

S12(T)-PP-03

Milking control in Morocco: An important tool for the developpemnt of dairy cattle farming

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Milking control : An important tool for the development of dairy cattle breeding and the increase of milk productivity in dairy cows in MOROCCO , By Nouredine BELKADI Manger Director of Tha National Cattle Bredders Association

In the early 1970s, dairy control only concerned state barns as productive farms for the production of heifers to supply small and medium private farms. The number of farms under dairy control increased from 120 units and 5,000 controlled dairy cows to 650 units and 15,000 controlled cows by the end of 2000, respectively.

With the outbreak of mad cow disease in Europe in 2000 and the cessation of heifer imports by MOROCCO, the heifer production operation was launched from the bovine Farm under the Milking control program.

Since 2006, the milk control operation was revised through a withdrawal of the State from this operation by its transfer to the Professional Organizations by means of a contract of taking charge of this operation under specifications defining the roles of the profession and the State. The State keep only the right to control the authenticity of the performance data by validating the completed lactations.

The state has supported this operation by granting subsidies to the production of heifers produced locally which has evolved over the years from 1500 DH in 2008 to 5000 DH currently. This operation was a great success during the decade 2010 to 2018 and the evolution was very positive

This evolution reflects the development of milk control through a strategy that started with the Green Morocco Plan in 2009 and which encouraged the creation of bovine Farms for the production of local selected heifers acclimated from in the origin imported heifers.

In 2018, the milk control operation concerned 16 regional professional organizations and 14 large farms with respectively 35,000 and 14,000 controlled dairy cows and 10,300 to 6,000 heifers selected for the restocking of the farm units.

In the short term, Morocco relies on local production of heifers to meet the requirements for the restocking the farm units. The objective is to minimize their importation and, at the same time, to increase the productivity of cows in milk quantity and quality.