

Meeting of ICAR MA SC on 16 of May 2010 in Montreal (Canada)

- Draft minutes -

Present :

Members: Olivier Leray (Chair, FR), Harrie van den Bijgaart (NL), Christian Baumgartner (DE), Silvia Orlandini (IT), Marina Gips (IL), George Psathas (CY), Gavin Scott (NZ), Egil Brenne (NO), Jan Floor (ZA)

Observers: Jacquelin Page (USA)

Apologies: John Rhoads (US), Roberto Castañeda (AR), Mabel Fabro (AR)

Chaired by: Olivier Leray

Minutes taken by: Silvia Orlandini

Opening. The chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 09.00 a.m.

1. Approval of the tentative agenda

The tentative agenda was approved.

2. Composition of ICAR MA SC

The nomination of Jan Floor (ZA) to be endorsed by ICAR Board in Riga June 2010

3. ICAR News

3.1 Expansion of ICAR membership

In March 2010 an ICAR delegation visited the potential candidate organisation Embrapa in Brazil. This following contacts with Embrapa in 2008 with regard to dairy laboratories from Brazil and a delegation visiting Actilait-Cecalait for an information meeting including ICAR and IDF aspects in Autumn 2009. It is likely Embrapa will join the ICAR network once their membership in ICAR is materialized.

In March 2010 A Rosati and O Leray participated in the 8th International Dairy Forum in Moscow. There they had a meeting with the Heads of the Russian Dairy Union, the IDF National Committee of Russia, the Association of Milk Producers (Soyuz Moloko), the Russian Breeding Association of the Ministry of Agriculture, the State Breeding Corporation and the Animal Husbandry and Breeding of the Ministry of Agriculture. A Rosati made a public presentation on the forthcoming ICAR Biennial Sessions in Riga during the Dairy Forum and could provide the matter for an article in a major dairy farming magazine in Russia.

Besides, O Leray took advantage of his presence in Moscow to make acquaintance with two members newly nominated in February 2010 to IDF SCs on Analytical Method for Composition and Statistics and Automation, and provide them with information on the current major topics within ICAR and IDF, in particular ICAR AQA policy, the role of the Reference Laboratory Network and development of dedicated reference systems.

3.2 MA SC reporting

The last report addressed to the ICAR Board was presented. For the Riga session the final report will be almost the same but updated with the outcomes of the last meetings in Montreal and Riga.

The draft report 07/05/2010 for Riga meeting and the principle of a further completion were approved.

3.3 Website

No change except regular updating with new reports, minutes, circular letter. The wish is to bring more readability in the pages.

O Leray will strive to visit ICAR HO in Rome in Autumn 2010 in order to cope with the different issues related to the website (on-line questionnaire, re-shaping of the webpage, etc) with the help of S Orlandini and C Mosconi.

Action: O.Leray, S Orlandini in connection with C Mosconi

4. Parallel meetings

The members were informed of the meeting of the joint IDF-ICAR working group held on 22 September 2009 during the World Dairy Summit in Berlin. It was the occasion for an oral communication and a poster presentation on Reference System on Somatic Cell Counting during a technical session on 23 September 2009.

5. Current activities

5.1 Approval of the minutes of the last meeting in Sochi (May 2009)

The minutes are approved provided editorial corrections proposed by J Floor.

5.2 Update on working programme 2007-2010

a- Guidelines on organising proficiency studies

No progress made. Concern is noted on avoiding overlapping with existing standards on the same issue. The peculiarity of the document would be to address specific schemes dedicated to calibration for large scale milk analysis i.e. involving both reference and routine methods.

b- Guidelines on organising centralised calibration

No progress made.

Both documents are strategic issues in the perspective of the reference systems development therefore keep being of interest.

Action : *O Leray to step forward according to possibilities*

c- ICAR milk analyser approval

No formal request yet made to ICAR by manufacturers for the international ICAR approval from Niagara Falls 2008 except requests for information from Bentley Instruments and Delta Instruments. A recall to manufacturers and ICAR member organisation should be done taking advantage of the recent publication of the IDF 128-3 | ISO 8196-3 standard (re Sochi 2009 minutes).

