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SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

GREENING EUROPE'S CITIES

AGRICULTURE

SAVING THE FARMING SECTOR TO SAVE THE WORLD

INTERVIEW

GUY VERHOFSTADT

ON HOW TO SOLVE THE REFUGEE CRISIS, CREATING A TWO-SPEED EUROPE AND WHY HE STILL BELIEVES IN THE EU

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SCHENGEN CRISIS
CHINA MES
5 QUESTIONS WITH... CÉCILE KYENGE

THE 'MILKYWAY' PROJECT
More cheese from less milk

In recent years technological development is considering more aspects related to the improvement of productivity combined with energy conservation, and it is in this context that was born the MilkyWay project. The project, developed in Italy, is based on the strategic collaboration between eight partners representing the entire production chain linked to the production of cheese and was Co-funded by Eco-Innovation Initiative of the European Union.

How we can increase both productivity and energy savings if as basic element of the production chain is the milk that's produced by animals and not by machines?

Mr. Ruggeri CEO of TDM (partner and project coordinator, producer of milking implant) explains that: "The milk produced by each cow varies in terms of composition both during seasons that during daily milking; the innovation introduced from the MilkyWay project is linked the differentiation of milk according to its use; a breakthrough solution for enhancing milk value and significantly improving cheese production and yields."

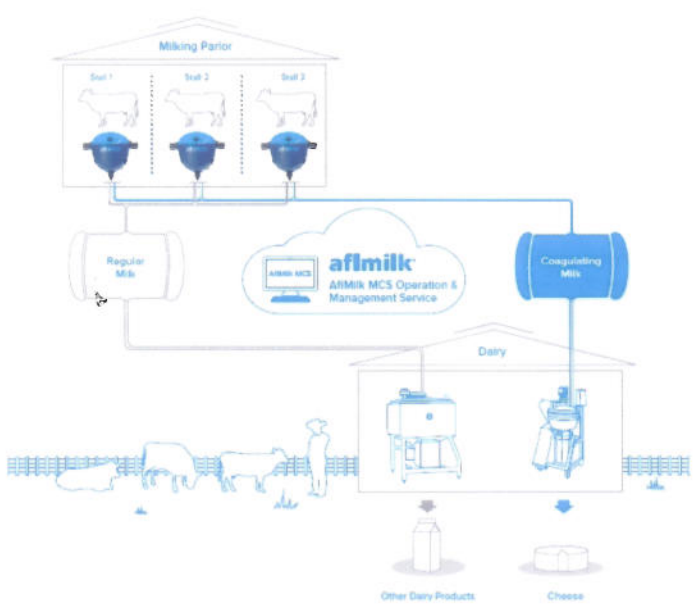
The research developed from Afimilk (one of the partners in the project, a leading manufacturer of electronic components for milk measurement, animal identification and herd management systems), has led to the identification of the components present in milk that influence its coagulation properties. MCS technology (Real Time Milk Classification System, patented), during milking allows to analyze the coagulation properties of milk, it is thus possible to channeling the milk of each cow in two different tanks, one containing the most suitable milk to cheesemaking, and the other containing the standard milk.

The MCS systems have been installed in three farms of Della Bona Faustino and C. (partner), where about 800 cows are milked, and in two farms of CISSVA (Caseificio Sociale di Vallecamonica e del Sebino Società Cooperativa Agricola, a dairy that produces a wide variety of cheeses) where about 130 cows are milked. The dairy is in

charge of the classified milk collection and of tests of cheesemaking, in close collaboration with DAQ (partner in charge of monitoring the MCS and the animal health) and UNICATT (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, which has the task of recording and validate data on environmental impact of the processing industry, and optimize the food ration). At the same time UNICATT in collaboration with NUTRISERVICE (partner, feed manufacturer and consultant for the feeding of cows) are evaluating an optimized food ration to increase milk quality and reduce pollutants contained in livestock manure. The availability of the new system for milk quality, dairy production and yield improvement will offer clear environmental and economic advantages.

From an environmental point of view, there will be lower GHG (-9,3%) and methane emissions (-11,5%), less manure (-10%) to be disposed/recycled and reduced energy (-10,5%) and water consumption (-11,2%), linked to the reduction in quantity of milk processed, while still achieving the same amount of high-quality cheese. Thus, the same production rate with fewer resources employed. The economic advantages for producers will be directly linked to the enhanced cheese production process, accompanied by a reduction in the costs of maintenance and cleaning, water and energy consumption, manure disposal/recycling.

Guido Colombi



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Partners and coordinator

The CAP is a policy for all of Europe

These are challenging times for European farmers, but **Phil Hogan** is confident his reforms will ease the pressure

Phil Hogan is European agriculture and rural development Commissioner

The past year has been a challenging one for European farming families.

The impact of global oversupply in dairy products and pig meat, and the consequences of the Russian ban and lower demand in large markets such as China, have contributed to making the past year a volatile one for our producers.

There is a shared understanding of the crisis in a number of sectors, notably in relation to dairy and pig meat.

As European agriculture Commissioner, I am not satisfied with the current situation and I believe it requires a concerted EU-wide response.

There needs to be consideration given to new and innovative solutions, in addition to the measures which the Commission has already introduced, as part of the €500m Solidarity Package announced last September.

I have asked member states to submit such ideas by 25 February. The Commission will also reflect on what more can be done to alleviate the pressure on our European farmers.

Any further measures will have to have regard to the following three parameters, namely consistency with the existing legal framework of the CAP; not exceeding the resource constraints of the budget, and they must be capable of achieving majority support among EU member states.

The period between now and the March agriculture Council provides an opportunity for us all to intensify our efforts in finding solutions to the current crisis.

Meanwhile, I continue to plan for the future.

The agri-markets taskforce, which I established to examine how to strengthen the position of the producer in the food chain, will meet in March. And I am continuing my 2016 'diplomatic offensive' to find new export markets for EU food and drink products.

In February I led a business delega- →

"I am not satisfied with the current situation and I believe it requires a concerted EU-wide response"