

Impression from a short dive into the Dutch dairy business

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In June 2014 Veeopro Holland organized a business tour for a group of international experts in agriculture and veterinary. Its rich, well-balanced program was focused on getting a comprehensive overview of the Dutch dairy farming and related sectors which together allow the Netherlands to be one of the key players on the global milk market.

This event clearly illustrated that “8.100 litres of milk per dairy cow per year” is not only an impressive figure from the CBS’s¹ annual report, but it is the result of intensive daily intersectoral collaboration in a variety of fields such as breeding, feeding, farm management, animal health and welfare, education and training, food safety and quality control, animals identification and registration, etc. And all these processes are based on extensive experience, deep scientific knowledge, access to innovative technologies and equipment, well-organized relations between farmers and food industry.

When you hear that breeding helps the Dutch farmers to reduce antibiotics use, you perceive this as a highly professional approach. When you read that the Netherlands are able to increase milk production for 10% during one year, you find this really impressive. And when CRV’s² manager says that using their genetic material a farmer may “create” his future calves like figures from LEGO-set, including body shape, legs size, resistance to diseases and even colour of teats, it sounds absolutely fantastic.

Strong dairy sector makes the Netherlands one of the key global suppliers of not only milk products, but also live animals, embryos and semen, positioning the country as a source of expertise and innovations in cattle breeding and as a reliable partner in this sphere.

¹ Statistical yearbook of the Netherlands 2014, Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek

² CRV is an international enterprise in the field of cattle improvement (www.global.crv4all.com)