

WEEKLY BULLETIN



NATIONAL FOOD TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH CENTRE

FOOD SAFETY TRAINING AT DAIRY FARM



Dairy Farm employees listening attentively

NFTRC officials, Ms Tumelo Tlhong and Mr Gaamangwe Maruatona conducted a two-day food safety training course for Dairy Farm employees in Molapowabojang last week Tuesday and Wednesday.

The objective of the training was to ensure that Good Hygiene Practices, Food Hygiene and Pest Control are adapted and maintained at the farm to guarantee safety of its products.

The training was interactive where facilitators and trainees shared their knowledge and ideas on hygiene.

It was however, agreed that hygiene is essential for maintenance of health and quality of life. It can be broadly classified into two categories being Personal Hygiene and Environmental Hygiene.

The participants were encouraged to take the training seriously to minimise losses as well as negative publicity due to rejects of their products by the food market.

They were urged to cultivate a hygienic culture by ensuring that their production area is bacteria-free, pest are controlled and they use quality water and keep environment clean all the time.

According to NFTRC team when all these procedures are implemented there will be fewer or no hazards, hence growth on market acceptance and organisational income. They highlighted that dealing with crisis can cost the organisation both revenue and jobs as this could lead to closure of the business.

Employees were encouraged to always use the right cleaning chemicals in correct ratios to avoid wastage of the products.

For example: when water is not properly drained from the pipes after cleaning, it can mix with milk and cause a crisis.

The employees were also reminded to color code their cleaning materials for easy identification.

In conclusion the Dairy Farm employees were encouraged to adopt the smart partnership concept, (win: win approach) so that their organisation can grow and sustain both the owner and the employers.

Participants were encouraged to be passionate about their jobs for Dairy Farm products to compete with others in the market.



Dorcus Motlhankanyane explaining how she cleans the milking parlour



Japanese Scientists Explore Scientific Collaboration with NFTRC



***From left –right:
Prof Saito, Mr
Tada and Prof
Kurokawa
(Leader)***

On Saturday 27 February 2010 NFTRC hosted 3 prominent Scientists from National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) in Japan. These were Prof Kurokawa (Leader), Prof. Saito and Mr Tada.

They were accompanied by Ms Lesego Motoma (Director –Department of Research Science and Technology) and other senior officials of MIST. The objective of the visit was to explore possibilities for scientific collaboration with NFTRC.

In his welcoming remarks Mr Bobby Tlhabiwe (Deputy Board Chairperson) thanked the team for coming to NFTRC. He said he was looking forward to having a partnership with AIST, which will lead to the signing of a memorandum between the two institutions.

Prof Lewis Ezeogu (DRD) gave an overview of NFTRC and highlighted the potential areas for collaboration, which included Algal biotechnology and Recombined DNA technology (Development of molecular probes and Genetic modification,) which he felt NFTRC would need help from Japanese as they are advanced in those areas.

In his part the leader of the delegation, Prof Kurokawa said that he was excited to be in Botswana as it was their first visit. He commended the country for its stability, the good education which is supported by the government and for its rich natural resources.

Commenting on the overview, Prof Kurokawa advised that NFTRC (and the country at large) should identify its strengths and focus its efforts on those that would give it competitive edge over other countries. He encouraged NFTRC Management to take a leaf from developed countries such as the Netherlands and Singapore who capitalized on their strategic strengths.

He shared his observations that Botswana was strategically located in Southern Africa to serve as a food processing hub for the region, and that if resources could be directed into the identified strengths the country could perform very well economically.

He pointed out that positive results can only be obtained through coordinated participation of all critical players in the country, and that the private sector should be engaged extensively in the identified national development programs.

Expanding on private sector engagement, Mr Tada explained that a business person will only consider doing business in a country where there is business security, business sustainability and food safety management systems.

He encouraged NFTRC to engage government to institute prudent food safety management systems as this would attract business people to come to Botswana.

More Pictures from Japanese Visit.....

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1. **Mr Bobby Tlhabiwe welcoming guests**
2. **Dr Kebakile with the visitors touring the laboratories**
3. **A group picture of delegates**

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COMPETITION!!!



Fellow citizens and colleagues.

I humbly call upon you to use our innovative minds. As you all know Cow meat is called

beef, pig meat called pork, wild meat called game, chicken meat called poultry, Veal obtained from a calf etc. Now let us all put our brains together and come up with a "market catchy" name for Donkey meat and its related products!!!

Anyone who manages to come up with a "trendy name" will be offered lunch next Monday, courtesy of the Food Technology Department

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