

Meeting of ICAR MA SC on 17 of May 2009 in Sochi, (RU)
-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)

Apologised members: John Rhoads (US), Roberto Castañeda (AR), Egil Brenne (NO).

Observers: Jan Floor (ZA)

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 and the minutes of Montreux May 2008) and Niagara Falls (June 2008) meetings

All the documents were approved by the members present at the meeting.

2. Composition of ICAR MA SC

The chairman informed there has been no change with the composition of the Sub-Committee on Milk Analysis since the last meeting in Niagara Falls. He reminded the intent to broaden membership to African and Asian areas and mentioned Jan Floor (ZA) was approached as a possible candidate for African area in Montreux. J Floor indicated his interest in such an involvement in analytical ICAR activities with regard to his former connections with milk recording in his country. He was invited to participate in the meeting as observer so as to be informed of the activities of the MA SC and can take decision further.

Chairman reported that Chile entered ICAR through the cooperative Cooprinsem (www.cooprinsem.cl) at the last General Assembly in Porec 2009. At that occasion he reported that Cooprinsem was informed on the ICAR laboratory system and possible connections to South American lab network and to ICAR Reference Laboratory network.

Andrea Rosati asked the chairman to introduce ICAR during the Analytical Week Symposium in Sochi, to make a presentation on preserving the integrity of dairy food chain as viewed from the farm on behalf of ICAR and to establish contacts with Russian representatives for further member recruiting.

3. ICAR News

ICAR Board meetings and General Assembly of ICAR were held on 11-12 May 2009 (Porec) and every milk analysis was one of major issues discussed. The principles described were approved by ICAR Board and the main point was how to make the guidance endorsed by the General Assembly and introduced into ICAR guidelines the shortest.

At date this is a document that defines a general frame and the key approach from which elements should be used/adapted by the other ICAR working parties to amend the other already existing guidelines.

The scope of this guidelines is only genetic evaluation. New rules for endorsement were adopted by the General Assembly giving more endorsement possibilities per year for guidelines and other urgent decisions.

4. ICAR website and MA SC web space

On ICAR website the space of MA SC is regularly updated and all the past documents and presentations of MA SC analyses are listed. To put together in the MA SC's folder is becoming difficult.

The group advised to consider with the ICAR secretariat the possibility of implementing an intranet comparable to the IDF one.

I was raised that made recommendations made in Munich (see MA SC minutes 2007, §3.2) proposals - *expanding to include General Quality information (eg. Measurement of uncertainty)* - were not taken into account until now for the reason that MA SC web page reshaping didn't happen yet.

Action: *Chair to inquire on MA SC space rearrangement possibility*

5. Update on working programme 2007-2010

a- Guidelines on organising proficiency studies

No progress made from Montreux meeting in 2008. 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. Although not yet completed the document can be distributed for first comments to MA SC members.

b- Guidelines on organising centralised calibration

No progress made from Montreux meeting in 2008. Although not yet completed the document can be distributed as information for first comments to MA SC members.

a and b in development considering the interlinking between the two parts

Whereas the protocol for proficiency study organisation is to qualify expert laboratories and characterize the "assigned value" (so-called reference values), the second document is made to decide on the calibration system with regard to matrix effects. Both are strategic issues for reference systems.

Action : *O Leray to circulate drafts a and b*

c- Guidelines on On-farm milk analysis

The document is to be amended for minor editorial errors and be circulated by end of 2009 to ICAR member organisations for voting at the next General Assembly in Riga (Latvia) in 2010. The ICAR Working Party on On-farm Milk Analysis should be disbanded thereafter.

Action: *O Leray to circulate draft to the group after emendation*

d- Reference system issue is being launched jointly with ISO/IDF and the issued technical documents will be shared production of both IDF and ICAR.

Joint Action with IDF: *H vd Bijgaart, C Baumgartner, S Orlandini, O Leray*

e- ICAR milk analyser approval

A discussion was developed on this issue from which the following outcomes:

e.1 Application of the ICAR approval system:

The instruments in use in the ICAR countries until now were not evaluated according the ICAR protocol since the more recent devices were put on the market before 2006. Hence, only national approval can be claimed and need for an individual evaluation/ approval per country. General impression is that the ICAR approval system is not used. This may lead to an inexact conclusion since a number of contact from manufacturers are underway. The point is that new instruments are rare and the overall process is long term to arrive to completion.

Conclusion was

- to promote the application of the ICAR protocol (aligned with ISO 8196-3) through a reminder to both manufacturers and (above all) ICAR member organisations on that they should require by rule the application of ICAR protocol.
- to remind that the aim of the ICAR international approval thanks to ICAR evaluation protocol is to facilitate approval procedure in ICAR countries through permitting not to repeat systematically the

evaluation in every country based on that evaluation carried out according to a same procedure (i.e. ICAR protocol) are expected to produce comparable results.

Action : *O Leray, H vd Bijgaart*

e.2 Complement of information:

A question arose regarding the reference or secondary reference method to use to check accuracy in the test bed evaluation process as such secondary reference methods are mentioned as permitted by IDF 141:2001 and the ICAR protocol. A note would be needed for better understanding.

