



The Milk-Pro pasteurisation system has a proud track record of helping to uplift communities in Africa. Here Greg Haylle-Dick, owner and manager of Milk-Pro International, helps locals from Guinea-Bissau set up pasteurisation equipment

New dairy project helps communities

by Karien Slabbert

The Department of Trade and Industry's Technology for Women in Business (TWIB) and Milk-Pro International will help three women to pasteurise and distribute quality milk in their communities. Each woman will get a Milk-Pro pasteurisation unit. Milk-Pro will install the system and train operators.

There is also a 12-month maintenance contract on the equipment. Milk-Pro will help the three women to set up their companies. The first site will start production in August 2006. The other two production sites will follow shortly thereafter. According to Greg Haylle-Dick, owner of Milk-Pro, the company will help with mentoring for business owners. They will also help with raw milk supply contracts and

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set up pasteurised milk supply contracts with schools, hospitals, clinics and prisons. The project will help the business owners to make their companies sustainable.

The Milk-Pro pasteurisation system processes small daily volumes of milk. It offers small dairy farmers and/or entrepreneurs the chance to produce high-quality, pasteurised milk and supply it to local markets at a good price. Dairy farmers do not need a lot of money to pasteurise their milk if they use Milk-Pro.

The next step

The Department of Trade and Industry will now do research in the areas where the three women live. This is to ensure that their businesses are located at the right place. The business sites will be repaired to agree with local health department regulations.

Each woman will get her own Milk-Pro unit. The three candidates will also draw up milk supply contracts with existing dairy farmers in the area. The Milk-Pro system will then be installed and the staff will be trained. Each woman will also have her own packaging with her company's name on.

How the project started

Milk-Pro International went to TWIB with a business proposal to use the Milk-Pro system to start small milk processing operations. TWIB was impressed with Milk-Pro and decided it fits well with their mission. The right candidates were then chosen to get Milk-Pro systems. The three candidates are from Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal.

An ambitious plan

Once the first three candidates have successful businesses, the Milk-Pro partnership will become bigger. Hopefully it will attract more attention from the national and regional departments of agriculture. More partnerships will hopefully be rolled out in each of the nine provinces. If the project works, it will not just help women, but also men, Haylle-Dick says.



A woman from Guinea-Bissau learns how to operate the Milk-Pro pasteurisation system

Government helps women

TWIB aims to give women a chance to use science and technology in their businesses. This government initiative wants to speed up business growth through partnerships, education, training and mentoring. Its mission is to help women who want to start or expand their own businesses, by using technology where possible. As TWIB is involved in agriculture and the agri-business sector, the opportunities the Milk-Pro pasteurisation system present, is a perfect fit, says Haylle-Dick. **UM**