

## **International co-operation bestows accolades on dairy efforts**

*Submitted by ICSC*

The International Centre for Sustainable Cities' (ICSC) Enhancing Sustainable Dairy Production project in Cuba won the AMEC Award for Sustainable Development of Natural Resources or Protection of the Environment at the 5th Annual Canadian Awards for International Cooperation.

Presented in Fredricton May 23, N.B. by Robert Greenhill, president, Canadian International Development Agency and the Hon. Perrin Beatty, president & CEO, Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters, these awards recognize and honour the work of Canadians in developing countries.

"This project is an excellent demonstration of sustainability, and offers an important model for other communities in similar climactic zones," said Dr. Nola-Kate Seymoar, president and CEO of ICSC.

Through the cooperation of Canada's dairy farmers, ICSC's year-long demonstration project at the Cuban cooperative "CPA 26 July", in the tiny community of Los Palos, has created sustainable, on-farm nutrition for dairy cows, replacing costly imported cattle feed supplements from the U.S.

This has helped the community become more self-sufficient in dairy production — at present, Cuba imports half of the necessary dairy requirements as expensive imported skim milk powder.

The results have been highly successful. In only six months, milk production at the farm cooperative in Havana province increased from 3.5 litres per cow per day, to between 7.5 to 10 litres per cow per day, resulting in a 140 per cent increase in the farmers' income from the sale of milk.

Better nutrition caused herd mortality to drop from 50 per cent to zero per cent in six months time.

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