

## World Milk Day Commemoration in Afghanistan - 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016

### Introduction

The World Milk Day was celebrated in the 4 Afghan provincial capital cities of Kabul, Herat, Jalalabad and Mazar – e - Sharif on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016. **This was the first time the event was celebrated in Afghanistan.** In the 4 provinces FAO planned for the celebrations together with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), the provincial Directorates of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock and the Ministry of Education.

### Objective

The objective of World Milk Day celebration is to increase public awareness about the importance of milk and milk products, and dairy industry development in Afghanistan.

### Events On the Day

5,500 students and officials from MAIL, provincial governors' offices, dairy unions, DAILs, FAO, WFP, and WHO participated in the celebrations in girls' high schools. In every location dairy companies displayed their milk and milk products. Students received some brochures on the importance of milk. The school children presented various drama acts, poems, songs and speeches acknowledging the importance of milk as a food especially for children.

There was distribution of milk and yoghurt to students from the selected girls' high schools in the respective cities. The schools involved in the celebrations were Alayee (Jalalabad), Fath (Herat), and Khursan (Mazar -e -Sharif and Rabia - e Balkhi (Kabul)



Mr Mir Amanudin Haidari MAIL Deputy Minister presents a glass of milk to a school girl during the celebrations

In Kabul Mr Mir Amanudin Haidari, Deputy Minister, MAIL, Mr Tomio Shichiri (FAO Representative) and Mr Abdul Maheed Hashimi, Head of Public Awareness in the Ministry of Education officiated at the celebrations. Mr Tomio Shichiri particularly urged stakeholders to look into the possibility of introducing a pilot school milk programmes in the country. “The consumption of milk and school milk programmes do not only improve the nutritional status and growth rate of children but also improves school attendance and their academic performance” he said.



Mr. Tomio Shichiri, FAR Country Representative presents a glass of milk to another school girl



A student facilitating the proceedings during the World Milk Day celebration in Kabul



Students received dairy products and notebooks during the event





Dairy products distribution in Herat city