



## United for a responsible milk policy!

### *Urgent appeal from European and African milk producers to policy-makers in the EU and Burkina Faso*

The current EU policy, which stimulates unrestricted milk production, is causing immense damage to European producers and rural areas. The negative consequences of this policy also impact on farmers in developing countries in particular. Huge milk surpluses put pressure on prices the world over and are continually destroying farmers' livelihoods.

With the scenario of massive EU surplus production and the resultant imbalance between the EU and many developing countries, especially West Africa, concluding Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) aimed at further deregulation of trade between both stakeholders is problematical and inadvisable.

#### **1. The EU politicians must put in place a crisis instrument that is geared to the production volume and applies to every member state of the EU.**

There are two weighty arguments in favour of such an instrument:

- a) It will stabilise the EU economy by keeping milk production regions alive through fair milk prices across the EU. Jobs secured thereby in the dairy sector and/or in related sectors will prevent rural regions bleeding to death. At the same time, though, no stop will be put to growth in milk production. If there is enough demand, milk production can be stepped up.
- b) It will prevent overproduction in the EU so as not to endanger growth in non-EU countries. Producers in developing countries and producers in Burkina Faso will be able to develop their dairy industry, sell their products and earn an income, thus reducing poverty, migration and hunger.

#### **2. Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) between the EU and West Africa should not be concluded at present, as they would have a negative impact on the West African partner, its local structures in particular.**

#### **Statement by European milk producers**

*We, the European farmers, are ready and willing to produce responsibly! Our aim is to ensure that no damage is done to either our colleagues in developing countries like Burkina Faso or our own milk production.*

*Surplus production destroys production inside and outside Europe. We champion a crisis instrument in the EU market that curbs the harmful surpluses. We call on the politicians of the EU to implement this instrument throughout the EU and apply it to every producer here!*

## **Statement by milk producers from Burkina Faso**

*We, the milk producers from Burkina Faso, want to develop structures and boost productivity in milk production in our country. This means priority must be given to local production over imports. Our aim is to meet local demand and at the same time curb negative consequences of liberalism. For this we propose the following steps:*

- 1. Initiate a funding policy for the milk sector in Burkina Faso*
- 2. Reduce the pressure of competition from imported products, also through the EU crisis instrument*
- 3. Create an innovation platform with stakeholders from the sector*
- 4. Increase production potential and the productivity of local dairy cattle*
- 5. Improve investments in infrastructure and equipment in the dairy sector, e.g. collection and supply systems*
- 6. Apply effective external protection, do not conclude any economic partnership agreements until the local dairy sector is stable enough.*

### **Our recommendations:**

**The European Commission** should regulate milk exports to avoid flooding markets in African countries, notably in West Africa, and should once and for all stop ratifying imbalanced EPAs;

**The ECOWAS** should determine a Common External Tariff (CET) to protect local production and should once and for all stop ratifying imbalanced Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs);

**The State of Burkina** should consistently invest in the dairy sector, should regulate imports and should once and for all stop ratifying imbalanced Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs);

**Technical and financial partners** should provide targeted financial support to peasants and their organisations to promote the development of the dairy sector.

Signed by:



UMPL/B - National Association of Small Dairies in Burkina Faso



PASMEP - Initiative to Support Dairy Cattle Herders in Burkina Faso



Misereor (Germany)



European Milk Board



Germanwatch (Germany)



Oxfam Solidarité (Belgium)



French Farmers and International Development



Association for the Promotion of Livestock in the Sahel and the Savannah



Communication network on Pastoralism



Federation of German Dairy Farmers (Germany)



Belgian Milk Producers' Organisation (Belgium)