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NEWSLETTER

CHAMBERLAIN VETERINARY SERVICES & ROBOR P/L

CVS Leads Development of Federal Government Report on India



Dairy farm North of Delhi

CVS recently led a team of Australian and Indian dairy experts to develop strategies and projects that will assist the development of the Indian commercial Dairy Industry, and highlight how Australia can assist.

The Indian dairy industry is the oldest and is currently the highest national milk producer in the world, with farms of less than 12 cows currently supplying over 85% of India's milk supply, through a well developed milk collection system. 53% of milk is supplied from Buffalo. Increase in milk demand is reflected in increase in milk farm gate price by 255% from 2002 – 2012, but milk quality generally remains poor.

Farm sizes are decreasing and many farmers are landless and at the mercy of high feed prices. Fodder is now in short supply and animal genetic improvement is slow. Dairy development is still focused on importing temperate genetics and there are still restrictions on the importation of tropically adapted dairy cow germplasm.

The report recommends the development of a collaborative Dairy Food Park in one state, with assistance to improve people capacity through a Demonstration Dairy, extension program, university, college and government support institutions, as well as empowering women through a Cow Collective model at the village level.

Australian suppliers of training, expertise, capacity development, technology, processing capability, genetics and nutrition will have the opportunity to be involved in the Demonstration Farm and Dairy Food park.

"This will allow local dairy industry improvement methods that then can be transferred to other states, whilst giving Australian suppliers the chance to develop relationships and opportunities," Dr Chamberlain said.

Dr Chamberlain Awarded HCMC Medal



For his service to education in Vietnam over the last five years, while developing an Advanced Veterinary Course at Nong Lam University (NLU) in Vietnam, the Mayor of Ho Chi Minh City awarded Dr Chamberlain the City Medal.

The medal is awarded to locals and foreigners who have given exceptional services to education, industry development and sustainability

NLU and Uni of Qld are now entering an OIE Twinning partnership that will allow access to some EU funding, giving the project international status and promoting further collaboration. The first of the students in the new course will graduate this year and most have employment already.

Undergraduate and postgraduate students are now being exchanged between NLU and Uni of Qld.

A second shipment of donated veterinary books is also now being shipped, with the support of Samford Rotary Club.



Celebrating with final year students

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Special points of interest:

- Opportunities for Australian dairy
- Focus on people development in Asia
- Chinese dairy collaboration
- Government decision making—short term

Dr Chamberlain Presents at Chennai Conference, India



Tamil Nadu, the most South-Eastern state in India, recently held a Global Investors Meet to highlight what investment opportunities it offers India as well as international investors and industries.

Dairy is included in the preferred industries that will be encouraged in the state, as well as nationally.

Dr Chamberlain was invited to give a presentation on what Australia has to offer, to assist the development of the commercial dairy industry in Tamil Nadu. He gave a summary of the state of the Australian dairy industry as well as highlighted opportunities for Australian involvement, including dairy development expertise, training, capacity building in farm operation, genetics, technology and product development.

The event was also attended by the Australian High Commissioner in India and other industry presenters.

Dr Chamberlain explained; "The Indian dairy industry is now divided into three segments, the traditional small holder dairies, 100-200 cow dairies supplying small niche upper-middle class markets around the big cities and the larger 1,000+ dairies. There are opportunities for Australian suppliers at each level"

"There is also strong interest across India, in what the Australian dairy industry can offer," Dr Chamberlain said

Cambodia: FAO & CVS Capacity Building in Veterinary & Animal Science



New dairy at Royal University of Agriculture Phnom Penh, Cambodia

CVS was part of an Australian academic group that redeveloped the curricula in the faculties of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science at the Royal University of Agriculture (RUA), Phnom Penh, Cambodia in 2015.

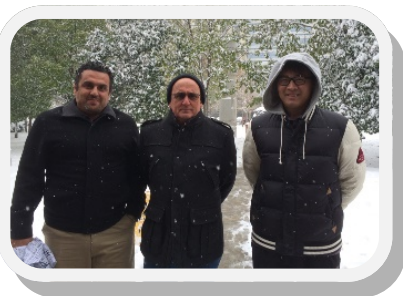
Following a meeting with FAO, ADB and RUA, CVS was asked to develop some strategies to assist the capacity building of the RUA staff and the University resources to enable a smooth transition into the new curricula.

