

DIARY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

PRESS RELEASE

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DDA RESPONSE TO CLAIMS OF UNSAFE MILK ON THE UGANDAN MARKET

Our attention has been drawn to a video interview that aired on a national TV broadcaster (20 Jul 2022), where an interviewee claimed that some milk on the Ugandan market is unsafe and that the existing dairy sector supervision is inadequate. We would like to respond as follows:

Dairy Development Authority (DDA) is the government agency under the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) mandated by the Dairy Industry Act, 1998 to Develop and Regulate the Dairy industry in Uganda.

Overview of current Dairy Sector Performance

The Uganda dairy sector has grown exponentially over the years and its products continue to gain increased demand and consumption within and beyond our borders.

Increase in milk production over the last four years:

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021
Milk Production(Billion litres)	2.51	2.52	2.6	2.81

1. Milk Utilization:

- Out of the 2.8billion litres of milk currently produced, 80.2% (2,245,600,000L) is marketed,
- 19.8% (554,400,000L) is consumed at the farm,
- 66% of the marketed milk is sold unprocessed (1,482,096,000L) of which 10% (148,209,600L) is sold door-to-door (homes) and 56% (1,333,886,400L) is sold at sales outlets.

- 34% of the marketed milk is processed (763,504,400L) into various milk and milk products including pasteurized milk, yoghurt, UHT milk, cream, ice cream butter, ghee, cheese, milk powder, casein, whey powder and butter oil.

2. Milk Collection and Bulking

Milk collection and bulking has improved tremendously with a number of players such as Government, Dairy Cooperatives, Traders, Processors and Private individuals continuously investing in cold chain infrastructures. Cold chain infrastructure ensures that the milk is kept at an optimum temperature that enables it retain its nutritional and palatable qualities.

3. Milk Transportation

We currently have 198 registered roadworthy milk tankers of different capacities mainly: 5,000, 10,000, 15,000, 20,000L operating countrywide. At farm level, milk handling containers from the farms include food grade milk cans.

4. Milk Processing

There are 160 (Large, Medium, small scale and cottages) licensed entities processing milk and milk products.

5. Milk Export in terms of Foreign earnings over the last four years

Trends	FY 2017/18	FY 2018/19	FY 2019/20	FY 2020/21
Value (UGX)	Shs 276 b	Shs 287.4 b	Shs 196.5 b	Shs 358.6 b

Our key export market is comprised mainly of: EAC regional countries, COMESA, SADC, Malaysia, India, USA, Japan, Oman, UAE, Nepal, Syria and Bangladesh. The top exporters include Vital Tomosis Dairy Limited, Jesa Farm Dairy Limited, GBK dairy Products Limited, Birunga Dairies (U) Limited, Brookside Limited, Amos Dairies limited, Pearl Dairy Farms Limited, Lakeside Dairy Limited and Rainbow Dairy (U)

The most exported products include: milk powder, yoghurt, cheese, butter, ghee, butter oil, UHT milk, casein and whey protein powder,

THE CONTROL MEASURES PUT IN PLACE TO ENSURE QUALITY AND SAFETY OF MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS IN UGANDA.

DDA implements the following activities to ensure that milk and milk products comply with set dairy standards and regulations:

1. **Registration of dairy businesses** including milk collection and bulking centre, Milk sales outlets, transporters, processors, exporters and importers. These receive milk that meets standards through testing and non-compliant milk/dairy products are rejected.
2. **Inspection of milk handling premises** to ensure that they handle milk and milk products that is fit for human consumption. This is by ensuring that they have lactometers and lacto scans. In addition, all milk and milk products including dairy export and import are inspected by DDA and our inspectors are stationed at major exit and entry points.
3. **Conducting frequent analysis and on-spot testing of milk and milk products to ensure they are fit for human consumption.** This is done using our mobile DDA laboratories that are equipped with Ultra High Performance Liquid Chromatography (UHPLC) and CHARM II Immuno-assay equipment for analyzing antibiotic residues in milk and other chemical adulterants. The laboratory is also equipped to handle microbiological analysis among other parameters. The on-spot testing for liquid milk is done in the mobile laboratory vans and results are obtained immediately to facilitate timely decision making regarding the fate of the milk in question including screening for antibiotic residues.
4. **Market surveillance:** This is done to verify the quality and safety of milk sold in raw milk sales outlets as well as milk collection and bulking centers and adulterated or contaminated milk is easily identified and action taken immediately. Surveillance is undertaken through supermarket visits and other dairy selling outlets.
5. **Enforcement of dairy standards and regulations:** This is done continuously and those found with non-complying milk and milk

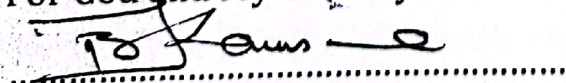
products, actions are taken as per the provision in the dairy regulations and other related food laws and regulations. Penalties include six months imprisonment and or a fine not exceeding twenty five currency points. Enforcement is undertaken with the support of security authorities.

6. **Training and sensitization:** This is implemented continuously to ensure that dairy stakeholders are aware of the dos and don'ts and the consequences of not complying with dairy standards and regulations.
7. **Conducting proficiency testing and inter-laboratory comparisons:** to determine the laboratory testing performance by means of inter-laboratory test comparisons where milk and milk products are sent to accredited laboratories across the world to be evaluated in accordance with predetermined conditions. DDA samples have been passing both microbial and biochemical parameters.

In conclusion, Uganda's dairy industry regulatory framework is strong, stable, and safe. Its growth can be attributed to our stakeholders who have invested heavily at various levels in the dairy chain and the exports of various products to countries that have stringent quality and safety control measures where our dairy products have consistently met international standards. We also commend government's deliberate effort of prioritization of the dairy commodity and creation of the enabling environment including supporting regulation, value addition enterprise support and provision of inputs to improve productivity.

DDA encourages the general public to always buy and consume milk from licensed facilities and calls upon all dairy farmers to continue to observe good farming practices. We are committed to ensuring that all the milk and milk products on the market meet the highest standards for human consumption.

For God and My Country



Executive Director

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