

International Dairy Research Consortium For Nutrition, Health Formed By Six Dairy Industry Organizations

Rosemont, IL—Six dairy organizations from around the world this week announced the formation of the International Dairy Research Consortium for Nutrition and Health to accelerate pre-competitive research on the nutrition and health benefits of dairy.

Founding partners, all of whom are significant funders of dairy research, are the US-based Dairy Research Institute, Dairy Australia, Dairy Farmers of Canada, the Centre National Interprofessionnel de l'Economie Laitiere in France, the Danish Dairy Research Foundation and the Dutch Dairy Association.

The Consortium will advance dairy nutrition and health research by identifying common goals with the largest potential to increase dairy demand.

It will then align the knowledge and resources needed to advance those research goals rapidly and for the broadest application.

Interest areas potentially include better understanding how major nutrients and other components of milk may provide benefits related to metabolic health and chronic diseases.

"Dairy nutrition research is at a critical point in that there is mounting evidence indicating that dairy's benefits extend beyond good nutrition and may reduce risk of several major chronic diseases, but more research is needed to fully substanti-

ate these claims," said Greg Miller, president of the Dairy Research Institute and executive vice president of the National Dairy Council.

"Building international alignment through this Consortium will accelerate our ability to firmly establish newer benefits of dairy and its position as an essential part of a healthy diet," Miller added.

Consortium partners will conduct their first official meeting in August to begin identifying common research priorities and developing an integrated research plan.

"The formation of the Consortium is an exciting advancement for the global dairy sector," commented Donald Moore, executive director of the Global Dairy Platform, which will serve as secretariat of the Consortium. ■