

ICAR WORKING GROUP ON MILK TESTING LABORATORIES

Meeting on 19 and 20 November 2001 in Munich (Germany)

- Provisional report -

Attending members:

Olivier Leray (FR, chairman), Ugo Paggi (IT), Christian Baumgartner (DE), George Psathas (CY), Harrie van den Bijgaart (NL).

Apologies:

Egil Brenne (NO), Des Johnston (NZ), John Rhoads (USA).

1. Opening

The chairman opens the meeting with expressing gratitude towards Baumgartner for acting as host this time. The possibility to visit the facilities of Milchprüfing Bayern in Wolnzach prior to this meeting is highly appreciated.

1. Approval of the tentative agenda

The tentative agenda is approved.

2. Composition of ICAR MTL WG

The update of the membership list is noted.

3. ICAR News

3.1 Biennial ICAR Sessions 2002 from 26 to 31 May 2002

The leaflet with some first general information about the Biennial ICAR Sessions in 2002 is distributed among the persons present. Relevant program items are:

27 May afternoon: Meeting with representatives of the ICAR reference laboratory network members. The tentative agenda is approved. Invitations have been sent. Presentations (20 minutes each) of DHI AQA systems will be invited from Italy (Paggi), USA (Rhoads) or Switzerland (Berger), and Czech Republic (Hanus) or Estonia (Murulo) (*action Leray*).

28 May morning: Meeting of ICAR MTL WG. The tentative agenda is approved.

30 May afternoon: Technical Session 5. In this mixed session the emphasis is on new technologies. Baumgartner will present a paper on behalf of the MTL WG. This constructive paper will address QA aspects of on-farm testing including suggestions for ICAR how to deal with this development. A first draft for commenting upon will be made available by coming January 10 (*action Baumgartner*).

3.2 Progress of ICAR website

The development of the ICAR website is proceeding well. The Working Group agrees that in principal all final documents as well as working documents can be published in the reserved area of our Working Group. Documents not suitable for publication will be 'marked' as such. This stand and the consequences will be communicated and coordinated with the ICAR secretariat in Rome (*action Leray*).

4. Current Activities

4.1 Approval of the report of the meeting on 14 May 2001

page 2, 4.3a:

Van den Bijgaart adds that the original memo on the competence requirements for reference material producers was prepared by Paggi. Opinion and approval about the now amended document will be sought from the ICAR board in joint consultation between *Paggi and Leray*.

The report is approved, thereby accounting for the remark above. Concerning the action points, the items below are still underway.

page 2, 4.1:

The check on the consequences of analyzing a lower number of samples for the statistical values is still to be made (*action Leray*).

New work item proposals have been forwarded to IDF/ISO concerning the standardization of reference methods for fat, protein and freezing point determination in sheep and goat milk (*action Paggi, Psathas*).

page 2, 4.2:

The draft protocol for the evaluation of milk analysers (see under 4.2a) was introduced into IDF. A new work item proposal will be forwarded to IDF/ISO (*action Leray*).

After a reminder, 25 out of 48 countries have replied to the Questionnaires on interlaboratory QA. A report will be available before the meeting in Interlaken (*action Van den Bijgaart*).

4.2 Progress in current works

4.2a Protocol for the evaluation of milk analyzers for milk recording - Examples

The indicated ranges for the compositional parameters of goat milk will be adapted, fat: 2.0–5.5% and protein: 2.5–5.0%.

Paggi expresses his reservations with regard to the number of samples needed for validation purposes. The need to repeat the validation for each individual species (cow, sheep, goat, buffalo) will cause extra problems with this demand. In reply, it is stated that one can of course use less samples but this will lower the reliability of the executed validation.

The addition of the prepared examples is supported. The transparency of the examples will be somewhat further improved (*action Leray*).

Separate routes will be followed in ICAR and IDF/ISO in seeking approval for this protocol. Comments from ICAR National Committees will be sought through the ICAR secretariat with a request for replies before the end of March 2002 (*action Leray*).

4.2b Update of guidelines on AQA for DHI laboratories

Remarks from group members were:

the need to stick with the internationally standardized methods (IDF, ISO, AOAC) for reference should be stressed stronger;

the addition of some examples of preservation with proven suitability under 2.2.2.

a scrutinization of the applied definitions for reference materials in light of those used in ILAC documents;

a few editorial remarks, among them the abbreviations on the first page of ANNEX I.

Necessary changes will be made, whereafter the document will be forwarded to the ICAR Board for approval (*action Leray*).

4.2c Questionnaire on quality control in DHI laboratories within ICAR

See under 4.1.

4.2d ICAR reference laboratory network

An updated member list is underway. It is agreed to maintain the program as it is. Some remarks were received on the inclusion of a ranking in the trial reports. The MTL WG members are of the opinion that the present set-up for ranking is soundly based on the main characteristics of the outcome for the individual participants. It provides a quick insight in the relative performance and at the same time points out where required action is outmost. The MTL WG strongly insist on keeping a ranking with the presentation in order to serve the primary goal of the work, that is to get closer to one another.

With the next mailing for the ICAR reference laboratory network for cows milk, a nomination form will be sent as an inquiry for the interest in a small ruminant reference laboratory network (*action Paggi, Psathas, Leray*).

4.3 Progress in new work items

4.3a Reference materials

See under 4.1 and 4.2a.

4.3b Sheep's and goat's milk analysis and other species

Three new work items have been proposed to IDF/ISO (see under 4.1). During the meeting of the IDF Project Group on somatic cell counting in milk on 29/30 October in Kiel (DE), the possibility to expand the scope of the reference method to ewes and goats milk was addressed.

The earlier forwarded proposal of Psathas and Paggi for a small ruminants reference laboratory network and the comments of Leray to that are discussed. It is concluded that the cows and the small ruminants network should operate side by side, whereby Cecalait is the service supplier to the cows milk network and AIA can be the supplier to the small ruminants network. In both networks a clear separation should be kept between the ICAR related efforts and other commercial oriented activities in this field. The need for a harmonized execution of the proficiency trials and the presentation of the results is stressed.

A sheet with general information about AIA and a calculation of the costs and the fee for the participants will be made (*action Paggi*).

With the next mailing for the ICAR reference laboratory network for cows milk, a nomination form will be sent as an inquiry for the interest in participation in a small ruminant reference laboratory network (*action Paggi, Psathas, Leray*).

5. Organisations and relationships

5.1 Collaboration/connection with other ICAR WG's

During the next ICAR Sessions intensification of contacts will be sought with WG on Meters & Jars and SC on Quality Assurance.

5.2 Collaboration/connection with IDF

6. Other items

6.1 ICAR approval of existing milk analysers

The persons present are of the opinion that the ICAR approval should be reserved for those instruments which have strictly been evaluated according to the protocol as mentioned under 4.2a. It is agreed to contact Foss Electric about an evaluation of the MilkoScan FT6000 as a model project (*action Leray*).

For other existing analysers an inventory will be made to what extent they have been reviewed. The outcome will be put at the disposal of the ICAR secretariat/board.

7. Next meeting

Eventually, an informal meeting of MTL WG can be held in Toledo (ES) during the next Analytical Week of IDF/ISO/AOAC from 22 to 26 April 2001. The next official meeting is scheduled for Interlaken on 28 May 2001 at 09.30 hrs.

8. Closure of the meeting

Harrie van den Bijgaart
Zutphen, 30 November 2001