

ICAR WORKING GROUP ON MILK TESTING LABORATORIES

Meeting on 28 May 2002 in Interlaken (Switzerland)

- Provisional report -

Attending members:

Olivier Leray (FR, chairman), Christian Baumgartner (DE), Ugo Paggi (IT), Harrie van den Bijgaart (NL), Egil Brenne (NO), Des Johnston (NZ), John Rhoads (USA).

Observers:

Franz Schallerl (AT), Thomas Berger (CH), Hans Peter Roth (CH), Oto Hanuš (CZ), Tove Asmussen (DK), Bore Palaševski (MK), Nikola Pacinovski (MK), Tibor Bajkai (HU), Laura Monaco (IT), Romas Petruškevičius (LT), Maria Brzozovska (PL), Slavica Golc Teger (SL), Tomas Rydstedt (SE).

Apologies:

George Psathas (CY).

1. Opening, approval of the tentative agenda

The meeting was opened at 09.00 hours by the chairman. The tentative agenda was approved.

2. ICAR News

The website of the MTL WG can be approached via www.icar.org. The 'webspaces' will be filled with:

- MTL WG membership list;
- terms of reference;
- reports of the MTL WG meetings;
- date of the next MTL WG meeting;
- task underway;
- information on analytical methods for DHI;
- list of centres for testing analytical instruments;
- information on the ICAR Reference Laboratory Network.

Action: Leray

3. Composition of ICAR MTL WG

Present members of the ICAR MTL WG are listed above. The ICAR Board has indicated that the composition of the MTL WG now meets with the aims of proper representation from ICAR countries and having not much more than seven members, as targeted for ICAR Working Groups.

4. Current Activities

4.1 Reports of the last meetings

4.1a Report of the meeting in Munich on 19 and 20 November 2001

The report of the meeting was approved, thereby accounting for the fact that under 5.1 on page 3 it should read: SC on Milk Meters & Jars and WG on Quality Assurance.

The following items were further addressed during the meeting.

page 2, 4.1:

Leray explained that minimal six samples should be analysed by the participants in the ICAR interlaboratory trials, in order to maintain acceptable robustness in concerned statistics. However, in case of a bad sample or an outlier no buffer is left. Paggi indicated that with the planned trials for goat and sheep milk seven samples will be sent.

page 2, 4.2a:

The draft protocol for the evaluation of milk analysers will be forwarded to the ICAR Board shortly. It will be proposed to seek approval from ICAR National Committees through an accompanying questionnaire. Furthermore, it will be sent for comments to concerned instrument manufacturers.

Action: Leray

page 2, 4.2d:

The ranking in the presentation of trial results will be maintained.

4.1b Report of the informal meeting in Toledo 22 April 2002

The report of the meeting was approved.

4.2 Progress in current works

4.2a Protocol for the evaluation of milk analysers for milk recording.

See under 4.1a.

4.2b Questionnaire on quality control in DHI laboratories within ICAR

Van den Bijgaart presented a summary of the replies to the questionnaire (see included file). A full report will be prepared during the coming months.

Action: Van den Bijgaart



icar2001q.ppt

4.2c. ICAR reference laboratory network

The meeting was considered very fruitful. The presentations will be compiled and distributed to the participants. It is concluded that a next meeting should be held during the next ICAR Sessions.

Action: Van den Bijgaart & Leray

4.2d. Sheep and goat milk analysis and other species

The first Reference Laboratory Network trials for are planned to take place for sheep milk in October 2002 and January 2003 and for goat milk in November 2002 and February 2003. Formal approval and financial support will be sought from the ICAR Board in this weeks meeting. Then a further announcement and application form will be sent to the ICAR National Committees and candidate-laboratories. Brenne requests to avoid arrival of samples at participating laboratories shortly before or during weekends.

Action: Leray & Paggi

Explanation was provided on the work underway in various IDF/ISO/AOAC Joint Action Teams with regard to the use of 'cow-standardized' analytical methods for sheep and goat milk. Activities are focusing on the reference methods for fat (Röse-Gottlieb - IDF 1D), protein (Kjeldahl - IDF 20) and freezing point (IDF 108). In the underway revision of the standard for somatic cell counting (IDF 148A) specific guidance on the use with sheep and goat milk will be incorporated.

4.3 New work items

Attention was drawn to developments in on-farm analysis. Relevant aspects of analytical quality assurance are addressed in a paper of the MTL WG, which is to be presented by Christian Baumgartner during these ICAR Sessions. Although certain 'risks' may be less (sampling, sample transport), the creation of awareness is more difficult. It was noted that the subject was not yet on the working program of the ICAR Working Group on Quality Assurance. Baumgartner pointed out the strong need for data quality management

Being requested, Asmussen gave a brief indication of the activities of Lattec, a co-operation of Delaval and Foss, aiming at introducing farm management solutions. The focus is mainly on bigger herds. Although the focus is on dairy herd management, it is not ruled out that some aspects are also relevant for production performance recording.

5. Other items

No other items were identified.

6. Next meeting

The next official meeting of the MTL WG will take place somewhere during week 42 2002 in Poligny (FR). Exact date to be determined.

7. Closure of the meeting

After expressing appreciation to the participants in the meeting for their attendance and input, the chairman closed the meeting at 12.00 hours.

Harrie van den Bijgaart
Zutphen, 8 July 2002