Action: *O Leray, H vd Bijgaart*

A revised procedure proposal has been circulated since 2008 and was discussed in Sochi. The principle is approved by the group and the procedure should be incorporated in the evaluation process of ICAR. (see 5.3 a)

d- On-line questionnaire on quality control in milk recording laboratories of ICAR countries

The dispatch of the questionnaire on line through the ICAR website is now targeted for 2012 (see 3.2).

e- ICAR laboratories database on the Internet

No progress. Issue to be handled with/by ICAR Head Office. Further development must be thought out with regard to the on-line dairy laboratory data base of IDF

f- List of RMs suppliers available for milk recording purposes

No progress. Issue of interest with the development of reference system items.

g- Education in analytical methods/matters

- Videoclips : Not yet any official recommendations from the ISO/IDF MSSG on how to use the video clips in the ISO standard. Nevertheless the video clip produced was already used for dairy lab training in Italy and appears satisfactory despite slight differences in the content with IDF-ISO standard. It was decided to move forward with a wider use, provided preliminary warning on differences is included and proviso that it does not replace the standard IDF 1 | ISO 1211 but rather provides an example for using the Mojonner method.

Action : *S Orlandini to prepare introduction and circulate it to members*

- Uncertainty : Uncertainty calculation elements were provided in ICAR Sessions of Sousse 2004 and Niagara Falls 2008. The information should be summarized and proposed in an easy way for milk recording laboratories. The idea could be to produce an Excel template for calculation that could be downloaded or used from the ICAR website.

Action: *O Leray to prepare a draft template and circulate it to members*

- Technical advising / assistance

Despite significant improvement of performance in ICAR PT scheme, deviations can still occur. Need for assistance is reported by some MA SC members. It was discussed whether ICAR MA SC can provide help in that matter. The idea was that every member of MA SC could be contacted for specific questions or technical problems. The issue finally resulted in proposing a list of experts with specific competence for which they accept to reply. This should be for the members of the network that take part in ICAR PT schemes. Financial conditions will depend on the type and duration of the action requested and should be dealt with separately by each of expert according to his own constraints, not involving ICAR Services.

Note Technical assistance for local routine labs should be given by the national reference laboratories or milk recording authorities according to the laboratory network model. It is normally not within the scope of that service since it cannot be rendered on a large scale. This should be highlighted on the website.

Action: MA SC members to address to the Chair and S Orlandini experts' names that would agree to provide technical advise, assistance, teaching and training service

5.3 Technical document updating

a- Milk analyser approval/validation procedure

IDF 128-3 | ISO 8196-3 was published at the end of 2009 and from now the ICAR protocol should refer to it according to the first intention of the group. The ICAR protocol will be revised by deleting every part already dealt with by the IDF-ISO standard, keeping the specific recommendations for milk recording.

The revised ICAR protocol will include an alternative procedure for the evaluation of milk analyser "deriving closely" from an already approved analyser with no significant change except for improved analytical characteristics. The decision on "closeness" needed to orient to a simplified evaluation against a full evaluation will rely on the advice of a group of experts independent of the manufacturer. MA SC can play that role for ICAR.

Action: O Leray

b- Guidelines for milk recording analysis

They should be complemented to include milk testing on-farm aspect referring to OMA Guidelines.

Action: O Leray

5.4 ICAR reference laboratory network

O Leray reported on the activities carried out for the network:

a- ICAR PT programme 2010: The first round of ICAR trials was organised in March 2010 according to the programme scheduled.

b- Membership : Remains stable with 38 laboratories from 32 countries.

c- Workshops and meetings : The meeting of the ICAR Reference Laboratory Network in Riga (Latvia) will be held on 1st of June 2010 according to plan. All the speakers answered positively. The organisation was completed at the end of March but the agenda was lately completed with an additional presentation on milk recording analysis in Latvia by Diana Ruska of Piensaimnieku Laboratorija.

d- Problem occurring :

In 2009, there was a significant decrease in the registration for March 2009 due to an uneasy procedure to register for ICAR trials. Indeed two registration forms are needed for the organiser, one to register to Actilait-Cecalait trials and another one to allow using results pertaining to milk recording analysis in the global ICAR statistical analysis. This was not followed regularly by all the participants and results in a weakness of the system. The solution would be that agreement for ICAR statistical analysis should be compulsory to network members where they participate in Actilait-Cecalait trials. A motion to the Board was proposed to ICAR Secretary (see Annex). MA SC members discussed and approved the motion in order to include it in the report of Riga. Furthermore, the registration procedures will be optimized with the possible option of a permanent agreement. Network members will be informed of that critical point.

Action: O Leray to bring motion to the Board for discussion/decision

For some countries sanitary barriers result into long custom procedures that hamper shipment within suitable delays (e.g. South America, Canada). Too long delays in uncontrolled temperature conditions make milk sample quality deteriorated which does not allow testing at the end. In such cases, lab network member concerned or member organisation should locally identify the most suitable way/contact with appropriate documents/declarations to get the

milk samples released to their destination within the shortest delays as possible, and transmit the information to the PT provider.

