The role of research, innovation and education for a strong dairy sector

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Abstract:

The Danish dairy sector is the most modern in the EU and our productivity is in the absolute world elite, because we continuously research the improvement potential and maintain a high level of know-how in the dairy farming sector. Furthermore we have a strong and uniquely coherent value chain, which is supported by highly skilled veterinarians and agronomists. This gives us a high milk yield and great opportunities for export, because Denmark is known for high quality dairy products with high standards of animal welfare, which is what consumers want. We have developed specific strategic goals in order to ensure that Denmark can maintain this market position.

The Danish dairy sector is changing rapidly. Keywords are sustainability, animal welfare, tracking and tracing, quality control, entrepreneurship and profitability. This raises not only new questions about future dairy systems but also on how to incorporate new knowledges into the dairy sector.

The ambition must be to integrate research with education and knowledge dissemination in order to initiate innovation in the Danish Dairy sector. This is done in close relationship with dairy farmers and enterprises in agricultural business including supply and processing industry. It is highly important to utilize the available technology to monitor key performance indicators on efficient production, animal welfare, medicine consumption, mortality and environmental impact.

The Danish dairy should in the future to a higher extend aim for creating a united platform for agricultural research, innovation, education, training and development of entrepreneurship among dairy farmers. Research, education, innovation, knowledge transfer and training are linked with each other and with stakeholders from the whole Danish dairy sector.