

ICAR WORKING GROUP ON MILK TESTING LABORATORIES
Meeting on 22nd of April 2004 in Parma (Italy)

- **Draft minutes of the meeting** -

Attending members:

Olivier Leray (FR, chairman), Christian Baumgartner (DE), Ugo Paggi (IT), Harrie van den Bijgaart (NL), Egil Brenne (NO), George Psathas (CY).

Observers:

Silvia Orlandini (IT), Georges Bühlmann (CH), Marina Gips (IL), Slavisca Golc Teger (SI), Thomas Berger (CH), Saulius Savickis (LT), Dalia Riaukiene (LT).

Apologies:

John Rhoads (USA).

Minutes kept by:

George Psathas (CY)

1. Opening, approval of the tentative agenda

The chairman opened the meeting at 17:30 hours. The tentative agenda was approved

2. ICAR news

The chairman asked all people present if they receive or take knowledge of ICAR Newsletter and informed it is available as well on Internet site of ICAR: www.icar.org.

Making a brief presentation of last edition No 2/2003 October, the chairman informed the attendees on administrative changes of ICAR.

The briefing of activities of the WG is included in the newsletter as regular presentation of activities of all WGs. Ch. Baumgartner suggested a regular presentation of reports and results of activities in ICAR website too.

3. Composition of ICAR MTLWG

The position of Des Johnston from NZ is still in vacancy and a new member is still expected to represent the Oceanian area.

G. Psathas suggested Marina Gips (IL) could become a member. The chair explains that IDF and ICAR approaches with regard to working group membership are different. The number of experts in IDF action teams is related to the subjects undertaken, has no limitation but is fluctuating with not active members deletion. At the contrary, ICAR does not intend to have too numerous members in WGs (no more than 8 experts) and member choices must respond to defined purposes/needs (geographical representativeness, special expertise, etc) expressed before by ICAR. Nominations are made by ICAR Board. The point about the extension of the group should be discussed further under the light of MTL WG and ICAR needs during the next meeting.

4. Approval of the report of the last meeting and note of work progress

The minutes of the last meeting in Holstebro 2003 were approved and the interest was focused on progress of work on each included item:

4.1 Protocol for the evaluation of milk analysers :

Apart from the initial reaction of Foss there were no further remarks from other instruments manufacturers. The protocol has now been introduced in IDF, in the JAT of Automated Methods for further discussion and approval. It is included in issues for approval by the ICAR Board at Sousse /Tunisia. The final agreement on the principle and the process will be requested to ICAR Board at its next meeting with the chairpersons in Sousse.

4.2 ICAR reference laboratory network :

Cow : The cow's milk activities continue normally under CECALAIT /France. The broadening and undertaking of activities of small ruminants network by A.I.A./Italy faces problems due to poor participation of laboratories.

Sheep and goat : S. Orlandini – on behalf of A.I.A.- made special remark on poor participation of laboratories in sheep and goat **Interlaboratory Proficiency Studies** (2-3 participations on several parameters), which makes the cost of trials quite uncomfortable.

To strengthen the interest of sheep and goat ICAR PTs, U. Paggi proposed to include in trials' rounds not only the reference laboratories but also the routine laboratories of Spain for which AIA-LSL works.

The Chair explained that milk recording for sheep and goat is not so developed as for cow. Moreover, milk recording methods are significantly different due to the higher cost in general. Besides milk analysis is still only used by a small number of countries and not on regular rates which explains the little number of laboratories interested in ICAR PTs among the 15 nominated as reference laboratories. The presentation in Sousse should give an explanation of observations made of the world wide situations.

He reminded the former alternative to ICAR international PTs already discussed, consisting in organising international PTs for any kind of laboratories (reference, routine, DHI, payment). It could be organised by AIA-LSL as does CECALAIT for cow but will have a different status. It would not normally concern the issue of ICAR Reference Laboratories then would receive the blessing of ICAR as a contribution to international analytical quality assurance. He invited U. Paggi to address this point in the presentation of AIA-LSL in Sousse and include such an alternative strategy as a proposal for the future.

4.3 Harmonization of sampling vials and containers :

With respect to work item in connection with SC Meters and Jars, H. Van den Bijgaart made a broad briefing on his prepared report "Milk recording logistics", emphasising the aim - coming out from this report -, to vials manufacturers in respect to the needs of sampling in the farm, robust storage and transportation of samples to the lab, as well as the compatibility required on instruments of analysis.

5. Preparation of ICAR Laboratory Network in Sousse

5.1 Status of registration and attendance expected :

From a list prepared on pre-registration, the expressed interest to participate at Sousse meeting of the network is only 11 people out of 37 registered labs, i.e. 19%. Another 6 people are participating as observers.

Those 11 people are attending as well in the afternoon meeting of the MTL WG. From the observers only 1 person has expressed interest to attend.

5.2 Review of the programme and content speeches/papers :

Speakers on the programme (U. Paggi, Ch. Baumgartner and H. Van den Bijgaart) were invited by the chairman to deliver their speeches/papers to the chairman as well as to the organizing committee at Sousse.

5.3 Meeting facilities and arrangements :

Arrangement for meeting facilities have been taken into account by the Tunisian Organizing Committee in accordance with needs expressed in June 2003.

6. Preparation of 34th ICAR Sessions in Sousse

6.1 Technical Session 5 :

It is noted the paper of Van den Bijgaart was sent to the organizers in March and the paper of Ch. Baumgartner will be submitted soon.

6.2. Report on MTL WG activities to ICAR : The report dispatched to group members in March received editorial corrections (English) from H. Van den Bijgaart. The document is approved by the present members.

7. Other items

7.1 Terms of reference :

The proposal for an update of the terms of reference was presented by the chair. It was approved by the group with the addition of a 6th item expressing the mission to make the liaison with IDF for analytical subjects. They will be presented at the next meeting of the ICAR Board with chair persons.

7.2 Internal procedure for the approval of milk analysers :

A proposal was circulated last autumn. It will be sent again for last comments and WG approval.

7.3 IDF liaison :

O. Leray informs that IDF has requested help to get informed on subjects dealt with during ICAR Sessions 2004 that are of possible interest to IDF. He kindly asks the present members to see how far they can help in this and invite to take note, where possible, of items/subjects (not only analytical) that can meet actual IDF topics during sessions they will attend. A broad discussion followed this proposal. It was finally accepted by the precaution that the Group is not slipping away from its primary aims within ICAR.

The meeting closed at 19:30 hrs.

7th of May 2004, G. Psathas & O. Leray