PUBLIC CALL FOR INFORMATION ON SMALL SCALE DAIRY FARMERS ORGANIZATIONS

Interested parties are invited to submit information related to their organization/association by replying to the form at [http://goo.gl/forms/PV4p41Zai6](http://goo.gl/forms/PV4p41Zai6) by Friday 17 October 2014.

The information will be used to compile a list of international, regional, national and local associations, organizations, consortiums, cooperatives and any regroupment of dairy farmers and producers which include or represent small and/or non-conventional dairy farms.

We expect that replying to the form will take only a short period of your valuable time, but your answers will be very valuable in providing an accurate picture of the current associations representing small and/or non-conventional dairy farms and in turn may enable the sector to contribute more directly to the development of animal welfare indicators suitable for small and/or non-conventional dairy farms. We strongly encourage your replies to enable the sector to play an active role on this matter. All replies will be treated in complete confidentiality and no individual replies will be traceable in the study.

For the scope of this list, for small-scale or non-conventional dairy farms it is intended farms with indicatively less than 75 cows and/or managed with limited inputs or external resources (e.g. land, labor, compound feed, infrastructures, etc.). Subsistence farms are excluded, whereas family farms and those producing with autochthonous (native) cattle breed or producing dairy products with a geographical or typical indication, or organic are to be included.

This exercise if the first step of a “Preparatory work for the scientific opinion on welfare assessment of dairy cows in small scale farming systems” commissioned by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to a consortium made up by the “Institute National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA)” (France), the University of Milan (Italy), the “Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries (IRTA)” (Spain), the “Universität für Bodenkultur Wien (BOKU)” (Austria), the “Institut de l’Elevage (IDELE)” (France) and Slow Food, with the collaboration of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), following a mandate by the European Commission-DG SANCO (Directorate-General for Health and Consumers) to EFSA for a scientific opinion on the welfare of milk cows in small-scale or non-conventional farms. The results of this preparatory will be used to develop a Scientific opinion to assess the welfare risk for dairy cows in small scale farming systems and to move towards a more practical application of risk assessment methodology to suit small scale farming systems.
The original mandate from the European Commission can be found at mandate small scale farms. Information about EFSA’s working principles is summarized in the webpage EFSA-how we work.

Organizations and associations responding to this call for information may be re-contacted during the development of the study. In return, you will be provided with a copy of the final results of the study.

For further information, you may contact:

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