



FAO—AGA/APHCA Electronic Conference

ROLE OF AGRO-INDUSTRIAL AND FORESTRY BY-PRODUCTS IN THE FEEDING OF DAIRY ANIMALS IN ASIA AND OTHER TROPICAL REGIONS
11 November to 10 December 2013

Notice and Invitation

The major constraints to tropical dairy production are the lack of good quality feeds and the limited ability of farmers to source, formulate and supply the feed nutrients for their dairy herd to achieve target milk yields that are realistic of their dairy herd's potential. Their dairy herds are made up of adult milking cows (both lactating and non-lactating), young stock (both milk fed and weaned heifers) and male stock destined for breeding or sale for slaughter.

The feed base for the herd comprises forages specifically grown for the dairy animals, high energy and/or high protein concentrate supplements including agro-industrial and forestry by-products, other agro-industrial by-products such as crop residues, mineral and vitamin additives. There is a wide range of available co-products/by-products and this E-Conference aims to discuss their sourcing, storage, processing and feeding. When selecting the most appropriate by-products, farmers should be able to compare them in terms of costs per unit of feed nutrient when delivered to the feed trough. This takes into account the costs of purchasing, transport, storage and preparation for feeding stock. Many by-products are not readily available year-round so need to be purchased when at their cheapest then stored until required. A number of agro-industrial and forestry by-products have anti-nutritional and toxic factors which impose a challenge in feeding them. These would require economically viable processing techniques and processes to make them a good feed. Throughout the world farmers, feed merchants and farm service providers have a wide range of experiences in these aspects of incorporating by-products into dairy feeding systems.

To learn from these experiences, the Asia Dairy Network of the Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA) in collaboration with the FAO Animal Production and Health Division are planning to organise an E-Conference entitled "*Role of agro-industrial and forestry by-products in the feeding of dairy animals in Asia and other tropical regions*" from 11 November to 10 December 2013. This will be a stock-taking exercise describing the current status and analysing the reasons why by-products are and are not incorporated into dairy feeding systems, how to convert unconventional by-products to conventional ones and draw conclusions for the future. The focus will be on developing countries and will **cover both cattle and buffaloes but not sheep, goats and camels**. It may also be noted that co-products and by-products have the same meaning for the purpose of this E-Conference.

The expected outputs include:

- Documentation of the current status of feeding management practices in dairy cattle and buffalo production systems in developing countries
- Documentation of the current and potential status of the use of the by-products in the feeding of such dairy systems

- Mapping of the by-products, their nutritive values, and milk responses to their feeding.
- Guidelines to assist developing countries make informed decisions about the adoption of appropriate by-products and technologies.
- A plan of action to enhance the feed resource base by enlarging number of agro-industrial and forestry by-products that can be used as feed, reducing their wastage, and increasing efficiency of their use.

This E-Conference will provide an opportunity for researchers and development workers with an interest in dairy farm development in the government, NGO and private sectors to share their knowledge and experiences in feeding management (sourcing, storage, processing and feeding) of agro-industrial by-products to dairy cattle and buffaloes.

Participants are encouraged to start thinking about their contribution. Some suggestions on the format for providing inputs include:

- Identify agro-industrial by-products that are currently being used in dairy production systems
- Identify agro-industrial by-products with the potential for use in dairy production systems
- For each by-product, identify current methods for their sourcing, storing, processing and feeding, highlighting any constraints limiting their impact in dairy herd management and farm performance
- Provide insight into ways to overcome such constraints
- Discuss what lessons have been learnt when overcoming such constraints
- Describe any first hand experiences in by-products feeding management that may be relevant to the audience of this E-Conference

Contributions should be concise and approximately of 500 to 600 words.

A synthesis of the discussion will be compiled and due recognition will be given to the contributors. The “Synthesis Document” and major contributions to the E-Conference will be published electronically.

The E-Conference will be moderated by Dr. John Moran, Coordinator, Asia Dairy Network. Participation in the E-conference will require membership of Asia Dairy Network. To become a member, please send the message ‘Subscribe FAO-DairyAsia-L’ to listserv@listserv.fao.org. Leave the subject line blank, type ‘Subscribe FAO-DairyAsia-L’ in the first line of message body and send to listserv@listserv.fao.org. Should you have any problem in subscribing, feel free to contact us or Dr. John Moran at AsiaDairyNetwork@fao.org

We look forward to your active participation.

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