

# Interests of Quality Management System implementation by France Genetique Elevage with 60 local organisations for parentage certification

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## **Abstract**

France Genetique Elevage (FGE) is an interprofessional association of various French organisations, including the Establishments of Breeding (EdE). It contributes to the animal genetic progress. EdE organizes cattle identification by breeders and ensures a specific process of parentage certification, 56.3% of calves born in France have a certified parentage in 2015. During the past 10 years, FGE has set up a Quality Management System (QMS), compliant with ISO 9001 Standard, for the various trades contributing to the production of genetic evaluations. QMS is implemented by more than 200 organisations and companies. A contract, defining individual responsibilities, was signed between FGE and 60 EdE. A professional framework of Parentage Certification was co-written by FGE and the EdEs, their goal being to safeguard and harmonize the process activities: promote adhesion by farmers, parentage certification and monitoring in farms. EdEs carries out an internal audit every 18 months to check the application of the reference frame. To improve the system, representatives of FGE and EdEs, attend the organization of an annual review of the process. Audit reports, indicators, non-compliances and the previous year's action plan are analysed. The effectiveness of the system is assessed and actions for improvement are defined. Context evolutions are also studied to anticipate their impact on the system, followed by necessary adaptations. This quality-control approach, which has encouraged co-operation between organisations, largely contribute to the improvement of the QMS. Indicator results increase regularly. The average number of non-compliance detected during audits decreased from 10.8 to 3.4 in 5 years. The reference frame is regularly up-dated according to needs and evolutions. This quality approach which harmonizes the practices has strongly facilitated a merger between organisations. The success of the project is related to the communal establishment of the system by EdEs and FGE. EdEs have brought their know-how and FGE has brought the method and coherence with the other trades members. The system is maintained at an adequate level proven to meet the needs of its users (breeders, breeding societies, etc.) In a context of significant technical and lawful evolutions, the approach will have to allow the EdEs and QMS of French genetic progress to adapt quickly to the change by guaranteeing the reliability of information.

*Keywords: parentage recording, quality, ISO 9001, genetic evaluation.*