Action : *O Leray*

Post-meeting OL 's proposal for §3.1.2 after : "Reference methods should be standardised methods and, in all cases, the method used should be in a close agreement with one or more of the international reference methods (ISO, IDF, AOAC).

NOTE Secondary reference methods are allowed to differ from reference methods only for slightly higher repeatability but not for trueness. Repeatability is partly included in accuracy error beside the true accuracy error of the alternative method therefore, by fulfilling exactly the stated limits, larger the repeatability of the reference method, lower the actual accuracy and better the confidence in that the alternative method meet accuracy characteristics needed."

e.3 Adaptation of the protocol for particular cases:

(as proposed from Niagara Falls 2008)

- The scope of the protocol is today large scale alternative (routine) methods leaving manual devices aside. The proposal to broaden the scope to manual alternative methods was approved by MA SC for use as master instrument. Limits for compliance are the same as for fast routine analysers. The second step of the evaluation in routine condition in milk recording laboratories is replaced by a complement of evaluation in the condition of use in master laboratories for the same period of time.
- A device proposed in an other configuration (e.g. other speed or manual device) with no change in the core hardware and software is expected to have same (if not better) accuracy as automated speedy configurations. Expensive reference methods might be replaced by an already formerly approved configuration of the same device to provide adequate information on compliance. Repeatability of the tested configuration should not be higher than that of the former one, and comparison of both methods in the protocol conditions should not show any significant differences of the bias and slope, nor the standard deviation of the regression exceed the tolerance limit of the repeatability standard deviation (different from the limit of accuracy).

It is noted the new/upgraded instruments are expected to show at least same performances as the previous models however the case of worse performance may happen, still complying within the ICAR tolerance limits. If the simplified procedure does not provide satisfactory results then the normal procedure should be applied using usual reference methods.

Conclusion: There were no consensus on the proposal within present MA SC members. They were asked to return their position on proposal by end of August 2009 (first deadline of end June postponed) .

Action : *Every member*

f- Questionnaire on situation of dairy laboratories in ICAR countries

A template to list all the useful information of ICAR laboratories according the needing of DHI labs was drafted by G Psathas but some members did not received it - G Psathas will circulate again the last version of the draft to members who are invited to send their comments and suggestions by 30 September.

Chaining of operations: Project Leader to connect with ICAR Head Office (Cesare Mosconi) to set up the questionnaire on ICAR website with completion by end December 2009. The questionnaire to

be tested in-line by MA SC in January 2010 before launching the survey in February. Reporting of the outcomes of the questionnaire in Riga in June 2010.

Action: *G Psathas with ICAR Head Office*

g- ICAR laboratories data base on the Internet

No progress. IDF laboratory database on the Internet was launched in January 2008 and consideration by ICAR to be made for establishing consistent tools with IDF (avoid redundancy). To keep under consideration.

h- List of RMs suppliers available for milk recording purposes

The issue is to be considered in connection with the item on reference systems.

i- Education in analytical methods/matters

The stage of progress of the issue on Education and Training tools was reported by S Orlandini. The Rose Gottlieb movie of LSL-AIA is currently used among AIA clients and the results are found very positive. The chairman asked to write a brief report on that real life experience. The use of this tool is under consideration of IDF MSSG that is working out a list of recommendations for such developments.

Action: *S Orlandini*

6. ICAR reference laboratory network :

a- ICAR PT programme 2009 :

Information was provided on the renewal of the programme in 2009. Renewal will be made similarly for 2010.

It was reminded that such international schemes with routine methods are only valid for methods with no matrix effect like somatic cell counting but do not suit to mid infrared spectroscopic methods. It can be advised ICAR national organisations to organise local schemes only where centralised calibration is implemented.

Action: *Chair to renew the agreement (convention) between ICAR and Actilait*

b- Lab network membership: Unchanged since the last meeting.

c- Workshops and meetings:

The next meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network will be held in Riga (Latvia) during the 37th Biennial ICAR Session (1-4 June 2010). As located in North America, it is confirmed to invite NALMA and Mastitis Council representatives to tighten already existing links and get involvement in the current programme on SCC reference system.

An Organising Committee was appointed as made of H vd Bijgaart, C Baumgartner and O Leray. C Baumgartner accepted to chair the workshop.

The Organising Committee is to establish contact with the Latvia session organiser, for facilities and date, to define a programme for a half-day meeting.

Chairs asked for proposals from every member of MA SC about the theme(s) addressed and possible speakers. A general title was proposed as "*New parameters and analytical challenges*" with a list of possible items:

Reference system new developments (member of joint IDF-ICAR project group)

New parameters and analytical challenges for milk recording (H Soyeurt, BE?)

Fatty acid composition (to be determined)

Ketosis (to be determined)

Animal health monitoring (T Asmussen, DK ?)

Review of precision figure of the latest proficiency test (O Leray, FR)

Action: Organising Committee to establish tentative programme by end September

8. Next meetings: May 2010 during the IDF Analytical week in Montreal (Canada) and June 2010 during the 37th Biennial ICAR Session in Riga (Latvia).

The Chairman thanked the participants and closed the meeting at 12.40

Silvia Orlandini, Maccaresse (IT), 18 June 2009
Olivier Leray, Poligny (FR), 16 July 2009