Urban and peri-urban milk development in Greater Cairo (Egypt) : What future for the traditional milk sector?

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Few elements of history

Milk and milk products in Egypt: an antic & ancestral culture
Milking representation in Egyptian tombs
First manufacture of cheese, 2000 BC

Paintings from the tomb of Ipy (Thèbes, Egypt)

very sour and salty to preserve the cheese in the hot, arid climate
(similar to a cottage cheese or feta in texture)
Recent development of the milk sector in Egypt
Buffalo and cow milk production and population growth over the period 1961-2012 (FAOSTAT, 2014)
PRODUCTIVITY

Productivity Kg /Year

kg

Year

0 200 400 600 800 1000 1200 1400 1600 1800 2000

R² = 0.5334
R² = 0.8754

Poly. (Buff)
Poly. (Cow)
Total milk market %
(National data, 2011 - Tetrapack)
CONCLUSION

- Production of milk from both buffaloes and cows and their productivity are increasing, the latter at a rate higher than the increase rate of the human population, hence leading to increased per capita share of milk.

- The increase in productivity is mainly coming from the higher production of exotic cattle and their crosses.

- Among all milk products including liquid milk, soft white cheese is the most prominent milk product Egyptians consume.

- The composition of the cattle population is tilting towards exotic genes at the expense of Baladi cattle. This should be a matter of concern in order to regulate the generation and use of crossbreds and limit the indiscriminate crossing.
Urban and peri urban milk development

The importance of traditional sector in Cairo
Urban vs peri urban dairy farm system
Traditional milk chain
Dairy shops: key elements

**Local knowledge**
- Sale around 5 milk products (including fresh milk)
- Quantity of sold milk (milk & milk products) is 1.7 more important during Ramadan

**Social network**
- 61% of suppliers (traders, MCC) are relatives

**Business**
- 866 tons of milk per day circulated in Greater Cairo

- Pie chart showing:
  - Milk: 43%
  - Cheese: 40%
  - Yogourt: 13%
  - Cream: 4%
Success and limit of this model...

- a high attractiveness of this business mainly based on **family social networks** → **guarantee of quality and supply**

- this traditional sector connects thousands of small dairy farms at the urban demand → **a social-added value chain** in terms of employment, distribution of income, and the opportunities

- **BUT**: the huge campaign of the modern sector supported by Egyptian authorities to promote the consumption of packaged milk

- **HOWEVER**: This sector benefit of the special status of buffalo milk in Egypt
Thank you