

## Meeting of ICAR MTL WG on 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2006 in Kuopio, Finland

-Draft minutes-

**Present members:** Olivier Leray (Chair, FR), Harrie van den Bijgaart (NL), Christian Baumgartner (DE), Gavin Scott (NZ), Silvia Orlandini (IT) representing Ugo Paggi.

**Absent Members:** John Rhoads (USA), Egil Brenne (NO), Marina Gips (IL), George Psathas (CY), Ugo Paggi (IT).

**Observers:** Thomas Berger (CH), Gyula Mezaros (HU), Sjlivia Janko (HU), Oto Hanus (CZ), Liga Jankevica (LV), Saulius Savickis (LT), Laima Urbsiene (LT), Dalia Riaukiene (LT), Jere High (US), Roberto Castañeda (AR), Bogdan Kulesza (PL), Inga Javon (PL), Peter Groeneveld (NL)

**Chaired by:** Olivier Leray

**Minutes taken by:** Gavin Scott

### Opening.

The chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 2:15 pm.

### 1. Approval of the tentative agenda

The agenda was approved by all members present at the meeting.

### 2. Composition of ICAR MTL WG

Ugo Paggi from Italy formally resigned as a member on the MTL WG.

Silvia Orlandini (Italy) was nominated by the MTL WG as a new member (membership to be proposed to ICAR for approval)

### 3. ICAR

- 3.1 Status of working group to subcommittee endorsed by ICAR board – to go to ICAR general assembly for final approval.
- 3.2 Updates of analytical methods posted on website. An update of the Guidelines for quality assurance on DHI analysis - i.e. the latest version circulated within the group - was posted on ICAR web site for consultation by ICAR organisation for possible approval by the General Assembly of June 2006.

### 4. Current activities

#### 4.1 Approval of the report of the last meeting

Report drafted from meeting in Cyprus by George Psathas – changes received by email – Final report approved.

## 4.2 Progress in current work

### 4.2a) ICAR protocol of milk analyser approval/ validation

Milk analyser approval/ validation document now ready to be used. Launching of the approval system by ICAR will happen by the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2006. Nowadays the protocol is used as a basis for ISO 8196-3 / IDF 128-3 standard.

### 4.2b) Revision of guidelines for milk testing laboratories.

New look at the content of Annex II. Includes ISO and IDF methods now being single document. Tolerance issues with urea. Harrie van den Bijgaart volunteered to propose limits for urea. Olivier Leray decided to postpone this as IDF/ ISO had still no such limits in place. Olivier Leray believes that IDF/ ISO should have tolerance limits first in international method standards so that ICAR can refer to them like formerly done. Indeed urea is to be taken into account in the revision of IDF 141 | ISO 9622. This allows to include the present update into ICAR Guidelines from 2006 after approval by the General Assembly. Other revisions can be made later on.

For three years, AOAC has not collaborated any more with ISO|IDF in analytical method standardisation and it is wondered whether or not standards of the reference methods are still equivalent (e.g. Part 3 of IDF 20 since published). Jere High is not sure on what USA uses as method reference and supposes it is probably a combination of AOAC and IDF/ISO. AOAC reference to be left in Annex for informative reasons.

### 4.2c) ICAR reference lab network

Proficiency Test (PT) program for sheep and goat milk suspended due to limited participation. Concern with registration process for labs. Some labs not filling in ICAR registration forms so only being included in the Cecalait data treatment if no specific care in registration is taken with respect to ICAR network membership. Options for the future are discussed :

- o ICAR contracts Cecalait' for PT. Ideally, registration and participation frequency could be dictated by ICAR and fees be part of membership fees of ICAR member countries who commissioned their reference laboratories. Nevertheless, instead the certification system being implemented by ICAR can push forward for better registrations.
- o Discussed automatic/ systematic registration. However, Cecalait needs formal registration (ie. What happens if price changes etc.).
- o Discussion on participation. Minimum once per year as set in Guidelines for quality assurance on DHI analysis, however ideally twice per year.

