

## Criteria Overview for the DSF Criteria: Rural Economies

**Strategic Intent:** The dairy sector contributes to the resilience and economic viability of farmers and rural communities.

**DSF Indicator Metric:** *Annual payments made to farmers for milk.*

**About this Criteria:** Research has shown the value of dairy for both the individual farming family (nutrition and cash flow) and for those employed along the dairy value chain. The resilience of any value chain requires a combination of interacting human and financial resources. This is reflected through the rural communities in which those that are engaged in the dairy value chain are living.

Aspects to consider, include:

- A long-term perspective by the value chain on dairy operations, developments, growth and investment
- The remuneration provided to farmers for the milk they provide their customers.
- The fair wages paid to all staff along the dairy value chain
- The value of dairy products in the marketplace and how this is distributed along the value chain and shared throughout the rural communities
- Through market opportunities and dairy market growth, opportunities to bring more farmers into the formal milk market
- The relationship and interaction the dairy value chain has with the communities in which it operates. i.e. sponsorship of local sports clubs/ school milk programs etc.

**Interlinkages:** This Criteria links closely with **Market Development, Animal Care, Working Conditions, Waste, Biodiversity, Water and Product Safety and Quality** Criteria.