



PRESS RELEASE

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Global Dairy Leaders to Convene in Auckland for the IDF World Dairy Summit 2026

The **International Dairy Federation (IDF)** is pleased to announce that the **IDF World Dairy Summit 2026 (IDF WDS2026)** will take place from **15–20 November 2026** at the **New Zealand International Convention Centre** in Auckland.

As IDF's flagship annual event, the World Dairy Summit will bring together senior leaders from across the global dairy value chain, including farmers, processors, scientists, nutrition and health experts, policymakers, and industry innovators, to exchange knowledge, strengthen collaboration, and shape the future of the sector.

Hosted by **New Zealand**, a global leader in sustainable pastoral farming and milk processing, IDF WDS2026 will explore the central theme:

Healthy People, Healthy Planet, Healthy Economies.

Building on the momentum of previous Summits, IDF WDS2026 will provide a dynamic platform for science-based dialogue and future-focused exchange at a time when expectations around nutrition, sustainability, and economic resilience are rising worldwide.

Early Bird registration opens on 1 April 2026, offering participants the opportunity to secure their place at a preferential rate. Further information on registration, programme development, travel planning, and New Zealand's dairy sector is available at www.idfwds2026.com.

A Programme Designed to Inspire and Inform

Delegates will benefit from a comprehensive programme featuring world-class speakers, plenary sessions, technical symposia, and specialty forums addressing the most pressing topics shaping the future of dairy, including:

- Advances in dairy science, technology, sustainability, and global market trends

- Public health, nutrition, and food safety innovations
- Climate-positive farming practices, on-farm technologies, and data-driven systems
- The evolution of grazing systems, aligned with the **FAO's 2026 International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists**
- Inclusive perspectives highlighting youth, indigenous peoples, and underrepresented voices
- The role of women in dairy, aligned with the **FAO's 2026 International Year of the Woman Farmer**

The Summit will also feature technical visits to leading farms, processing facilities, and research centres, offering delegates first-hand insight into New Zealand's world-class dairy systems.

A Global Hub for Collaboration and Connection

IDF WDS2026 will serve as a global meeting point for stakeholders from industry, government, research institutions, and farming communities. Delegates will also engage with exhibitors showcasing technologies and innovations supporting a resilient and sustainable dairy sector.

Steve Holroyd, IDF World Dairy Summit Co-Convenor:

"The IDF World Dairy Summit 2026 will showcase the incredible power of dairy, a sector supporting the livelihoods of around one billion people globally, and how New Zealand has harnessed innovation and science to build a world-class dairy industry."

Gilles Froment, President, International Dairy Federation:

"The IDF World Dairy Summit 2026 comes at a defining moment for the global dairy sector. As expectations around nutrition, sustainability, and economic resilience continue to rise, this Summit will provide a vital space for science-based dialogue, shared learning, and collective action. By bringing together diverse perspectives from across the value chain, we can help ensure dairy continues to play a positive and essential role in nourishing people, supporting livelihoods, and contributing to sustainable food systems worldwide."

Laurence Rycken, Director General, International Dairy Federation:

"The IDF World Dairy Summit is where science, policy, and practice come together. In 2026, Auckland will host a truly global platform for exchange, bringing together stakeholders from across the dairy value chain and from very different regional and economic realities. IDF WDS2026 will reflect the full breadth of the sector, from public health and livelihoods to inclusion and gender equity, while offering one of the most comprehensive platforms for dialogue, partnership, and networking across the global dairy community."

About IDF (International Dairy Federation)

Nourish the world by advancing dairy knowledge.

The IDF is the leading source of scientific and technical expertise for all stakeholders of the dairy chain. Since 1903, IDF has provided a mechanism for the dairy sector to reach a global consensus on how to help feed the world with safe and sustainable dairy products. A recognized international authority in the development of science-based standards for the dairy sector, IDF has an important role to play in ensuring the right

policies, standards, practices, and regulations are in place to ensure the world's dairy products are safe and sustainable.

The IDF World Dairy Summit is its premier annual event, bringing together dairy professionals from across the globe to share knowledge and insights that drive the future of the sector.

Media contact:

Charles Duque | cduque@fil-idf.org



About the IDF New Zealand National Committee

The New Zealand National Committee of the International Dairy Federation (IDF NZ) brings together producers, processors, cooperatives, academia, researchers and scientists, as well as other dairy-sector stakeholders to collaborate within the IDF framework. This provides a platform for coordination and international engagement that affords a New Zealand perspective into IDF global activities.

Media contact:

IDF WDS2026 Organising Committee | media@idfwds2026.com