Prof Elna Buys

SC Farm Management

Bertus van Heerden

SC Laboratory Statistics and Quality Assurance

No representation

SC Marketing

Christine Leighton (IMP)

SC Methods for Dairy Microbiology

Prof Elna Buys

Chane Pretorius

SC Nutrition and Health

Maretha Vermaak

Hettie Schönfeldt

Louise Gottsche (observer)

SC Residues and chemical contaminants

Thanbang Rampa

Anneke van Niekerk

SC Standards Identity and Labelling

Thabang Rampa

Prof Elna Buys

Anneke van Niekerk

Task forces

TF Digital Innovation

No representation

TF Plant-based Foods

Christine Leighton

Maretha Vermaak

TF Paris Dairy Declaration

Melt Loubser

TF Protein from Dairy Perspective

No representation

TF Food System Summit

Maretha Vermaak

TF Women in Dairy

Maretha Vermaak

TF Processing

No representation

TF The Place of Dairy in Protein Transition

Maretha Vermaak

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 3 - Facilitate timely and appropriate South African input into IDF activities Coordinate and ensure that South African representatives provide technical inputs and comments to IDF consultations and work items within the prescribed deadlines.

Achievements

IDF sent out two questionnaires within the first quarter:

Questionnaire 0226/SCMDM Heat-processed milk and dried milk products — Enumeration of thermoresistant spores of thermophilic bacteria ISO/DTS 27265 | IDF/RM 228

Milk and milk products — In vitro digestion protocol for the determination of protein digestibility and in vitro digestible indispensable amino acid score (DIAAS) ISO/DIS 24167 | IDF 261

The National Secretary consulted with the various South African Experts and submitted South Africa's response in a timely manner.

National committee also had to vote on the proposed New Work items for 2026. Following the review of New Work Item (NWI) proposals by the IDF Science and Programme Coordination Committee (SPCC) at its meeting on 28 January 2026, ten proposals were submitted to IDF National Committees for consultation and voting, in accordance with IDF procedures.

The proposed NWIs reflect the breadth of IDF's scientific, technical and communication activities and respond to current and emerging needs of the global dairy sector. They were developed by IDF Standing Committees and Task Forces and reviewed by the SPCC to assess their relevance, scope, feasibility and alignment with IDF's strategic objectives.

Overview of the 10 NWI topics

The ten proposals submitted for NC voting cover the following topics:

1. Revision of the IDF/ISO standard on sampling of milk and milk products
2. Transfer of guidance on milking management from ISO standards to an IDF guideline
3. Guidance on the application of the ROHA rule for foot and mouth disease in milk and milk products
4. Revision of IDF/ISO guidance on the application of mid infrared spectrometry for milk analysis
5. The role of dairy in healthy aging
6. Positioning the role of dairy in plant based diets
7. Mass balance chain of custody for greenhouse gas reporting in the dairy sector

8. Peer reviewed article on paratuberculosis control programmes
9. Low methane dairy cows: quantification of genetic variation and implications for mitigation
10. Guidelines for milk line, air line and vacuum pump sizing Comment on the voting outcome

Overall, the voting results indicate strong support from National Committees for the proposed work programme. South Africa indicated their support for all proposed work items.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 4 - Advocate the work of the IDF within the South African dairy sector Promote awareness of IDF activities and encourage participation by identifying and recruiting South African dairy experts to contribute to relevant IDF working areas.

Achievements

The National Secretary promptly share all communication received from the IDF with the relevant experts.

During the executive meeting of the South African National Committee of the IDF (SANCKIDF), held on 31st of March 2026, a strategy to promote the IDF to proposed additional members and experts were discussed. It was decided that promotional material to promote the IDF, what it stands for and how members can benefit from the IDF will be updated. The National Secretary will identify potential new associate members and will promote the work of IDF and SANCIDF to potential members. SANCIDF will also plan a specific event for 2027 which will be the 60th anniversary of South Africa's membership to the IDF.