Action: O Leray to advise MO and network members to “open the door” in the annual announcement letter

6. Proposal for new work item

In the perspective of international reference system for MIR analysis, the extent of calibration biases between countries/regions of the world was addressed and the need to gather more knowledge became clear. It was agreed upon to organise an experiment in the form of an interlaboratory study with involving both reference and routine methods for fat and protein according to the protocol presented by O Leray in Niagara Falls in 2008. Experiment could be carried out in 2011-2012. Implementing such a study requires funding that should be requested from ICAR.

Action: O Leray to ask for ICAR agreement on financing study.

7. Items in connection with other international working parties/bodies

7.1. ICAR RD SC: Protocol for the evaluation of in-line analysers on-farm

The OMA Guidelines will be submitted for approval to the vote of the forthcoming ICAR General Assembly on 4th of June 2010 in Riga I

7.2. IDF-ISO:

a- Method standardisation for milk recording

- **Standard of interest published since the last meeting (or on to be published soon) :**

- IDF 1 | ISO 1211 : Fat by Röse-Gottlieb method (inclusion of sheep and goat)
- IDF 214 | ISO 26462 : Lactose by pH difference measurement.
- IDF 128-1,2,3 | ISO 8196-1,2,3 : Characterisation, quality control and calibration, evaluation of alternative methods

- **Standard of interest under revision :**

- IDF 20 | ISO 8968 : Protein nitrogen by Kjeldahl method (inclusion of sheep and goat) ; true protein by direct and indirect methods
- IDF 29 | ISO 17997 : Casein nitrogen by Kjeldahl method (direct and indirect methods)
- IDF 141 | ISO 9622 : Milk and milk products - Guidance for the application of mid-infrared spectrometry

- **Standard of interest to be revised :**

- IDF 79 | ISO 5765 Lactose in milk by the enzymatic UV photometric method

b- Monograph in IDF Bulletin : Measurement of fatty acid composition of fat in milk by FTMIR. Particularities of individual cow, sheep and goat milk are taken into account.

c- Reference system for SCC: The project launched in 2009 was promoted with a presentation and a poster in the World Dairy Summit in Berlin (September 2009). ICAR General Secretary was present. Next step during the coming IDF/ISO Analytical Week. C Baumgartner will present the project on 1st of June 2010 during the coming ICAR Biennial Session in Riga. A full paper on the status of the project will be prepared with H. van den Bijgaart

d- ISO TC34/SC5 : Circulating a questionnaire to get the approval from ISO member organisation to reply positively to the request of ICAR to have experts involved in the revision of standard on recording devices. H. van den Bijgaart will investigate whether there is a need to organize a new work item in the IDF-ISO Standing Committee on Statistics and Automation. Clarification will be provided to ICAR (Note HvdB: matter has been clarified with Kees de Koning, liaison needed with ISO TC 23 WG 1, no need for new work item under IDF/ISO SC on Statistics and Automation).

8. Next meetings: 2nd of June 2010 during the 37th Biennial ICAR Session in Riga (Latvia)
During the IDF-ISO Analytical Week in Lyon (France), 22-27 May 2011

Closure The Chairman thanked the participants and closed the meeting at 12.40

Silvia Orlandini, Maccaresse (IT), 11 June 2010
Olivier Leray, Poligny (FR), 17 June 2010

Annex

Motion proposed to ICAR Board with regard to participation in ICAR international PT studies

Laboratory members are required to participate in international proficiency studies so as to evaluate their analytical performance and provide a suitable traceability to local related routine laboratories working under their aegis (or umbrella). This should be done in concomitance with other laboratory network members in the same schemes prior approved and designated by ICAR, in order to establish collectively by consensus reference values and provide regular pictures of the quality and consistence of analytical performances. When registering to an international proficiency scheme for the criteria of milk recording interest, the laboratory member commits itself to provide its results to ICAR so that a data analysis specifically dedicated to the network can be carried out anonymously according to a protocol defined in ICAR guidelines. Such a specific result analysis can be carried out by ICAR itself or be delegated by ICAR to the proficiency study organiser. In the latter case, the participating laboratory member gives tacit permanent authorisation to the PT organiser to use the results according to the ICAR order.

Meeting of ICAR MA SC on 2nd of June 2010 in Riga (Latvia)

-Draft minutes-

Present members: Olivier Leray (Chair, FR), Christian Baumgartner (DE), Roberto Castañeda (AR), Silvia Orlandini (IT), Egil Brenne (NO).

Apologies: Harrie van den Bijgaart (NL), Jan Floor (ZA), Marina Gips (IL), John Rhoads (US), George Psathas (CY), Gavin Scott (NZ).

