

Milking control: A very important tool for the development of dairy cattle breeding and the increase of milk productivity in dairy cows in MOROCCO

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Background

[In the early 1970s, dairy control only concerned state farm for the production of heifers to supply small and medium private farms. Since 1986 The state farms disappear to let the place to the private sector . The number of farms under dairy control increased from 120 units and 5,000 controlled dairy cows in 90s 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.

RESULTS

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 as can be shown in the following table

YEAR	Bovine Farms Units	Controlled Dairy Cows	Selected Heifers	Productivity Litters / cow	imported heifers
2009	200	1500	600	4000-4500	13297
2010	250	2500	1500	4200-4600	26700
2011	300	8000	4300	4300-4700	16500
2012	350	8500	3400	4400-4800	9100
2013	350	9000	4500	4500-5000	8500
2014	400	11000	6000	4800-5000	14000
2015	500	33500	7500	5000-6000	3800
2016	470	33000	8000	5500-6500	13400
2017	644	44500	12000	5500-7000	20300
2018	728	49000	16300	6000-7500	21190

Interpretation

This table 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 best acclimated compared to 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.

CONCLUSION

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