Milk SA also present a printed report every year to showcase the work of individuals that attended the World Dairy Summit. This proposed report has not been printed yet and will be available later within 2026.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 5 - Promote the annual World Dairy Summit (WDS) Promote participation in the WDS among South African dairy industry stakeholders by sharing promotional materials with SAMPRO, DALRRD representatives and South African Standing Committee members, and through articles in relevant dairy industry publications.

Achievements

The 2026 IDF World Dairy Summit will be held in Auckland New Zealand from 15 - 20 November 2026.

Registration is now open and potential candidates can register for attendance. The IDF World Dairy Summit is the flagship global gathering of the dairy sector. It will take place from 15–20 November 2026 at the New Zealand International Convention Centre in Auckland, New Zealand. Under the theme “Healthy People, Healthy Planet, Healthy Economies,” the Summit will bring together dairy farmers, processors, scientists, policymakers and industry leaders from around the world to explore the future of dairy through science, sustainability, innovation and

global collaboration.

The National Secretary shared the announcement of the WDS registration that is now open with all experts and encourage them to share it within their network. Members were also encouraged to present their work by sending in abstracts for presentations and posters. Mrs Chane Preorius has handed in her proposal for a poster presentation.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 6 - Facilitate South African participation at the World Dairy Summit Enable a delegation of two SANCIDF representatives to attend the World Dairy Summit.

Achievements

During the Executive meeting of SANCIDF, held on the 31st of March 2026 the committee nominated the following South African Experts to attend the IDF WDS in New Zealand:

Milk SA made provision to send three delegates: Mr Melt Loubser from the IDF Board of Directors and current SANCIDF President; Mr Collin Olhoff, Deputy Chair SC Environment and Dr Mark Chimes SC Animal Welfare. Representation from the various Milk SA project's will be: Mrs Christine Leighton (CEP of Milk SA), Chair of SC Marketing, Maretha Vermaak (CEP of Milk SA), National Secretary and SCNH member, and Mr Bertus van Heerden (Economies and Markets) , SC Dairy Policies and Economics. Currently SANCIDF will sponsor one delegate, Mrs Anneke van Niekerk, SC Standards Identity and Labelling. SAMPRO will also be sending one delegate, Dr Ndumiso Mazibuko, SC Dairy Policies and Economics.

Total of eight representatives from South Africa has been nominated. Finalisation of these delegates attendance will be addressed in the third quarter.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 7 - Ensure industry feedback following WDS participation Ensure that WDS delegates submit a written report and provide meaningful feedback to the South African dairy industry within one month of returning from the Summit, in accordance with the SANCIDF reporting requirements.

Achievements

SANCKIDF in collaboration with Milk SA ensures that full reports are received from all participants attending the World Dairy Summit. In 2025 the World Dairy Summit was held in Santiago, Chile. The theme of the Summit was Nourishing a sustainable world.

South Africa had eight representatives attending the Summit and one invited speaker, Prof Renee Blaauw from the University of Stellenbosch. All representatives completed and provided reports and feedback on the different disciplines they represented as well as feedback on pre-Summit business meetings. These reports were made available and were discussed during the annual SANCIDF members meeting, held on the 31st of March 2026.

A publication which includes all the reports as well as relevant photos of the event will be published in the third quarter.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 8 - Disseminate WDS reports to levy payers Compile and distribute an electronic collection of all delegates' reports to levy payers and relevant industry stakeholders.

Achievements

This will be issued in the third quarter of 2026. Full reports as presented at the SANCIDF members meeting in March 2026, are attached to this report.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 9 - Obtain annual reports from South African representatives on IDF bodies Collect and compile annual reports from South African experts serving on IDF Standing Committees, Action Teams and other technical bodies.

