

# Raising a glass of milk to dairy products

Larry Bentley

ACCORDING to Dr Chris van Dijk, chief executive of the Milk Producers' Organisation (MPO), the 2018 World Milk Day celebrations in South Africa were well-supported by producers, retailers and consumers.

World Milk Day was initiated in 2001 by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), which actively encourages milk and dairy consumption as part of a daily diet.

All aspects of milk are celebrated in many countries all over the world, and the number of countries and activities are increasing every year.

Joining in the worldwide celebrations, the MPO collaborated with Milk SA's Consumer Education Project (CEP) to promote milk as the sports drink of choice.

Sportsmen and -women around the globe are increasingly using milk and dairy products as fuel, for faster recovery from injuries, to help with muscle building and as a recovery drink after intensive training sessions.

Crossfitters at Crossfit Radium in Centurion celebrated the qualities of milk by wearing blue and white shirts to their training classes and each athlete received 500ml full-cream



Dairy products were the focus of the recent World Milk Day celebrations throughout South Africa

Larry Bentley

milk from Clover afterwards.

Christine Leighton and Maretha Vermaak of the CEP of Milk SA were on hand to answer questions regarding the versatility of dairy products and the excellent reasons why athletes can turn to dairy products.

MPO staff celebrated World

Milk Day with a visit to the well known and award-winning Belnori Boutique Cheesery in Bapsfontein.

Owners Norman en Rina Belcher took the staff on a tour of the farm and cheesery for an introduction to the process of cheese making. The teams' knowledge of milk and

cheese were put to the test in a blind tasting of different types of milk and cheese.

School children were also involved in this year's celebrations with the MPO KZN presenting a morning of talks and demonstrations at Northern Park Primary School in Pietermaritzburg.

Local dairy farmer, Colin Wellbeloved told the learners where milk comes from and why children need dairy every day to be healthy, active and smart. The highlight of the morning was when each pupil received a handy sachet of full-cream UHT milk donated by Orange Grove Dairy.

## Promoting community agriculture throughout KZN

Tamlyn Jolly

AFTER identifying a host of challenges facing micro farmers in the northern KZN region, Siyazisiza Trust came up with a diversified approach to creating sustainable enterprises.

The intended outcome of the strategy is to develop the capacity and resilience of community gardens through an approach that includes a diverse range of sustainable, resilient and practical solutions.

Siyazisiza Trust has put numerous agricultural projects in place, including community food gardens and training, and agro-processing under which a variety of specific projects fall.

In its annual review, the trust said 2017 saw a marked increase in the number of agricultural collectives and beneficiaries it supports.

Annual produce sales in the trust's operational region, including Jozini, Nkandla, Nongoma, Ulundi and uMlalazi, showed a massive improvement last year, increasing from just under R600 000 in 2016 to R1.3-million in 2017.

'At the gate' sales either to local community or bulk produce traders makes up the bulk of the total annual sales, with uThungulu Fresh Market remaining a relatively lucrative market for small-scale farmers.

Mielies made up 22% of last year's sales, with cabbage coming in close at 18%, chicken 16%, spinach 11% and butternut 9%.

Onions, beans, potatoes, beetroot, green peppers, tomatoes, mangos, calabash, chillies and carrots are also

among the vegetables grown.

Field-based training offered by Siyazisiza follows the natural farming cycle, from selecting and sowing seeds through to harvesting and packaging.

This training, conducted over the life cycle of a crop, goes hand-in-hand with ongoing mentoring by the field officer.

Specific programmes include the trust's Livelihood and Food Security Enhancement Programme, climate change measures, value chain development of drought-resilient crops, seed banking, agri-hub development and agri-forums.

In August, drip irrigation was installed at Thelamoya Phansi co-operative in Nkandla.

This is the second of the farmers' support centres established by Siyazisiza and is intended to serve farmers in the Nkandla region.

Agro-processing was identified as having the potential to increase income through value addition, and increasing shelf life and access to food security through the establishment of such enterprises.

This conclusion was drawn after it was realised that the majority of micro-farmers' agricultural commodities were sold in raw form, causing them to lose out on income-generating opportunities further down the line.

This will help address the region's high youth unemployment rate and the need for new or alternative approaches to food production.

Other projects include ancient grain cultivation, Moringa powder and chilli sauce.

## SPECIAL OFFERS

LOW-HOUR DEMO

Deutz-Fahr Agrofarm 115 G DT 4wd - 81kW

R555 000 + VAT



SAVE R43 000

LOW-HOUR DEMO

New Holland TD 85F DT 4wd - 60kW

R340 000 + VAT



SAVE R132 000

LOW-HOUR DEMO

New Holland TK 4030F Crawler - 57kW

R540 000 + VAT



SAVE R120 000

LOW-HOUR DEMO

New Holland TS 6.140 DT 4wd O/S - 104kW

R685 000 + VAT



SAVE R258 000

LOW-HOUR DEMO

New Holland 5610 S DT 4wd - 60kW

R425 000 + VAT



SAVE R140 000

LOW-HOUR DEMO

New Holland T 4.75N DT 4wd Cab 60kW

R445 000 + VAT



SAVE R241 000



Errol Boule  
082 978 7838  
Zululand



Justin Hartley  
076 862 7751  
Zululand



Seaton Holmes  
072 157 5071  
Salt Rock

**RITCHIE**  
FARM EQUIPMENT

Tel: 035 772 3660  
www.ritchieto.co.za