



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

(PRJ-0440-2026)

South African National Committee of the International Dairy Federation

Quarter 1 2026 (July 2026 till September 2026)

Project goals

Goal 1 - Maintain South Africa's Membership of the International Dairy Federation

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 fees of €1000-00 (R19 459-62) have been paid by Milk SA on the 26th of May 2026.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 2 - Review and Maintain South African Representation on IDF Bodies

Achievements

The current list of South African experts serving on IDF bodies is up to date.

Representation remains strong in several areas. Mr Melt Loubser serve on the IDF Board of Directors for a second term. Dr Colin Ohlhoff is the deputy chair of the Standing Committee Environment; Mrs Christine Leighton is the chair of the Standing Committee Marketing; and Maretha Vermaak is the Action Team Leader of the IDF School Milk Programme. However, certain committees and task forces, specifically in the technical area, continue to have limited or no South African representation and will be addressed in future recruitment efforts.

New experts added during this reporting period: Mr Jeandre Johnston, Task Force on Dairy Perspectives in Processing-based Food Classifications (TF-DPFC); Standing Committee Dairy Science and Processing Technology; and Standing Committee Marketing.

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

Colin Ohlhoff

Standing Committees

SC Animal Health and Welfare

Dr Mark Chimes

Deon Gallus

Inge Marie Petzer

SC Analytical Methods for Composition

No representation

SC Analytical Methods

No representation

SC Dairy Policies and Economics

Dr Ndumiso Mazibuko

Alwyn Kraamwinkel

SC Dairy Farming

Bertus van Heerden

SC Dairy Science and Processing Technology

Anneke van Niekerk

Jeandre Johnston

SC Environment

Dr Colin Ohlhoff

Enrike Maree

Dr Heinz Meisner

SC Food Hygiene

Prof Elna Buys

Chane Pretorius

SC Farm Management

Bertus van Heerden

SC Laboratory Statistics and Quality Assurance

No representation

SC Marketing

Christine Leighton (IMP)

Enrike Maree

Alwyn Kraamwinkel

Jeandre Johnston

SC Methods for Dairy Microbiology

Chané Pretorius

Nala Manamela

SC Nutrition and Health

Maretha Vermaak

Louise Gottsche

Prof Corinna Walsh

Standing Committee of Analytical Methods for Additives & Contaminants

Thabang Rampa

Azelle Swemmer

SC Residues and chemical contaminants

Thabang Rampa

Anneke van Niekerk

Chané Petorius

Azel Swemmer

Niele Erasmus

SC Standards Identity and Labelling

Thabang Rampa

Anneke van Niekerk

Chané Petorius

Task forces

TF Paris Dairy Declaration

Melt Loubser

TF Women in Dairy

Christine Leighton

TF The Place of Dairy in Protein Transition

Maretha Vermaak

Task Force Greenhouse Gases Mitigation Strategy

Colin Ohlhoff

Task Force on Dairy Perspectives in Processing-based Food Classifications (TF-DPFC)

Jeandre Johnston

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 3 - Facilitate South African Participation and Inputs into IDF Work

Achievements

IDF sent out three questionnaires and three surveys within the third quarter:

- IDF Quest 0426/SCLSQA: ISO/DIS 13366-1 | IDF 148-1 - Milk — Enumeration of somatic cells — Part 1: Microscopic method (Reference method)
- IDF Quest 0526/SCLSQA: ISO/DIS 13366-2 | IDF 148-2 - Milk — Enumeration of somatic cells — Part 2: Flow cytometry method
- *IDF Quest 0626/SCAHW*: Guidelines for interpretation of goat milk somatic cell count (SCC) in the dairy industry
- An international survey on the use and reuse of water in dairy processing
- *IDF Survey on GHG Mitigation*
- IDF World Dairy situation 2026 report
- IDF Country updates survey for the joint Country Report IDF SCDPE and SCM

The National Secretary consulted with South African experts and submitted South Africa's responses to the relevant IDF surveys within the required timeframes, where input was available. However, South Africa could not complete the survey on water reuse in dairy processing. Despite repeated efforts by the National Secretary, with assistance from the Dairy Standard Agency, to obtain the required information from various contacts, no responses were received. Consequently, South Africa was unable to provide the necessary data for submission. This may reflect limitations in the availability of the required data or the extent to which relevant information is currently being measured and documented within the sector.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 4 - Advocate the Work of IDF within the South African Dairy Sector

Achievements

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

Promotional material promoting the IDF, what it stands for, and how members can benefit from it is being updated. The National Secretary will continue to identify potential new associate members and will promote the work of IDF and SANCIDF to potential members. The Milk SA World Dairy Summit 2025 report has been compiled and is being printed. Distribution will take place in November 2026, and several copies will be shared with IDF National Secretaries during the WDS in New Zealand.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 5 - Promote Participation in the World Dairy Summit

Achievements

The 2026 IDF World Dairy Summit (WDS) 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.” As the IDF’s flagship global event, the Summit brings together dairy farmers, processors, scientists, policymakers and industry leaders to exchange knowledge and explore developments in dairy science, sustainability, innovation and global collaboration.

