

Foreword

The demand for livestock products will double in the next two decades. Consumption of milk in the developing world is growing at 2.9% per annum from 44 kg per person in 1997 to 62 kg per person in 2020, with the demand in some Asian countries growing by 3.5% per annum.

This demand for milk and dairy products must be met by some means. Some will be met through increased global trade but much, especially the demand for whole fresh milk, will have to be met locally.

There is an unprecedented interest in dairying in the tropical countries of Asia, and to a lesser extent in Africa, led largely by national governments. But, in many of these countries, especially those in South-East Asia, dairy cattle and their products have not been a major part of their cultural heritage. Consequently there is a need for high-quality, well-informed, educational and training materials, if this burgeoning demand is to be met efficiently and effectively in the relatively short time available.

Manuals of the type developed by Dr John Moran in this publication are an essential part of the tool kit that is required for the satisfactory development of good husbandry and efficient production systems for small farmers in Asia.

Dr Moran has drawn on his extensive experience in research for the Australian dairy industry, as well as on his wide personal experience and knowledge of the needs of the South-East Asia dairy industries.

The manual is firmly based on good science. Dr Moran has translated this science into what are currently the best practices for a tropical dairy industry under the conditions that exist throughout large areas of Asia.

John E Vercoe

Chairman, Board of Trustees for the International Livestock Research Institute, Kenya, Africa (1998–2004) and Chairman of the Committee of Board Chairs of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (2002–2003).

Author's note



Dr John Vercoe relaxing with an overseas colleague during one of his ATSE Crawford master classes

Dr John Vercoe passed away suddenly in September 2005. His contributions to tropical cattle production were many and varied over the last 40 years, particularly in international agriculture. John was both my professional and personal friend and along with my colleagues, I will miss him dearly.