Observers: Bogdan Kulesza (PL), Dalia Riaukiene (LT), Diana Ruska (LV), Saulius Savickis (LT), Laima Ubsiene (LT), and others.

Chaired by: Olivier Leray

Minutes taken by: Silvia Orlandini

Opening

The chairman opened the meeting at 09,00 a.m. and welcomed attending persons. S Orlandini is appointed to take the minutes.

Beforehand the Chair mentioned this will be a short meeting since everyone is invited to the Plenary Session at 10.30.

Due to the small number of present members (5 of 11) any outcomes of the meeting will be considered as advisory and informative and should be commented, confirmed or validated later on by all the MA SC members. The meeting is also to provide an information on the work underway to the observers.

1. Approval of the tentative agenda

The tentative agenda was addressed by email :

- a- Conclusion on the ICAR Reference Laboratory Network meeting
- b- Summary of the decisions taken in Montreal on 16 May 2010
- c- Review/update of the report of MA SC activities
- d- Information on OMA guidelines

The agenda was approved.

2. Conclusion on the ICAR Reference Laboratory Network meeting

The general organisation by the Latvian organising committee was felt quite satisfactory.

Noted that the call for communication implied further arrangement since the reference laboratory session programme was already completed in Autumn 2009. Three unexpected communications had to be re-located in other technical sessions.

The prior planned agenda was completed with a presentation on milk recording analysis in Latvia by Diana Ruska. The principle of bringing an information on the national situation locally was felt quite appropriate and should be maintained for the future meetings of the reference laboratory network.

There were up to 67 participants registered on the attendance list. A few persons attended partially and didn't register. So this was considered as a big success.

The only critical point was the meeting room, not large enough to welcome such a numerous audience. Indeed as the room was completely full and some people couldn't seat down and from the background of the room good hearing was difficult despite the microphone and only the higher part of the screen was visible.

The numerous questions asked after presentations showed the interest of the audience in the topics presented. From the technical discussions there were different proposals made :

- Promote the ICAR Reference Laboratory Network by :
 - publishing the outcomes of PT trials from 1996,
 - posting on the ICAR website an example of a control chart to be downloaded and used by laboratories.

- Updating continuously the database of PT results and provide regular pictures on the precision figures in ICAR Reference laboratory network.
- In the frame of reference systems, work out a standard for MIR spectra and built up an international database of standardized MIR spectra that can be used extensively (on-line on the web) for various purposes (i.e. animal genetic, breeding and farming, milk safety, adulteration, origin, ...)
- Organize a workshop / brain-storming in Bourg-en-Bresse, France, in June 2011 on what is the interest in DHIA that can / could be covered by MIR spectrum analysis. C Baumgartner to send proposals.

3. Summary of MA SC decisions taken in Montreal on 16 May 2010

A brief review of decisions was made

- On-line questionnaire on quality control in DHI laboratories in ICAR countries/organisations by 2012
- ISO 8196 publications and remind the ICAR protocol for milk analyzer evaluation is part of ICAR guidelines and must be used by every member organisation.
- Need that every reference laboratory member participate in proficiency testing schemes organised by ICAR and motion on the possible compulsory participation.
- Facilities and services on ICAR website (Excel file for uncertainty, list of experts for technical assistance) foreseen for development
- Experiment on regional/national differences in calibration with mid infrared routine method by 2012 and request for ICAR financing

Some further explanation given for the sake of observers.

4. Review/update of the report of MA SC activities

The former report will be amended for recent events (Montreal, Riga) and new targets / deadlines. Any decisions (see 3) made in Montreal are worthwhile to be presented in completion to the former draft.

In addition, from the outcomes of the ICAR Reference Laboratory Network session, need is to strengthen confidence and mutual recognition worldwide in milk recording analysis hence to make a public request to every ICAR member organisation involved in dairy production to nominate a reference laboratory so as to.

5. Information on OMA guidelines

OMA Guidelines were to be submitted to the endorsement / approval of the General Assembly on 4th of June. There were a number of discussions including RD SC, ICAR Head Office and MA SC Chair , and recently on 1st June morning, about Afikim comments with regard to the limits for accuracy proposed. The decision was to maintain the document unchanged as considered as scientifically based and the best state of achievement with respect to the present knowledge. It can be revised and upgraded regularly in the future according to new knowledge as can be all the guidelines.

The next meeting was planned to be held during IDF-ISO Analytical Week in Lyon, France, May 2011

Closure The Chairman thanked the participants and closed the meeting at 10.00

Silvia Orlandini & Olivier Leray, 18 June 2010