The National Secretary continued to promote participation in the Summit by sharing the registration announcement with South African experts and members and encouraging them to circulate the information within their networks. Early bird registration closed at the end of July. Members were also encouraged to showcase South African expertise by submitting abstracts for oral and poster presentations and nominations for the IDF Innovation Awards.

Two poster presentations submitted by Mrs Chané Pretorius and Mrs Tania Blignaut were accepted, while Dr Mark Chimes was scheduled to present on the state of foot-and-mouth disease in South Africa. With the Summit approaching, the focus has shifted from promoting registration and submissions to supporting South African representation and participation at the event.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 6 - Facilitate South African Participation in the World Dairy Summit

Achievements

A total of eight candidates were accepted to attend the IDF World Dairy Summit and business meetings in New Zealand from 12 to 20 November 2026.

The following candidates will be attending the World Dairy Summit:

Mr Melt Loubser, SANCIDF President and IDF Board member

Dr Colin Ohlhoff, Vice Chair, Standing (SC) Environment

Mrs Christine Leighton, Chair SC Marketing; IMP

Mrs Maretha Vermaak, National Secretary; delegate SC Nutrition and Health

Mrs Chane Pretorius, delegate SC Food Additives; Methods for Dairy Microbiology; Residue and Chemical contaminants; Identity and Labelling

Mrs Anneke van Niekerk, delegate, Identity and Labelling; Residue and Chemical contaminants

Dr Mark Chimes, SC, Animal Health

Mrs Tania Blignaut, a new delegate attending the WDS only, and presenting a scientific poster

All the South African delegates accepted to attend the 2026 IDF World Dairy Summit have completed the necessary travel and administrative arrangements. All delegates registered before the early-bird registration deadline at the end of July, and their flights and accommodation have been booked. The required visas have been issued, and all claims relating to expenses already incurred have been submitted and processed. These arrangements ensure that the delegates are prepared to participate in the Summit in Auckland, New Zealand, from 12–20 November 2026.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 7 - Ensure Feedback and Knowledge Transfer Following WDS

Achievements

To ensure effective knowledge transfer and feedback to the South African dairy industry following the IDF World Dairy Summit (WDS), all eight delegates received and signed a formal Delegate Agreement before the Summit. The agreement stipulates that each delegate is required to submit a comprehensive written report covering the IDF Business Meetings, Standing Committee and Action Team meetings, technical sessions attended during the Summit, as well as relevant networking and social events. Delegates are also encouraged to include photographs where appropriate. In accordance with the SANCIDF reporting requirements, all reports must be submitted to the National Secretary within eight weeks of the final day of the Summit (by 18 January 2027). These reports will form the basis for disseminating key outcomes and international developments to the South African dairy industry and relevant stakeholders.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 8 - Compile and Distribute Delegate Reports

Achievements

This 2025 report is being printed and will be issued and distributed at the end of October 2026.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 9 - Obtain Annual Reports from South African IDF Representatives

Achievements

Annual reports from all South African delegates who attended the IDF World Dairy Summit 2026 in New Zealand must be submitted no later than 18th of January 2027.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 10 - Disseminate Information on IDF Publications

Achievements

During the third quarter, the IDF changed its communication approach, with information previously provided through a comprehensive list of publications, knowledge-transfer opportunities and NC updates. A new approach to information was shared through the 'IDF World' email newsletter, focusing more on social media reports. The August and end-September editions of the IDF World highlighted international developments across the dairy sector, including food standards, sustainability, climate action, nutrition, food systems and innovation. The updates also featured progress on the Paris Dairy Declaration on Sustainability, including commitments from 175 dairy organisations across 42 countries, and promoted the IDF World Dairy Summit 2026 and World School Milk Day.

These communications provide a useful channel for keeping South African dairy stakeholders informed about IDF activities and international developments.

The IDF did not publish any Bulletins, fact sheets, standards, or technical guidelines in the third quarter. Feedback was presented on the EAT-Lancet 2025 publication, where IDF presented an in-depth assessment and implications for dairy. This is a comprehensive, evidence-based report and a very useful tool.

The only webinar that was hosted was the one by the Action Team on School Milk Programmes: *Delivering Cost-Effective Nutrition: The Role of Dairy in School Feeding Programmes*

The limited communication is mainly due to the Northern Hemisphere's extended summer holidays.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 11 - Recruit Associate Members to Strengthen SANCIDF

Achievements

An action plan to recruit more associate members is in progress, and we will identify a list of potential members. Marketing material to promote the South African IDF Committee and its work has been updated. A draft version has been compiled for circulation to the Executive Committee.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	SANCIDF income and expences (September 2026) Mikhall.xlsx
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

[SANCIDF_Popular_Report_Q3_2026_.docx](#)

Popular report and 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