

EU boosts milk industry in Somaliland

Hargeisa, 25 November 2013

Today, the European Union, together with its implementing partners ICIPE and FAO, are launching a new milk sector project in Hargeisa that will support Somaliland's food security and local industry.

Somaliland is currently importing the majority of its milk as powdered milk, in order to meet this increasing demand. However, with an economy largely based on livestock, the region has the potential to increase its local fresh milk production, mainly from camels and cattle, and to produce 80% of its consumption needs. With an investment of 4 million EUR, the EU intends to support the sector's value chain by focusing on institutional and sector capacity building, on animal health and on new marketing methods, also for women milk vendors. It should also put an end to the widespread milk losses caused by poor handling along the value chain.

"This project will support all the value chain actors in the milk sector and will provide a boost for employment creation in Somaliland, said the EU Special Envoy to Somalia, Michele Cervone d'Urso while launching the landmark project. We expect the initiative to increase the income of more than 1.000 pastoralists and agro-pastoralists communities and to provide hygienic milk for more 50.000 households."

The EU milk initiative will be implemented by the International Centre for Insect Ecology and Physiology (icipe) and the UN's the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), working in coordination with the Somaliland Ministry of Livestock and the Quality Control Commission. END

For more information:

EU Mission to Somalia
Magali Uytterhaeghe
Email: Magali.Uytterhaeghe@ext.eeas.europa.eu
Tel : +254 20 280.25.25

ICIPE Communications
Mario Margiotta
Email : mmargiotta@icipe.org

FAO Communications
Frank Nyakairu
Frank.Nyakairu@fao.org
Tel : +252 786 399.311