



Internship Kenya

Title: Define and describe quality control and hygiene standards for the dairy processing plant of Tulaga Farmers Cooperative Society in Kenya

Period: March-June 2019

Introduction of the cooperative

Tulaga Farmers Cooperative Society is a marketing Cooperative which was founded in 1964 by 427 members. It has since grown its membership to over 2.055 active members, collecting and marketing milk produced by its members drawn from Tulaga Scheme in Nyandarua County. The Society is run by a Board of Directors comprising of 9 members and 3 supervisory committee members. The day-to-day running of the society is entrusted to the manager and a team of 28 permanent staff and 21 casual workers.

In 2011 there has been a collaboration between Tulaga and Agriterra /SNV, with a focus on extension services (farmers training) and feasibility of a possible merger with another cooperative. This collaboration ended and the intended merger did not materialise due to resistance from the members. After failure in this trajectory, Agriterra stopped the partnership until mid-2017 when the Board of Tulaga requested Agriterra's support.

The request for support is focussing much on knowledge and advice related to make a profitable business from the processing plant installed as well as advice on extension services, in order to ensure enough milk supply to the processing plant in the future. Tulaga is planning to pasteurize a proportion of their milk and sell it in bulk as a start, with a plan to start packaging and making other value products in future.

Background of the internship

After a successful Cooperative Assessment mid-2018 (report available), the cooperation between Agriterra and Tulaga started, with key focus on the implementation of their Strategic plan. At the time of the assessment, Tulaga was in the process of procuring a continuous pasteurizer (2.000 liters/hour capacity) from Poland. Currently, the whole processing line has been installed with the only remaining issues being sinking of a borehole and installation of a transformer for consistent power supply. After analysing the figures, the team was convinced that there was indeed a viable business case to work on. The focus of the partnership will therefore be on enhancing efficiency in the factory to achieve maximum return on investment through well-established marketing systems as well as milk procurement systems.

Since the arrival of the machine, the board and management has lobbied the local government to install the power transformer as well as installation of the borehole

for consistent water supply. However, as they wait for this process to complete, Tulaga has already installed some short-term remedies that will ensure that they are already running the factory as they wait for a permanent solution.

In preparation to start the processing, a production manager has been hired and is already on site. His task will be to ensure the production processes of the factory are running efficiently and effectively. He will also be assisted by another team of production staff who will be selected from staff members and trained by the production manager. The factory plant has already been installed and tested, now awaiting streamlining of the market to start the processing.

To ensure a successful transition from just bulking to marketing processed milk products, it is important to safeguard the quality standards of their factory. This can only be guaranteed if quality control systems are set from the beginning. This goes from handling procedures at farm level up to the production of the final product.

Main objective

The main objective of the assignment is to develop a dairy quality control system and procedures based on the norms set by the Kenyan government from farmer level up to end consumer and support the cooperative in applying and adhering to these quality standards.

Specific objectives

- Analysing the current quality control situation of Tulaga from farm level up to end consumer; compare this with the Government norms and identify areas for improvement
- Develop a practical quality control framework within the production department, considering all steps in the value chain
- Guide/support the production supervisor with implementation of the quality control measures

Expected results

1. Internship report describing the current situation and the desired situation; outlining the procedures and systems that need to be implemented and advise TFCS on how to do this.
2. A presentation of the main outcomes to the board and Agriterra.

Internship details

A team of two students will conduct this internship, preferably one Kenyan student and one international student.

The preferred candidate for this assignment is:

1. A Netherlands based Bsc final year student (HAS) with a strong background in dairy farming and/or dairy processing, food safety and hygiene.
2. A Kenyan based Bsc final year student with a strong background in dairy farming and/or dairy processing, food safety and hygiene.

The two students shall have complementary profiles. The selected candidates have a pro-active attitude, are willing to travel and work rather independently, have good communication skills and like to work in an international environment.

The interns will report to the General Manager of Tulaga Dairy with periodical reporting to the Agriterra Business Advisor in Nairobi Mr Patrick Kagathi (Agriterra business advisor) and Ms Bertken de Leede, Agriterra Business Advisor in Arnhem, the Netherlands.

Remark: This internship is not very suitable for a thesis.

Duration of the internship:

The time frame of the internship will be 90 days in the period of March-June 2019 (preferable but flexibility is possible)

Arrangements:

- Agriterra will arrange a flight for the International intern and basic allowance for the Kenyan intern according to the standard Agriterra policy.
- Tulaga Farmers Cooperative Society will support the students in finding a safe accommodation; offer a work space in their premises and support the students with their research work. This includes support in transportation to the field in case research will be done at milk routes, farm level, various stakeholders etc.

Annexes (available for selected students only)

1. Cooperative Assessment report
2. Sustainable Services Workshop report
3. Reporting guidelines

Are you interested?

Are you interested in this position and do you fit the profile? Apply before 10 December 2018, with a short motivation letter and curriculum vitae, by sending an e-mail to vacature@agriterra.org, to the attention of C.C. van Rij, manager agri-advice.

Agriterra, for cooperatives



Agriterra provides high-quality and hands-on advice, training and exchange services to cooperatives and farmer organisations with maximum impact for socio-economically strong and productive rural areas.

In 2018, with 125 employees, Agriterra advises 208 cooperatives in 35 countries. With our programme we reach more than 500.000 farmers. In the last two years we have already mobilised more than 20 million euro made available through policy changes. More than 40 cooperatives are linked to banks with a mobilised loan for working capital and investments of more than 15 million euro, while 33 clients have a processing facility with increased production.

Through professionalising and strengthening cooperatives in Latin America, Africa and Asia, Agriterra contributes to positive economic development and better income distribution. Farmers organised in strong, competitive and trustworthy cooperatives are indispensable for a vibrant rural economy, fostering agricultural development and off-farm employment in rural areas.

Agriterra draws on a century of cooperative knowledge in the Netherlands disclosed via its extensive network in the Dutch agri-food sector. These experts and agripool experts from farmers organisations all over the world, work together with business advisors from the Netherlands and national business advisors in the countries where Agriterra staff is based.