**Milk production of Borgou F1 crosses with Gir, Girolando and Holstein at the ranch of Okpara, northern Benin.**

ALKOIRET T. I.1, TCHIWANOU L.1, AHISSOU A.2 & TOURE Z. F.2

*1Laboratory of Ecology, Health and Animal Production (LEHAP), University of Parakou, Po Box 123 Parakou, Benin Republic.*

*2Support Project for Milk and Meat Sectors (SPMMS), Ranch of Okpara, Po Box 33 Parakou, Benin Republic.*

A study was carried out to evaluate the milk production of Borgou F1 crosses with Gir (BG), Girolando (BGH) and Holstein (BH) at the ranch of Okpara, northern Benin. Analysis of variance based on General Linear Model of SAS 2010 was used to analyze the data. The genetic group of cows (BG, BGH and BH) influenced (p <0.05) lactation milk yield (1738 *vs.* 1200 *vs.* 1320 kg) and peak milk yield (8.0 *vs.* 5.4 *vs.* 5.9 kg) for BG, BGH and BH respective. As against the genetic group had no effect (p> 0.05) on the lactation length. The lactation number impacted (p <0.05) lactation milk yield (1208 *vs.* 1252 *vs.* 1949 *vs.* 2028 kg), peak milk yield (5.6 vs 6.1 vs 8.1 vs 8 0 kg) and the lactation length (259 *vs.* 281 *vs.* 298 *vs.* 305 days) for lactation numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively. The effect of calving season was significant (p <0.05) and the rainy season had fostered a better lactation milk yield (1798 *vs.* 1040 kg), a higher peak milk yield (7.6 *vs.* 5.1 kg) and a longer lactation length (292 *vs.* 269 days) relative to the dry season. The year of calving had a significant effect (p <0.05) on lactation milk yield (1023 *vs.* 995 *vs.* 1476 *vs.* 1759 kg), peak milk yield (5.1 *vs.* 4.8 *vs.* 6.6 *vs.* 6.9 kg) and the lactation length (258 *vs.* 281 *vs.* 291 *vs.* 297 days) for the years 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively. This study showed that BG crosses had higher milk production through better adaptation to environmental conditions.

**Keywords:** Lactation yield, lactation length, calving season, Borgou, Benin.