

Meeting of ICAR MA SC on 22nd of May 2008 in Montreux, Switzerland



-Draft minutes-

Present members: Olivier Leray (Chair, FR), Harrie van den Bijgaart (NL), Christian Baumgartner (DE), Gavin Scott (NZ), Silvia Orlandini (IT), Egil Brenne (NO), Marina Gips (IL), George Psathas (CY), Mabel Fabro (AR) representing Roberto Castañeda,

Absent Members: John Rhoads (USA), Roberto Castañeda (AR).

Observers: Miguel Rodriguez (ES), Dalia Riaukiene (LT), Laima Urbsiene (LT), Jacqueline Page (USA), Steen Kold-Christensen (DK), Rachid Kouaouci (CA), Dorthe Bisgaard Oldrup (DK), Petroula Tarantili (GR), Leena Lilleberg (FI), Ganesh Panta (USA), Inger Andersson (SE), Lotti Egger (CH), Peter Groeneveld (NL), Dalia Riaukiene (LT), Diana Ruska (LV), Chrysanthi Matara (GR)

Chaired by: Olivier Leray

Minutes taken by: Silvia Orlandini

Opening

The chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 13.30 hrs.

1. Approval of the tentative agenda

With no additional items from present members, the tentative agenda is approved.

2. Approval of the Munich minutes of May 2007

The chairman reminds that comments received by the deadline were taken into account but that any additional comments can still be provided. With none the minutes of the meeting in Munich were approved by all present members .

2. Composition of ICAR MA SC

The membership remains unchanged with 10 members. The chairman reminds the former prospect to involve members from Asia and Africa to extend the representativeness of SC MA worldwide. IDF Dairy Summit could not provide the opportunity to meet adequate persons involved in dairy genetic analysis as planned at first.

During the week informal contact was taken with Jan Floor (South Africa) to get a representative of African area.

3. ICAR News

3.1 MA SC reporting

The chairman indicates three reports made to ICAR Board since the last meeting in Munich. These are appended to the agenda and posted on the ICAR website.

3.2 ICAR website

MA SC web space was regularly updated with the last documents and presentations produced by MA SC. The reshaping of the page has not yet been done for lack of time but is still needed as the page cannot contain much more documents, Restructuring is required. The renewed web space can contain additional practical information and tools related to analytical quality assurance (e.g. measurement of uncertainty).

Action: *O Leray and ICAR Head Office*

4. Parallel meetings

The chairman reported briefly on parallel meetings of project groups held in 2007 and 2008:

- Rome 18-19 October 2007 (C. Baumgartner, S. Orlandini, O. Leray, A. Rosati) : Calibration, reference system for SCC, training & education, audits in connection with Service ICAR, etc. (cf. PG-Rome 18-19.10.2007.doc). Reflection on practical approaches. Contact with A. Rosati to utilise Service ICAR.
- Rome 27 November 2007 (O. Leray, C. Baumgartner, M. Gips, S. Orlandini) : First meeting of Working Party on On-farm Milk Analysis (OMA WP). Principles and objectives were defined and guidelines for OMA to be drafted for review during ICAR Sessions (cf. OMA WP-27.11.2007.doc)
- Berlin 21 January 2008 (C. Baumgartner, H. van den Bijgaart, O. Leray, S. Orlandini, J. Seifert): Joint meeting on SCC reference system. Presentation of the project and agreement on ICAR/IDF collaboration in a IDF NWI. Action undertaken by IDF.

Action: *O Leray & S Orlandini to circulate the minutes to members*

5. Current activities

5.1 Work Programme :

The Four Year Work Programme of Sub-Committee on Milk Analysis (MA SC) was run through (11 work items):

- **Items a, b, c – Guidelines :** Three guidelines are underway. First drafts of two (proficiency studies and centralised calibration) are not yet completed but will be circulated when finished. The last one on on-farm milk analysis will be circulated to the group.

Action: *O Leray to circulate the guidelines to members*

- **Item d – Milk analyser evaluation:** No formal request formulated to ICAR thus far but informal contacts of a manufacturer to carry out three parallel evaluations and move quickly to ICAR approval. From the discussion, it arises that an alternative procedure can be proposed beside the step-by-step procedure of three national approvals. The organisation could be handled by Service ICAR who would be in direct contact with the manufacturer and appoint expert labs to proceed. Decision is taken to look for the agreement of ICAR Board for such an option.