Achievements

Primary representatives of the different IDF bodies need to provide full reports on their SC's performance. Reports for SCM, SCNH, SCDPE, SCSIL, SCE, SCAW, SCDST have been received and are part of the feedback attached to this report. Outstanding are reports from SC Farm Management, SC Methods for Dairy Microbiology and SC Food Hygiene is still outstanding. These should be collected and available by the end of the second quarter.

Non-achievements / underperformance

No performance reports have been received from the representatives of the following Standing Committees: SC Farm Management, SC Methods for Dairy Microbiology and SC Food Hygiene.

Reasons for non-achievements / underperformance

No timely submission of these reports by the respective representatives.

Planned remedies for non-achievements / underperformance

National Secretary will follow-up with the applicable representatives and get feedback before end of June 2026.

Goal 10 - Increase awareness of IDF publications and outputs Promote access to IDF publications (Bulletins, Standards, and Newsletters) by publishing relevant information on the Milk SA website and in industry publications such as The Dairy Mail and Milk Essay.

Achievements

For the first quarter of 2026 IDF produced 1 Fact Sheet, 2 International Standards, 9 Notices of webinars and symposiums and 5 News Items

Fact sheet:

Factsheet of the IDF N°48/2026: IDF Dairy Cattle Welfare Forum: Key Insights from the 2025 Meeting

International Standards:

ISO 16958 | IDF 231: 2026 - Milk, milk products, infant formula and adult nutrition — Determination of fatty acids composition — Capillary gas chromatographic method
ISO 7889 | IDF 117: 2026 - Yoghurt — Enumeration of characteristic microorganisms — Colony-count technique

Notices of Webinars:

9th Symposium on Sheep, Goat, Camel and other non-bovine milk – 9-11 February 2026 – Anand (IN)
Women driving the future of Dairy: Celebrating the International year of the Women Farmer – 11 March
Latest updates on Food-based Dietary Guidelines in the United States – 12 February
Artificial Intelligence in the Dairy Sector: Practical Applications from Farm to Processing: 13 April
Dairy Farmer Round Table: Animal Care – 24 March
Towards more holistic Food System Sustainability: Why nutrition matters in Life Cycle Assessment – 31 March
Save the Date: Nutrition and Health Symposium: Lactose 360°: - From biology to emerging benefits – 21 May
IDF/ISO Analytical week 2026, 5-7 May 2026, Bern
ICAR 2026 Annual conference and interbull meeting, 29 May – 5 June 2026, Verona

News Items:

IDF Team update March 2026
Timetable of Meetings
Call for submissions:
IDF Dairy Innovation Awards, 2 March 2026, Online submission, Award Ceremony
IDF Professor Pavel Jelen Early Career Scientist Prize, 1 June 2026, Online submissions
IDF WDS presentations and poster abstracts

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 11 - Recruit associate members to strengthen SANCIDF participation and sustainability Encourage additional organisations and individuals within the South African dairy value chain to become associate members of SANCIDF, thereby increasing industry exposure to IDF work and strengthening financial sustainability.

Achievements

An action plan to recruit more associate members are in process. The proposal was made during the annual Exco meeting in March, and a list of possible members will be identified after which an action plan will be established.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	SANCIDF Financial statement Q1 Mar 2026.pdf
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

[Popular report Q1 2026.docx](#)

Popular report and Additional documentation

[PRESIDENT's report.docx](#)

[Report - Melt Loubser - 01.11.2025.docx](#)

[Report - Melt Loubser \(Addendum\).docx](#)

[MV Report IDF annual report 2025 FINAL.docx](#)

[IDFGEN159 WDS 2025 report - Christine Leighton - word version.docx](#)

[Colin Ohlhoff SCENV March 2026 Annual Report.docx](#)

[Colin Ohlhoff SCENV March 2026 Annual Report.docx](#)

[Mark Chimes WDS verslag 2025.docx](#)

[Report prepared by Anneke van Niekerk - WDS 2025 - Shortened.docx](#)

[Final Summary 2025 IDF Business Meetings and WDS Report Ndumiso.pdf](#)

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