



Regional Dairy Workshop - Why Dairy? Why Jersey?



The role the Jersey plays within SHMPA Matching the cow to the farm

Zione Chipfaka

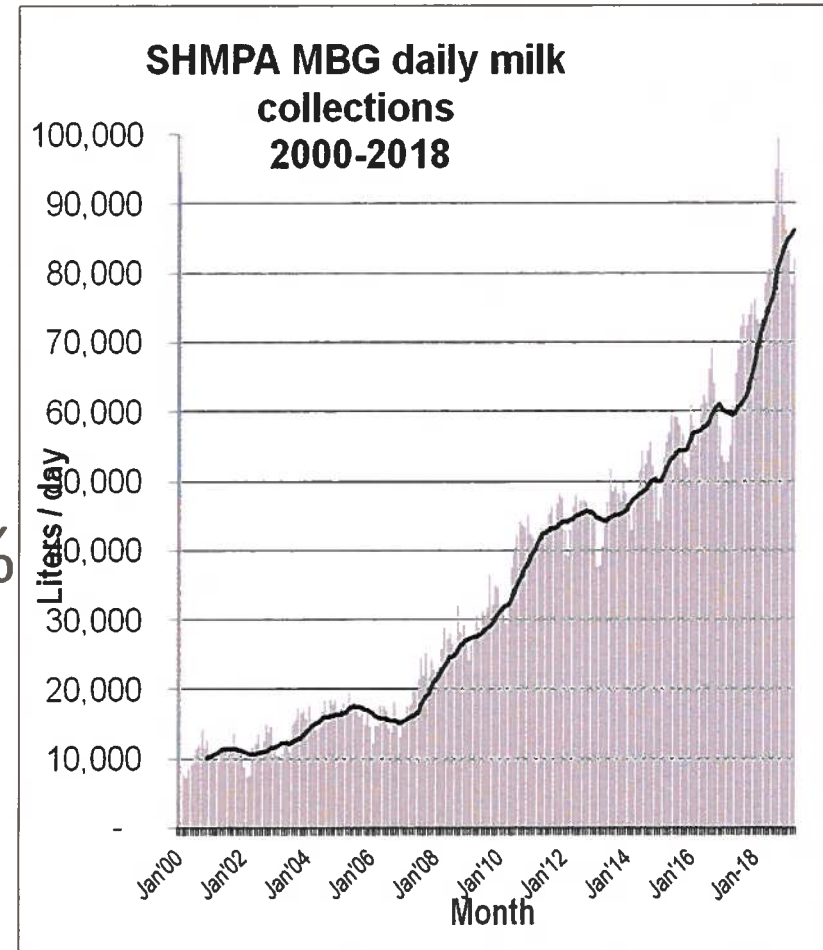
Shire Highlands Milk Producers
Association, Malawi

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Milk production in Malawi

- Cows BL&W in 1970's,
- Jersey AI 2000's
- 90,000L/day, +13% /yr
- Produced by 9,000 smallholder farmers (>50% female)
- US\$0.22/L farm price





Milk Consumption

- 18m people, increasing by 0.5m /yr
- <4L /capita/yr , 37% child stunting under 5yrs
- 90,000L/day local production + 60,000L/day imported (WMP)
- Processed retail price 66c/L, (2L = min wage)
- Potential to increase consumption by supplying cheaper unprocessed milk to low income families



SHMPA services

- 60 Milk collection centres , run by farmers and milk traders
- 35 Farmer livestock technicians – vet and AI
- 5 field officers – training, advisory support
- Deliver farm inputs – feed, drugs, AI, equipment
- Heifer loans and training for new farmers (400 women/yr)





Malawian milk producers



- 1.5 cows , 0.4ha food crop
- Cash income from milk, family food from crop
- Low milk price → low cost inputs (quality and quantity)
- Crop residues, maize bran, grass and weeds
- Sell 5-10L/day, 1 L home use
- +50% female farmers (matrilineal farm ownership)
- Large economic and social impact from one cow farm – above minimum wage



Ideal dairy cows for Malawian smallholders

High priority:

- Lots of calves (ie. early return to breeding)
 - (needed as herd replacements + surplus heifers for new farmers)
- Easy calvings
- Milk production on small amounts of low quality feed

Low priority:

- Peak milk yield, high heifer growth rates
- Heat tolerance (temperate climate in Shire Highlands)



Jersey Island Genetics for Malawian Smallholders?

- Unique gene pool of smaller old type cows on Jersey Island
- Identifying and preserving smaller cow families to provide genetics for farmers with limited feed resources





Conclusion

- Experience so far with Jersey crosses is positive – they fit the Malawian farm better than BL&Ws, and the smaller ones should be even better
- This is an urgent call to save the little old cows on Jersey Island from extinction!