Action: *O Leray to make proposal for the next ICAR Board meeting in Niagara Falls*

- **Item e – Questionnaire on situation of DHI labs in ICAR countries:**

Clarification is given on the objectives. An on-line questionnaire in ICAR website must replace the usual questionnaire by e-mail being too heavy and long to handle. The model and frame of the existing on-line questionnaire for sheep and goat milk recording should be used. The questionnaire to be put on-line has to be drafted from the former questionnaire on laboratories made by H van den Bijgaart in 2000. The content was shortly discussed. The base should be mainly the general part of the last questionnaire that national or co-ordinating organisation can answer and give a overall view of the national situation. G Psathas and M Gips will prepare a draft questionnaire in an appropriate form for discussion in Niagara Falls.

Action: *G Psathas & M Gips to prepare and circulate draft questionnaire*

- **Item f – ICAR laboratories database on the Internet :** No work undertaken yet. The implementation of an IDF laboratory database, accessible by all on the Internet, is underway. Congruence with the IDF laboratory database is sought. The idea is to present ICAR Reference Laboratory members with available information from the existing list and to present national laboratory networks connected to reference laboratories. Further consideration is needed before action.

- **Item g - List of RMs suppliers available for milk recording purposes :** The group confirms the interest in making available up-to-date information on reference materials internationally available. The questionnaire on laboratories is identified as the adequate source of information and relevant questions for this purpose should be included..

Action: *G Psathas & M Gips*

- **Item h - Education in analytical matters :** The chairman informed that a draft document on education and training strategy was produced in summer 2007 (cf. annex). Education and training tools were considered. It was reported that the use of video clips to support standards was considered positively by IDF MSSG. The movie on the Röse-Gottlieb method, as produced by AIA-LSL, was discussed within IDF JAT on Fat. There, it was agreed that it can become a work item under consideration. Since it is not in total agreement with the ISO 12111/IDF 1, it was stated by MA SC that in its present state it can not be made available as an ICAR education tool to laboratories. Further modifications are to be considered by LSL to fit better the standard.

Action: *S Orlandini*



MA SC

*ICAR Sub-Committee
on Milk Analysis*

- Annex -

18 July 2007

(Draft) Preliminary note on Education & Training in Analytical Methods

Introduction

Findings of the review on proficiency testing schemes organized within ICAR reference Laboratory Network from 1996 to 2003, have shown that analytical performances of network laboratory members could in many cases be improved. Beside improper use of samples and crude mistakes from which many outlying PT data could have resulted, the proper practice of methods is in a number of cases still doubtful. Even with outlier rejection in higher numbers, precision figures can not be brought in line with relevant standardised repeatability and reproducibility figures. Hence, the need to focus on improving ICAR lab network performance by means of targeted information on analytical methods through appropriate teaching/training.

Since languages spoken in countries make barriers to a proper transmission of nuanced messages, the strategy agreed upon by MA SC was to provide/improve information to routine laboratories in countries via the national reference laboratories through educating technical managers in English language. Thus their task would be to transmit the information in local languages.

Thinking and discussions about education and training in successive meetings have led to identify different media to pass analytical knowledge and know-how from the highly expertise level to the technicians in routine laboratories.

Toolbox

The following options were identified:

- 1- Practical training session : Organizing a practice session, followed by discrepancy analysis and method review,
- 2- Theoretical teaching or reviewing of methods with special emphasis on key/weak points and method control,
- 3- (1) or (2) in combination,
- 4- On-lab teaching/training/expertise for specific technicians by experts.

The following communication options were identified:

- 5- Technical bulletins on good practice and knowledge on key/weak points of methods in addition to the (may bring grains for future revision of the standards),
- 6- Video/movies on performing analytical methods so as to illustrate method standards,
- 7- Internet training on-line on analytical methods.
- 8- Technical experts/organisations entrusted to organise education actions according to ICAR standards (possibly identified through ICAR ref. lab. network and IDF).

Means for implementing

Work carried out in ICAR working parties (SC, WG, TF) is voluntary, thus with limitations in availability of experts. Therefore, the provision of training (1 to 3) should be self-supportive and find its financing through fees invoiced to participants and users. ICAR needs to involve one or more organisations specialised in the analytical topic and in education of dairy lab technicians.

To meet with the aims, laboratory members of ICAR lab network must not be discouraged from participating. So, in organizing session limited travel expenses should be strived for through choosing appropriate locations (central for participants, opportunity of an international event). Also the choice of the language should be carefully considered.

Production of education materials does also require the help of the beneficiary organisation, in this case ICAR. Ideas are to be developed by MA SC with regard to the content. Presentation, publishing or realising (4 to 6-7) would be better carried out by ICAR or professionals paid by ICAR. Thereafter ICAR-Services could invoice those services.

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As all concrete actions can not be carried out by MA SC, above mentioned tools and possible others tools should be considered by a project group Education & Training of MA SC (ET PG) with paying special attention to the conditions for practical implementation – i.e. actors, facilities and financing prospect. ET PG is to be mandated to handle prospects for interest, identify, design and manage the development and the implementation of appropriate tools in connection with relevant partners.