It is decided to keep the present system of registration and strive to improve through better communication. It is to be emphasized that nomination by the national organisation confers to the laboratory network member the responsibility to harmonise with other network members and also to harmonise routine labs in its country. ICAR national organisation members commission ICAR (i.e. MTL WG) to realise analytical harmonisation through international ICAR PTs. This will thus allow the co-ordinator - as commissioned by MTL WG - to use all data of network members available for milk recording in the data sets of Cecalait trials performed with same samples on same criteria. To achieve this, express written individual authorisations from network members are necessary so that the PT supplier may select and use all relevant data needed. Alternative ways may be thought through in connection with ICAR secretariat .

**Action: O Leray in consultation with ICAR Secretary.**

### 4.2d) Workshops and meetings

Christian Baumgartner discussed the history:

During the ICAR Sessions in 2004 Olivier Leray presented some comparison results from the reference lab network which were not good.

Group discussed ways to improve the situation. Training workshops were proposed as a solution.

However current thinking is that workshops might be too costly (time and money).

MUVA proposal – to be circulated for feedback. In summary:

Stable reference material to be circulated (eg. milk powder, UHT)

Tested on some sort of frequency (weekly, monthly...???)  
Graphed, recommendations generated etc.  
Start 2007 if accepted  
Costs not in current proposal as this will be dictated by format (eg. Frequency of testing).

Jere High indicated that managers go to training workshops, then train the rest of their lab (ie train the trainers)

Christian Baumgartner's comment was that "good" labs tend to participate and that labs that need to participate probably won't.

**Action: Ch Baumgartner to move on with MUVA for finalising the proposal with participation fees and make last circulation to the group before dispatching to network members.**

#### 4.2 d) ICAR Reference Laboratory Network meeting

Reviewed Olivier Leray's presentation. Use as basis to propose new work items:

1. Guidance
  - Harmonised PT
  - Centralised calibration
2. ICAR laboratory database
3. Reference systems – SCC as example of reference system
4. Analytical Quality Assurance
  - On farm
  - Guidance
  - Calibration samples etc.

Harrie van den Bijgaart proposed surveying the network before generating new work items. Christian Baumgartner discussed need to bring ICAR and IDF discussion together in some areas. Establish formal link with IDF – board to discuss.

There was a question on how many members were ISO 17025 accredited, or ISO Guide 43 for PT providers. Olivier Leray suggested using questionnaire to gauge.

From all these proposals it is decided to define priorities in action and establish a programme of for progressive development and implementation by the next meeting.

**Action: O Leray, H vd Bijgaart, Ch Baumgartner to propose a draft by the end of 2006.**

#### 4.2 e) Provision of information

Inventory of RM suppliers for milk recording to provide a list on the ICAR web site.  
Lodi Dairy project on NIR at farm update: Progress is made by Lodi Institute but still not sufficient information to be provided for a presentation in Kuopio 2006. Presentation in 2 years time.

Proposed Horizontal group to discuss issues of on farm testing.

Situation of laboratories in ICAR countries : Regular survey of ICAR lab situation is a heavy task that has limited the number of questionnaires during the past years. O Leray proposed to install a standard questionnaire on the web site of ICAR to be filled in by ICAR members in line and that can be treated automatically through direct transfer of pieces of information in appropriate tables. The latter could then be consulted, printed, downloaded.

#### 4.3 New work items under consideration

Already discussed in previous section.

### 5. Other items in connection with other international bodies

#### 5a) ICAR SC SD : Recommendation for sampling and lactation calculation with AMS (draft guidelines)

Harrie van den Bijgaart gave update on AMS (Automated Milking Systems). Guidelines to be approved by general assembly.

5b) IDF Information on progress in method standardization for milk recording.

ISO/IDF standard 128 part 1 and 2 Draft completed.

Protein by Kjeldahl – sheep milk using half sample

Fat by Rose-Gottlieb – precision figures for Sheep and Goats milk to be defined in next year.

Cows milk precision figures presented, much higher than existing standard.

Somatic cell count - Part 1 in DIS circulation, part 2 close to FDIS circulation.

Guidance on mid infrared methods (ISO 9622|IDF 141) - Revision process started

## 6. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place in München, Germany, during the IDF|ISO Analytical Week (21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> May 2007)

## 7. Closure

The chairman thanked the attending persons for their participation and their contribution to the work of the group and closed the meeting at 17:30 hrs.

Hamilton, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2006

Gavin Scott