The report recommended the development of a Strategic Plan as well as staff capacity building through estab-

lishing relationships with foreign Universities. James Cook University is looking at developing an MOU with RUA to provide visiting lecturers. Funds are also being sought to improve internet access and the development of a digital library.

"We are also using our close relationship with Nong Lam University in Vietnam, to provide Case Study based courses for RUA staff to complete in HCMC on a continuing basis," Dr Chamberlain said.

The Strategic Planning process at RUA will begin in February 2016.



Dr Alawneh (UQ) Dr Chamberlain (CVS) & Toby (PhD Student) in snowy Dec 2015

CVS has developed a collaborative dairy extension training program in conjunction with Uni of Qld School of Veterinary Science (UQSVS), in Zhang Zhou, Henan Province, west of Shanghai in China.

This project is co-funded by the Australian and Chinese Governments, through the Australia China Agriculture Collaborative Agreement and is designed to develop strong relationships between Chinese and Australian academic institutions and businesses.

CVS Dairy Extension Training in Zheng Zhou

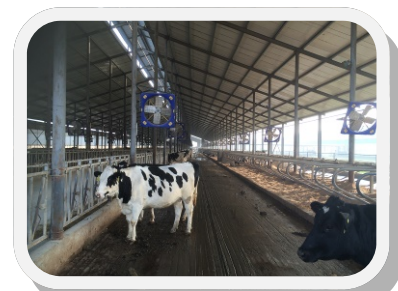
In 2014, on a voluntary basis, CVS implemented a Needs Analysis for the Henan Dairy Herd Improvement Centre (HDHIC), the dairy extension service of the Provincial Government. The report recommended Train-The-Trainer programs for the HDHIC, as well as collaborative research and training programs between the Henan Agricultural University (HAU), and UQSVS.

The initial Train-The-Trainer program was conducted by Drs John Alawneh and Chamberlain in Nov/Dec 2015 in Zhang Zhou, with HUA staff and post-graduate students, as well as HDHIC staff, farmers and industry personnel.

Other stakeholders also included De Laval (milking machines), VES Environmental Systems (ventilation) and DSM (nutrition).

A second program will be conducted in April 2016.

"We are also looking at implementing an overall development plan for HDHIC, as well as collaborative PhD and Post Doc positions between HAU and UQSVS, that will also assist the development program, as well as develop strong inter-country links," Dr Chamberlain said.



7,000 cow dairy farm in Henan

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PC Comment; *Political correctness, severely limiting Australian productivity*



Lets compare government decision making processes between Australia and China.

It is obvious that China can make decisions faster than we do, without worrying about community backlash.

But this is an oppressive regime you might say, but, in my opinion, at least things happen, the standard of living, environmental management and the economy are all rapidly improving, with a focus on long-term people, environmental and economic sustainability.

I firmly believe that Political Correctness in Australia, leads to slow decision making processes, as *we might be seen to make the incorrect decision that some people may not like.*

For example, in China in 2015, the Government decided overnight that officials were not allowed to drink alcohol at lunch time, as this was leading to poor p.m. productivity and costing the Government billions p.a.

This decision resulted in an increase in productivity, but many restaurants went out of business. A tough decision, but a necessary one that would have not been taken if the public had been consulted.

In Australia, the so-called consultation processes holds up many decisions and three layers of government prevents harmonization across Australia. In my opinion, Governments need to have the courage to make decisions that may be unpopular in the short-term.

The health system for example suffers from the funding in-fighting between State and Federal Governments. In my opinion the Federal Government needs to take full control, and make some long-term strategic decisions on how the system will be managed and funded for the next 20 years.

This would not be a popular decision, but would give the system and the people who work in it, some direction and certainty.

In my opinion, the lack of bi-partisan Federal Government agreement on how such systems are to be managed in the long-term, is severely damaging our children's future.

I believe that it is time for our politicians to make decisions for the long-term benefit of Australia and not for short term re-election outcomes.

We need to find a balance between the Chinese and Australian government decision making processes.

PC