



DECLARATION BY THE ORGANISED DAIRY INDUSTRY: SEPTEMBER 2022

- THE ORGANISED DAIRY INDUSTRY OF SOUTH AFRICA (ODISA), CONSISTING OF MILK SA, MILK PRODUCERS' ORGANISATION (MPO), SA MILK PROCESSORS' ORGANISATION (SAMPRO) AND THE DAIRY STANDARD AGENCY (DSA), SUPPORTS THE "PATHWAYS TO DAIRY NET ZERO" INITIATIVE OF THE GLOBAL DAIRY PLATFORM (GDP).
- ODISA DEALS WITH ISSUES IN RESPECT OF PATHWAYS TO DAIRY NET ZERO, INsofar AS THEY ARE OF A COLLECTIVE IMPORTANCE TO THE INDUSTRY, BUT THE PRIME RESPONSIBILITY TO LIMIT THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY IS THAT OF FARMERS AND PROCESSORS THEMSELVES.
- ALTHOUGH THE PRINCIPLE OF A SET DATE (2030 IN THIS INSTANCE) IS ACKNOWLEDGED, CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE COUNTRY AND DAIRY INDUSTRY ARE SUCH THAT A SET TARGET DATE CANNOT NECESSARILY BE MET, BUT ODISA WILL ENDEAVOUR TO ADDRESS THE SIX PRINCIPLES AS WELL AS POSSIBLE.

The six principles of the initiative [and the approach and progress thereto] are:

1. ***Mitigation: Continuing to improve production and process efficiency to further reduce the GHG emissions intensity of milk and dairy products***

ODISA response: Several initiatives can be mentioned:

- 1.1 Improvement of production efficiency: This is an ongoing process with genetic selection and improved management and feeding. By way of example: Since 1990, the number of cows in South Africa has declined by 24 %, while total milk production has increased by 56 %. This implies that efficiency has improved, whereas GHG emissions, waste and water use per unit product have declined. Methane emissions (Tier 2 calculated) have declined from 179 Gg/annum in 2010 to 123 Gg/annum in 2017.
- 1.2 Dairy quality and safety initiatives. The DSA monitors and supports procedures to actively promote product compliance with product composition and food safety standards. Promotion and compliance with standards relating to milk and other dairy products are demanding and multi-dimensional, because they involve regulations relating to product composition, food safety, animal health and welfare, animal feed, milking parlours, transportation of milk, processing plants and storage. All of these are regulated by different Acts which are managed in different government departments. DSA supports these by comprehensive advisory services, a Code of Practice for Producers, a Code of Practice for the Secondary Dairy Industry, an Animal Welfare Audit Programme and laboratory services in terms of standards development, being the reference laboratory for the industry, and doing routine analyses.

- 1.3 Direct GHG emission reduction initiatives: Dairy farmers are advised and supported by ODISA and several associated companies to change to regenerative agriculture (RA) practices emphasizing minimum or no-till practices, minimum chemical fertilizers and pesticides, cover crops and carbon sequestration promoting pasture establishments. The same applies to crop production of especially maize, sunflower and soya which are used in dairy feeds.
- 1.4 Combatting animal diseases: Sick animals produce sub-optimally and increase GHG emissions. ODISA participates in the National Animal Health Forum of SA and through this channel in O.I.E directives, and supports dairy farmers with R & D on mastitis, fasciolosis, sporidesmin toxicity (facial eczema), lameness and others.
- 1.5 Marketing of unprocessed milk and dairy products is supported by providing market signals so as to ensure supply and demand are synchronised in a free market where production is not subsidised and to limit wastage.
- 1.6 Accordingly, consumers are educated and informed about the appropriate handling, storage and consumption of dairy products in order to limit wastage.
- 1.7 A document titled "Sustainability in the Dairy Industry: A status and progress report", is produced and updated annually to inform and encourage the local dairy industry on all sustainability matters which affect the industry (attached as Annexure A for the local industry).

2. *GHG removals: Enhancing production practices that protect carbon sinks (soil, forests, grass and peatlands) and complement natural ecosystems*

ODISA response:

Practices are monitored and supported by R & D projects on water stewardship, buffer zone and wetland protection, biodiversity enhancement zones, and effluent from dairy parlour purification. See also Item 1.3 above.

3. *Avoidance and adaptation: Improving practices such as feed, manure, fertilizer and energy management*

ODISA response:

Feed is formulated by technologists using international guidelines. Manure is mostly managed in slurry ponds and thereafter used on pasture as fertilizer taking cognisance of effluent quality. Chemical fertilizer is progressively reduced by employing RA technologies as mentioned under Item 1.3 above, and utilizing pasture species and grazing strategies to maximise carbon sequestration. Energy consumption saving is encouraged because of the continuous rising of fossil fuel prices to change, mainly to the use of solar power. For example, eco-friendly electricity generation could be prioritized in all sectors and, where applicable, high transport costs per litre milk should be addressed.

4. Insets and offsets: Identify and implement alternative, credible reduction options

ODISA response:

These are investigated, but costs and practicality are significant stumbling blocks. Development of methane incubators on farms for example require major investments, but one of the processing companies use whey fermentation to methane to support electricity use from the grid. Wind and solar power are used, albeit still on a limited scale.

5. Measurement and monitoring: Measuring greenhouse gas emissions to plan mitigation and monitor progress

ODISA response:

This is done on pilot sites, also as a service by processing companies for their farmer clients. In a R & D project a systems dynamic model has been developed where farmers can introduce their own system and production numbers to calculate emissions and run scenarios to identify opportunities to improve sustainability.

6. Overall Support: Promoting the initiative and emphasizing the dairy sector's climate ambition

ODISA response:

This is a continuous process with training, reading material and other communications. In promoting the initiative, ODISA contributes to the development and enforcement of standards in respect of issues such as water usage, air, soil and water pollution, waste management, animal health, animal welfare and soil conservation

Signatures in support:

Chairman of Milk SA Board:



Chairman of MPO Board:



Chairman of Sampro:



DSA Managing Director:


